

Intervention by Canada

Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Government of Qatar for organising this Conference. Canada is very pleased with the opportunity to take part in this important discussion which provides an opportunity for us to build new partnerships that will help mobilise the necessary resources to achieve the SDGs especially for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Here in Qatar it's been a good week for the promotion of development. Just a few days ago the Qatar Foundation, a private non-profit organisation hosted the World Innovation Summit on Education and now we have this High-level Conference. Clearly there is considerable commitment and there are many good ideas aimed at achieving sustainable development - as often is the case, the challenge remains effective implementation.

Addressing the first "guiding question" of this round-table

In Canada, we have recently taken a number of important steps to meet the 2030 Agenda goals both domestically and internationally.

- Canada will be launching a Development Finance Institute (DFI) in January to support the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement implementation. In line with our Feminist International Assistance Policy, it will pay particular attention to local SMEs, notably women-owned and those that empower women.
- My government and Canadian partners launched Impact Investing in Frontier Markets (INFRONT), an innovative public-private partnership for sustainable development in frontier and emerging markets.
- Canada has been working to positively shape global discussions on financing for development, including by partnering with the multilateral development banks and the private sector on economic and social infrastructure and piloting innovative and blended financing mechanisms.
- Canada also targets support to help developing countries promote an enabling environment for growth and investment through domestic resource mobilization; this is consistent with the Addis Agenda that identifies domestic resource mobilization as an important contributor to financing the SDGs.
- Canada is pursuing a progressive trade agenda, to make trade work for more people, making sure that its benefits reach those trying to provide for their families and build their future prosperity.
- And Canada and Jamaica also lead a Group of Friends of SDG Financing at the UN in New York. Representatives from over 50 countries plus representatives of the UN, the World Bank and the private sector are participating. The Group is a platform to promote solution-oriented ideas for unlocking finance for development.

The Financing for Development agenda is a universal one like the SDGs themselves. Countries like my own, for example, will need to examine our own domestic policies and regulations to help unlock the flow of long-term capital to developing countries while also developing ways of meeting our own SDG financing gap.

Central to this agenda must be a commitment to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of

women and girls. We will not achieve the SDGs or increase financing if we do not make significant strides in this area. It is estimated that \$28 trillion is missing from global GDP because of gender inequality.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight Canada's commitment to integrate gender equality into every aspect of our development assistance. Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy recognises that supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the best way to reduce extreme poverty and vulnerability and achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Canada also strongly supports efforts that ensure each of the Addis Agenda action areas is implemented in a gender-responsive manner.

Finally, our commitment to creating innovative partnerships will be critical in our efforts to finance and ultimately achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. We remain committed to finding new approaches to achieve our objective of people-centred and planet sensitive prosperity for our citizens. The stakes are simply too high.

I thank you for your kind attention.