

DEPARTMENT FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

**Briefing to Member States on preparations for the Third International Conference on
Financing for Development
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13-16 July 2015)**

***Remarks from Mr. Tegegnework Gettu
Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management***

Thursday, 4 June, 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Conference Room 2

Your Excellency Ambassador Alemu

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wu

Distinguished Delegates

Conference centre and conference rooms

As delegations are aware, the third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in the Conference Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. It is an advantage that the Conference Centre, which is designed to accommodate the meetings of the 54-member Economic Commission for Africa, is a fully functioning and tested conference centre. At the same time, the size of the Conference Centre presents challenges for an international conference on the scale of the upcoming International Conference on Financing for Development, in which several thousand participants are expected.

Plenary meetings

As foreseen in the two General Assembly resolutions on modalities for the Conference, there will be eight plenary meetings, from the morning of 13 July until the afternoon of 16 July. Inscription in the list of speakers for the general debate on financing for development has been open for some time.

As of 4 June, the Secretariat had received inscriptions from eighty-six [86] participating States, including fifteen [15] of them at the level of Head of State or Vice-President, nine [9] at the

level of Head of Government or Deputy Prime Minister and forty-seven [47] at the level of Minister or Vice-Minister. Those States that have not yet inscribed, are kindly encouraged to inscribe in the list of speakers as early as possible. Statements in the general debate will be limited to five minutes, on the understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts. The statements will be made available on the Financing for Development website.

The Conference Centre has two large conference rooms, as well as four medium-sized rooms. The plenary meetings will be held in Conference Room 1, the largest of the rooms, with a capacity of approximately 650 seats on the floor and an additional 180 seats in the gallery. In light of these space constraints, each participating State will have two seats in the plenary room - one at table and one adviser seat. Secondary passes will be issued for the plenary meetings. In order to alleviate these constraints, the other large conference room (Conference Room 2, which has a current capacity of approximately 450 seats) will be used as an overflow room for the opening plenary meeting on 13 July. Each Member State will be issued with two secondary passes for Conference Room 2. **To summarize, for the opening plenary, each delegation will have ONLY two seats in Conference Room 1 and two seats in the overflow room, Conference Room 2.**

In accordance with the modalities resolutions, the six multi-stakeholder round tables will be held from the afternoon of 13 July until the morning of 16 July in Conference Room 2, in parallel with the plenary meetings. As decided by Member States, the round tables will be open to all participating States, as well as a maximum number of observers, entities of the United Nations system, civil society organizations and business sector entities. As previously mentioned, Conference Room 2 has a current capacity of approximately 450 seats. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the host country and the Economic Commission for Africa is working to increase the number of available seats by approximately 150. A free seating arrangement will be used for the round tables and there will be no advance list of speakers. Bearing in mind that participating States may participate in all six round tables, in order to facilitate preparation of

the seating plan for each round table, participating States will be invited to indicate to the Secretariat in which of the round tables they intend to participate. **For the roundtables, each Member State will be issued with ONLY two secondary passes for Conference Room 2.**

As we are all aware, the negotiations on the outcome document are ongoing and are scheduled to conclude on Friday, 19 June. In case there is a need to establish a Main Committee during the Conference to conclude negotiations on the outcome document, the Main Committee would meet in Conference Room 5, which has a capacity of 114.

Bilateral meetings

For bilateral meetings among States at the Head of State or Government or ministerial level, eight rooms, each with a capacity to hold a maximum of ten participants, will be available on the ground floor of the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa.

Requests for bilateral meetings should be e-mailed to emeetsm@un.org with subject line “BILATS”, following the current procedure at UN Headquarters in New York. Final confirmation of all room assignments will be given the day before the meeting. To prevent double booking, only the delegation initiating the bilateral meeting should submit the request. Reservations will be accepted for 20-minute durations. It is essential that all requests specify the date and time of each meeting, and include the name and level of the other delegation participating in the bilateral meeting. Every effort will be made to keep consecutive appointments of the same delegation in the same room.

As we are expecting a high demand, participants are encouraged to book as early as possible. Service hours will be from 08:00 to 18:00 hours from 13 to 16 July 2015. Delegations requiring further information regarding bilateral requests should email emeetsm@un.org with subject line “BILATS.”

Accreditation for states, IGOs, associate members of regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations

Accreditation will be operational as of 9 July 2015 at the UN Accreditation Facility (in the Millennium Hall) to issue passes to the government delegates, staff, accredited representatives of media, non-governmental organizations and other major groups attending meetings.

A note verbale was sent to missions/offices in New York on 3 June informing delegations of the accreditation procedure.

The link for online pre-accreditation to FFD3 in New York is now available and can be accessed via the existing online system "eAccreditation" available through eDelegate Portal:

<http://delegate.un.int>. Missions who are already registered users may use the same log-in name and password.

Deadline for pre-accreditation in New York is close of business, Thursday, 2 July 2015.

To avoid delays, upon arrival in Addis, delegations are requested to submit their accreditation as early as possible.

Accreditation requests for new users may be sent in a letter addressed to the Chief of Protocol.

* * * * *