

**High-level Conference on Financing for Development and the Means of Implementation
of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
(Doha, Qatar, 18-19 November 2017)**

**Plenary session on “The SDG Means of Implementation”
(19 November 2017, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)**

**Opening remarks by Alexander Trepelkov
Director, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour and pleasure to serve as the Moderator of this plenary session on the SDG Means of Implementation. The purpose of this session is to summarize the outcomes of the three parallel discussions held earlier today on financing for the SDGs, which will be under in-depth review at the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The key objective of this Conference is to strengthen the coherence and coordination in the preparations for both the 2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up next April and the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development next July. Let me briefly elaborate on why our joint efforts in this respect are so important.

We all agree that there is a strong need for the mobilization and effective utilization of additional financial resources from all available sources – domestic and international, public and private – if we are to achieve truly transformative and sustainable development. This is why the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development is viewed as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets.

The link between the two Agendas is further strengthened by the fact that the Addis Agenda includes all financial and non-financial Means of Implementation of the SDGs. The Addis Agenda also emphasizes the synergies across the SDGs, where progress in the implementation of one will contribute to progress of others. In addition, all SDGs rely on the progress in the realization of the policy commitments contained across the seven Action Areas of the Addis Agenda.

Against this background, our objective for this session is to hear reports on the key messages that emerged from the parallel discussions at the breakout sessions held earlier today. These messages will feed into an outcome of this Conference, which will be transmitted to the 2018 FfD Forum and the High-level Political Forum.

Later, we will also hear the views from two representatives of important stakeholders: the private sector and civil society. Both groups of stakeholders have brought their expertise and

leverage to the follow-up processes of the Addis and 2030 Agendas. Their continued involvement is critical to the successful implementation of the SDGs.

The first breakout session focused on SDG 6 (water) and SDG 7 (energy). Synergies across these goals and with the other goals are clearly visible. Access to clean water and sanitation is a vital element to achieve many other SDGs, especially those to end poverty and to improve public health. Similarly, affordable and clean energy is a key enabler for economic development, but also for improving health and education levels. However, financing for the required infrastructure remains a challenge, particularly in developing countries.

The second breakout session on SDG 11 addressed critical issues with respect to cities. Since 2007, the majority of the world's population has been living in cities, and rapid urbanization is continuing, especially in developing countries. Local authorities are at the forefront of the implementation of the SDGs, but they often do not have adequate financial resources to provide the necessary public goods and services.

The third breakout session was dedicated to discussing the challenges of ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), as well as protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems (SDG 15). One particular issue here is how to overcome the lack of financial resources and other obstacles, and how science, technology and innovation (STI) roadmaps can facilitate investments in these areas.

I hope that the participants in all the three parallel sessions have developed some concrete ideas and suggestions that can provide a constructive input to the outcome of this Conference.