



## **EU STATEMENT**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT,  
NEVEN MIMICA**

**ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum**

**New York, 23 April 2018**

Madam President,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to speak on behalf **of the European Union and its Member States.**

Let me begin by **welcoming the new report from the Inter-Agency Task Force**, which provides a **robust and well-balanced** basis for further reflection.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an **integral part** of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We must continue to emphasize the **paradigm shift** it represents, including through a **strong message at the High Level Political Forum.**

Addis rightly places **domestic action and national governments** at the forefront. Because **good policies are as important as adequate financing.**

**Public leadership** is essential for providing the right policies, promoting coherence, overcoming structural constraints, and ensuring good governance and accountability.

National authorities must create an **enabling environment** for inclusive growth, social development, environmental sustainability, and gender equality. And develop robust mechanisms for **assessing progress and gaps**.

Global leadership is just as crucial at this time of growing trade tensions. The European Union firmly believes in the **central role of a fair and open rules-based multilateral trading system**, underpinned by the World Trade Organisation, and its crucial contribution to development.

Let me also reiterate the European Union's **commitment to international conventions and agreements – including the Paris Agreement** – without which the sustainable development of our planet cannot materialize.

Addis underlines that we need to mobilise both **financial and non-financial** means of implementation – **all actors and sources** of support.

Since I last addressed this Forum, the European Union and its Member States have adopted a new **European Consensus on Development** and, earlier today, we launched our report "**Investing in Sustainable Development**". This demonstrates how the European Union – **together with our partners** across

the globe – is **turning commitments into actions**, in every action area of the Addis Agenda.

Last week, the OECD reconfirmed the **European Union as the leading provider of development assistance globally**. Development assistance **will continue to play an essential role** towards sustainable development, in particular for **Least Developed Countries**.

We are determined to **continue to show leadership** in this respect, to work towards **our collectively agreed targets** and according to the principles of **development effectiveness**.

We also need to look beyond Official Development Assistance and consider **'total official support for sustainable development'** – to better **measure, acknowledge and incentivise** broader efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Addis also encourages us to use our ODA in a **much smarter way** – **as a catalyst** to mobilise additional funding from other public and private sources.

Our new **European External Investment Plan** aims to do just that. With just over 4 billion euros from the EU budget, we

expect to generate **at least 44 billion euros** of additional investment in higher risk sectors and states in Africa and our neighbourhood, with a focus on creating decent and sustainable jobs.

Our 'Investing in Sustainable Development Report' contains this and **many other good examples**.

It is **our contribution to this important Forum**, and a proof of our commitment to transparency, accountability and systematic monitoring. I hope it will inspire further **discussion across and beyond the development community**.

The 2030 and Addis Agendas are an **ambitious framework** to address the challenges of our generation and the next. The European Union will be **equally ambitious** in using **all of its tools and resources today**, to ensure a **more sustainable tomorrow for all**.

Thank you.