

Preparatory process for the third International
Conference on Financing for Development.
Substantive informal thematic sessions
(New York, 10-13 November 2014)

Statement by Italy

Distinguished co-Facilitators,

Italy aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

Let me first of all thank you, co-facilitators, and DESA, for organizing such an interesting thematic debate.

It is an encouraging sign as we embark the preparatory process of the Addis Ababa Conference to see how the debate has shifted to newer issues. I would also like to underline the key-note speech of Helen Clarke, here on Monday, for its holistic vision of what is at stake for Financing for Development in the post-2015 agenda.

Co-Facilitators,

Italy has greatly appreciated the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; building on the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha declaration and reflecting the new developments, the Report provides a comprehensive analysis to stimulate discussions among all stakeholders and inspire new ideas and innovative solutions.

Aside the Report, the Outcome Document of the Sustainable Development Goals Open Working Group, which is the result of almost two years of intense work, is an important contribution to the post 2015 debate.

The convergence of the two working paths on post-2015 agenda and sustainable finance in the synthesis that will soon be presented by the Secretary General, will give momentum and stimulate both processes and inspire the entire spectrum of diversified constituencies.

Co-Facilitators,

Italy is strongly convinced that we have to strive for a universal agenda which is really transformative, addresses the structural causes of poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, and, while acknowledging the need for a broader concrete contribution of all societal components, recognizes the critical role of women, young people and migrants as agents of sustainable development. An agenda that goes beyond the donors and recipient countries divide and recognizes that we have common challenges and a common future.

The international scenario has profoundly changed since the year 2000. There are only 36 low-income countries left in the world. Two-thirds of the poorest people live in middle-income countries. Eradicating poverty has become more complex. We all face a large variety of development challenges, including inequality, insecurity, and institutional fragility. Many of these challenges need to be addressed outside the traditional development cooperation sphere. Issues such as climate change, global health and food security have emerged as global public goods, entailing global development challenges.

In our opinion, the ICESDF Report has been successful in promoting an integrated approach, mainstreaming the environmental pillar and providing an up-to-date stocktaking on the interaction between environmental protection and economic and social development.

Co-Facilitators,

A new approach in financing the development should imply: i) a renewed attention towards mainstreaming sustainable development into financial policies and promoting coordination at all levels; ii) better linkages between development objectives and resources provided for their achievement; iii) awareness raising and participation of all actors (including local authorities, civil society, academia and the private sector) to development planning. Multi-stakeholder participation and policy coherence emerge as the two fundamental issues to be fostered from the local to the global level.

While ODA is still essential, above all in specific contexts and, increasingly, with a catalytic function, it is more and more evident that different types of finance (domestic public and private resources, external public and private financing) should be conceived as complementary rather than supplementary. The current OECD/DAC work on a more updated and comprehensive measure of total financing for development will offer important insights and clarifications on the issue.

We particularly agree with some proposals contained in the ICESDF Report, such as the creation of an enabling environment for increasing and qualifying the matching of private and public resources towards sustainable development, a better alignment of private resources with public goals and the encouragement of for-profit investment in the same sector.

In this context, domestic resources mobilization needs to be strengthened through the provision of appropriate capacity building activities to combat tax evasion, improve the efficiency of tax

collection and to reduce tax fraud.

A multi-stakeholder governance process must be put in place and public financial institution must adopt policies to mobilize resources, on the basis of solidarity principles, to promote inclusive sustainable development.

Co-Facilitators,

just a brief, final mention of two relevant areas to be further explored: the first is the link between migration and development, both in the policy and in the economic dimensions. Remittances dramatically increased over the past decade; they are likely to have important developmental effect in countries where they represent a sizeable share of capital inflows.

The second is social finance which is one fast-growing area of finance that has an enormous potential to support sustainable development.

Both subjects deserve more attention.

I thank you.