

US Statement
Financing for Development (FfD) Outcome Document
May 2, 2017
Delivered by Russell Singer, First Secretary

Thank you, co-chairs, for convening this meeting. We'd also like to thank you for distributing the zero draft on schedule, as well as the detailed program of work for the negotiations.

Regarding our initial views of the zero draft, we are concerned that this draft is far too long and is not sufficiently focused on pragmatic issues related to successes and obstacles in implementing the Addis Agenda. In many cases the language focuses on political issues that diverge substantively from agreed language in Addis. With less than two years having passed since Addis was agreed, we see no need to revisit these discussions.

We therefore think it useful to go back to the original language in Addis paragraph 131 about the purpose of the FfD follow-up process. That paragraph says that the follow-up process should assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges, promote the sharing of lessons learned, address new and emerging topics, and provide policy recommendations.”

In our view, however, the zero draft does not do these things, but rather clearly attempts to relitigate issues from Addis including in such areas as debt, trade, and illicit financial flows. From our perspective, the zero draft is full of red lines related to the multilateral trading system, the UN role in tax matters, climate change funding, and illicit financial flows, among others. As a general principle, the annual negotiations at the FfD Forum should be devoted to a technical assessment of progress on implementation.

If we wish to reach consensus, we therefore suggest aiming for a shorter, more concise document that focuses on the issues highlighted in paragraph 131, for which the IATF report provides ample material. Needless to say, we would oppose language on foreign occupation or CBDR.

We plan to participate constructively in the negotiations, and will raise our concerns regarding our redlines at that time. We thank you again for the detailed program of work, which provides sufficient time to determine whether a consensus outcome is possible. We reiterate our earlier statement that we will not engage in negotiations after working hours or on weekends, or negotiate past May 18th.

Thank you.