



Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa
Concept Note – Financing for Development Side Event,
14th July 2015, Capital Hotel, 6.00pm – 9.00pm

“Financing for Gender Equality – Placing Women at the Center of the SDGs in Africa”

1. Background

The third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 July 2015. It will bring together high-level representatives, including Heads of State and Government; Ministers of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation; as well other relevant stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations and private sector entities. The Conference is expected to result in an inter-governmentally negotiated and agreed outcome, which should constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The conference aims to assess the progress made in the implementation of commitments made at preceding Financing for Development conferences, namely the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. It further intends to identify obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints.

In addition, delegates will be tasked with addressing new and emerging issues, including the current evolving development cooperation landscape; the inter-relationship of all sources of development finance as well the synergies between financing objectives across various dimensions of sustainable development as well as the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. Furthermore, the conference will seek to reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process.

Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls are basic human rights. Fundamental values and issues of social justice are essential to achieve equitable sustainable growth and development. Development finance plays a critical role in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment. Transformative, inclusive and innovative financing, both in scale and scope across all sectors, from all sources and at all levels is necessary for gender-responsive investment in productive sectors as well as in social and physical infrastructure needed to sustain poverty reduction and wealth creation.



2. Financing for Gender Equality Key to Achieving the SDGs

Reflecting back on the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the remaining gaps on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and looking forward to the proposed Post-2015 development framework, it is imperative to draw attention to the need for significantly enhanced, prioritized, and dedicated investment for implementing gender equality and women's empowerment commitments as well the importance of mainstreaming gender equality investment across all sectors.

The report of the Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has proposed a standalone goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as well as gender-sensitive targets in 11 out of 17 goals. This high level of ambition and commitment for gender equality must be matched by equally ambitious levels of financing. The FfD conference therefore provides a critical opportunity to ensure that financing supports the realization of the standalone goal and allocation of adequate resources for mainstreaming gender in the rest of the SDG goals.

The FFD Conference is being hosted by the Ethiopian Government and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Ethiopia, together with Rwanda, Chad and Nigeria is a member of African Group of Negotiators for the FFD. This presents an opportunity for UN Women, through the Liaison Office to the AU and ECA, to engage on the development of key messages on funding for gender equality and women's empowerment to be integrated not only within the Africa common perspective, but also within the overall outcome document of the FFD.

3. The Side Event – Forging Strategic Partnerships for Financing for Gender Equality

The Side Event is jointly organized by key partners in Addis Ababa under the leadership of the Ethiopia Government and in particular the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Technical support in organizing the event is provided by UN Women Ethiopia, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UNDP Regional Service Center and the European Union (EU) Delegation in Ethiopia. Civil Society Organisations including PANE and OXFAM also participated in the technical team which conceptualized and ensured the Side Event achieves its intended objectives.

In addition to conceptualizing the side event, the inter-agency technical team has also been working closely with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of Ethiopia to ensure that the key messages developed on financing for gender equality have been consistently used to integrate targeted financing for gender equality and women's rights into the outcome document of the 3rd International Conference for Financing for Development.



To further strengthen gender mainstreaming within the process, the Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with key stakeholders in Addis Ababa is planning a side event during the FFD Conference under the theme, **“Financing for Development – Placing Women at the Center of the SDGs in Africa”**. The Side Event is intended to bring together key Government, UN, Bilateral and CSO experts from all over Africa to share their experiences and expectations on Financing for Gender Equality.

4. Overall Objective

To advocate with government officials at the Ministerial level on the necessity of innovative, transformative and inclusive financing for gender equality. The outcome of this discussion will demonstrate how utilizing gender responsive planning and budgeting of both domestic and development cooperation results in not only empowering women, especially poor women but also in sustainable economic growth and development.

5. Specific Objectives/Outcomes

Enhanced ownership and political will by stakeholders at all levels, including Finance and Planning Ministers, Growth-Oriented Sectoral Ministers, Civil Society and other development partners at national and regional levels to invest in pro-poor and pro-gender sensitive tools and practices.

- Recognition by Governments and participants that financing for gender equality is critical to ensure that the Financing for Development Commitments achieves equitable, sustainable growth and development in the context of the SDGs.
- Commitment and endorsement by international financing entities for a transformative and comprehensive global financing framework that will ensure the realization of existing and new gender equality and women's empowerment goals in the SDGs.
- Visibility created around gender equality priorities through communications efforts in the lead up to and throughout FfD Conference.

6. Structure and Organization of the Side Event

The side event is an evening event, with a moderated discussion by a panel of speakers on lessons learned on financing for gender equality, sharing cases of best practices and success stories and highlighting key gaps to be addressed in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women in the SDGs from Africa. The moderated Panel Discussion will be followed by an interactive discussion between audience and panelists. The targeted audience is expected to be between 50 – 100 people, consisting of government ministerial delegations from Africa and the rest of the world, in particular the Global South, from development partners, CSOs and the private sector.

For queries relating to this event please contact Ms. Elly Friel <eleanor.friel@unwomen.org> or Ms. Tesfayenesh Lema <tesfas67@yahoo.com>