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Global Issues Newsletter

United Nations Development Programme in China

28 July 2015

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UN Headquarters Updates

FfD3 Concludes with Adoption of Addis Ababa Action Agenda

16 July 2015



The Third International Conference on Financing for Development

(FfD3) has concluded with the adoption of the Outcome Document of the Conference, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). In support of the AAAA, a number of significant partnerships were launched during FfD3, including: the Addis Tax Initiative, which will support strengthening domestic tax systems; the Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Woman Every Child, which brings together countries, donors and the private sector; and the Commission on Financing Global Education.

FfD3 took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-16 July 2015. Over 11,000 participants attended the Conference, including 18 Heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives from governments, non-governmental and UN organizations, and over 400 media representatives. Eight plenaries were held, in addition to six multi-stakeholder roundtables on two themes: global partnerships and the three dimensions of sustainable development; and ensuring policy coherence and an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development. A Main Committee, formed during the opening plenary to finalize the draft outcome document, met three times in closed sessions. Approximately 200 side events also took place. Following a compromise on issues related to international tax matters, the AAAA was adopted by the Main Committee on Wednesday evening, 15 July, and approved by the plenary on the final day of the Conference, on 16 July 2015. The AAAA includes three main sections on: a global framework for financing development post-2015; action areas; and data, monitoring and follow-up. The second section on action areas includes seven sub-sections on: domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic

issues; and science, technology, innovation (STI) and capacity building.

The AAAA comprises a number of concrete deliverables, such as: a technology facilitation mechanism (TFM), which will be officially launched at the post-2015 Summit in September 2015 and which comprises a UN inter-agency task team and a multi-stakeholder forum on STI for the SDGs, as well as an online platform; a global infrastructure forum to improve alignment and coordination among established and new infrastructure initiatives, multilateral and national development banks, UN agencies, and national institutions, development partners and the private sector; an Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Forum on Financing for Development (FfD) follow-up that will discuss the follow-up and review of the FfD outcomes and the means of implementation (MOI) of the post-2015 development agenda; and an inter-agency Task Force convened by the UN Secretary-General to report annually on progress in implementing the FfD outcomes and the post-2015 MOI.

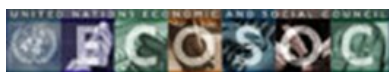
The AAAA also decides to work to further enhance the resources of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters by increasing its meetings to two four-day sessions per year. It indicates that Committee members shall be nominated by governments, act in their expert capacity, represent different tax systems, and be appointed by the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with UN Member States. In addition, based on the AAAA, official development assistance (ODA) providers reaffirm their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7% of ODA/Gross National Income (GNI), and 0.15 to 0.20% of ODA/GNI to least developed countries (LDCs).

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/ffd3-concludes-with-adoption-of-addis-ababa-action-agenda/>

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.227/L.1

ECOSOC Dialogue Focuses on Regional Transition to SDGs

9 July 2015



Member States discussed the regional dimension of the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) annual Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions. The Dialogue 'Managing the transition to the SDGs: What will it take at the Regional Level' took place on 9 July 2015 in New York, US.

Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), outlined what it takes at the regional level to manage the transition to the SDGs: an intergovernmental structure to turn global goals and targets into policies, norms, standards and conventions, such as the UNECE's Committee on Environmental Policy or its Inland Transport Committee; the ability to work cross sectoral and

promote political integration, like the Environment Pan-European Programme (PEP) that, together with WHO Europe and UNEP, provides a platform for policy-makers to develop and share approaches for healthy and sustainable transport systems in support of several SDG goals and targets; better data, new data, and new data sources; and mechanisms for review and monitoring, such as Environmental Performance Reviews, Innovation Performance Reviews or the Country Profiles on Housing.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/ecosoc-dialogue-focuses-on-regional-transition-to-sdgs/>

<http://www.regionalcommissions.org/ecosoc-dialogue-with-the-executive-secretaries-of-the-un-regional-commissions-9-july-2015/>

“Final Draft” of Post-2015 Outcome Document Released

8 July 2015



The co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda have issued the “final draft” of the outcome document of the UN Summit in September 2015, which is expected to adopt the development agenda. David Donoghue (Ireland) and Macharia Kamau (Kenya) write that this version of the text builds on, and responds to, input from Member States and other stakeholders provided at the 22-25 June negotiation session. They also indicate that they look forward to its finalization at the final negotiation session, on 20-31 July 2015. The draft was released on 8 July 2015 in New York, US.

The draft is titled ‘Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Global Action,’ and contains: a preamble; an introduction; a section on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and

targets; a section on means of implementation (MOI) and the Global Partnership; and a section on follow-up and review.

The section on follow-up and review contains several introductory paragraphs, including six principles which would guide follow-up and review processes, followed by sub-sections on national, regional and global level follow-up and review.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/final-draft-of-post-2015-outcome-document-released/>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7603Final%20draft%20outcome%20document%20UN%20Sept%20Summit%20w%20>

HLPF Declaration Calls for Universal, Ambitious, Inclusive Post-2015 Agenda

8 July 2015



Ministers committed to establishing “a strong, universal, ambitious, inclusive and people-centered post-2015 development agenda that will build on the foundations laid and experiences gained by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges” at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The 2015 meeting of the HLPF convened from 26 June - 8 July 2015, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. Under the theme, ‘Strengthening integration, implementation and review – the HLPF after 2015,’ the meeting brought together nearly 1800 delegates, including Member States, Major Groups and other stakeholders, and intergovernmental and UN organizations.

In addition to committing to establishing a post-2015 development agenda, the Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF welcomes what has been achieved through implementation of the MDGs as well as progress made in the ongoing processes for the upcoming Third International Conference of Financing for Development (FfD3) and the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. It requests the President of ECOSOC to issue summaries of the discussions held during the high-level segment and the HLPF as a contribution to FfD3 and the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/hlpf-declaration-calls-for-universal-ambitious-inclusive-post-2015-agenda/>

<http://www.iisd.ca/hlpf/2015/>

Global Updates

BRICS to Operationalize New Development Bank, Strengthen Energy Cooperation

9 July 2015, Ufa, Russia



At its seventh annual summit, the BRICS group of countries (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) announced the BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy through 2020, which aims to strengthen ties in energy, high technology, agriculture, science and education. The BRICS also adopted the New Development Bank and Contingent Reserve Arrangement, with a total capacity of US\$200 billion. The event took place on 9 July 2015 in Ufa, Russia.

One of the major focuses of the summit was energy and energy efficiency, with countries exchanging information on efficient technologies and urging their businesses to develop such technologies. The Economic Partnership Strategy identifies as priorities, inter alia: promoting universal access to energy; increasing energy efficiency, including joint development and sharing of energy efficient

and cleaner energy technologies; introducing environmentally friendly technologies of energy production, storage and consumption; and promoting the use of renewable sources of energy. The document also suggests ways for countries to achieve these goals. The BRICS summit was held in parallel with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is comprised of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, the summit was preceded by meetings of the BRICS Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas, the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues, Ministers of Youth Affairs, the Business Council, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, New Development Bank Board of Governors, Trade Ministers, as well as other forums and working groups.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/brics-to-operationalize-new-development-bank-strengthen-energy-cooperation/>

<http://ufa2015.com/media/news/2274/>

ECLAC Calls for Caribbean SIDS Debt Relief at FfD3

16 July 2015, Washington DC, US.



The Asia-Pacific region could face between US\$2.1 trillion and US\$2.5 trillion per year in costs to close infrastructure gaps, expand basic social protection and address climate mitigation and adaptation in order to meet commitments under the post-2015 development agenda, according to a report published by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and launched on the margins of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3). The event took place on 16 July 2015 in Washington DC, US.

in Asia and the Pacific,' underscores that the region's financing systems must be enhanced to maximize their potential and channel resources towards sustainable development. The publication explains that although Asia is home to more than 60% of the world's extreme poor, it is well positioned to meet the costs of development given its high saving rates, build-up of foreign exchange reserves and ability to attract large capital flows and remittances. The report's recommendations include: financial sector reforms for intermediation of development funds; social sector financing; climate finance strategies for adaptation and mitigation; trade finance and investment promotion policies; and enhancing the effectiveness of official development assistance.

The report, titled 'Financing for Transformation: From agenda to action on sustainable development

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/escap-adb-discuss-development-finance-in-asia-pacific/>

ESCAP, ADB Discuss Development Finance in Asia-Pacific

16 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



In the lead up to agreement on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) by UN Member States at the Third International Financing for Development (FfD3) Conference, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) advocated for regional perspectives and priorities to be reflected in the AAAA, organizing side events and bringing to Addis Adaba a proposal for a debt forgiveness mechanism for Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS). The event took place on 16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ECLAC brought two principal inputs to the Conference: a set of ten key messages from the regional consultation for FfD, and a proposal for debt relief for Caribbean States. The ten key messages stress, among other things: the importance of significant mobilization of domestic resources, including those mobilized by national and sub-regional development banks; the need for creating a sovereign debt restructuring framework; the growing importance of South-South and triangular cooperation; the need to address asymmetries in the governance mechanisms of international financial

institutions; making multilateral trade practices and agreements more flexible to take the specificities of middle-income countries into account; the need to meet the challenge of mobilizing private financial resources and channeling them towards development objectives; the need to rethink remittance flows; and greater involvement of civil society in intergovernmental processes.

ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena delivered the debt relief proposal. Under the proposal, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) would negotiate an agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to gradually write off the multilateral external public debt of Caribbean countries.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/eclac-calls-for-caribbean-sids-debt-relief-at-ffd3/>

<http://www.cepal.org/en/comunicados/los-paises-alcanzan-acuerdo-historico-para-financiar-la-nueva-agenda-de-desarrollo>

Africa Prioritizes Industrialization, Transformation at FfD3

16 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Leading up to UN Member States' agreement on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3), African delegates advocated for incorporating African priorities into the AAAA and held events on topics such as domestic resource mobilization (DRM), industrialization and illicit financial flows. The event took place on 16 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The AAAA, a global framework with more than 100 concrete measures addressing finance for the post-2015 development agenda and the proposed

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was adopted by participants on the final day of the Conference, following a compromise on international tax matters. The AAAA includes three main sections on: a global framework for financing development post-2015; action areas; and data, monitoring and follow-up.

The section on action areas includes seven sub-sections on: domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues; and science, technology, innovation and capacity building. Countries also agreed to establish a Global Infrastructure Forum to identify and address infrastructure gaps and opportunities for investment and cooperation.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/africa-prioritizes-industrialization-transformation-at-ffd3/>

China Updates

BRICS New Development Bank launched in Shanghai

21 July 2015, Shanghai, China



The New Development Bank (NDB) opened in Shanghai on 21 July 2015 to finance infrastructure projects, mainly in BRICS countries. BRICS

countries are the world's major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. BRICS leaders signed an agreement to establish the bank during their sixth summit in Brazil in July, 2014. The bank will start operations at the end of this year or early in 2016.

Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei, Shanghai Mayor Yang Xiong and NDB President K.V. Kamath from India attended the opening ceremony. The NDB will supplement the existing international financial system in a healthy way and explore innovations in governance models, Lou said at a seminar following the ceremony.

Other regional development banks are mainly dominated by developed countries. Developing countries complain that loans from organizations like the World Bank always come with strings attached. Demand for new infrastructure is climbing across the world, but some rich countries are increasingly hesitant to lend, said Shen Yi, an expert on BRICS countries with the Fudan University in Shanghai. Through improved infrastructure the NDB can make the sustainable growth of developing countries a reality, and China can share its experience, infrastructure production capacity and funds with other members, according to Zha Xiaogang, an analyst with the Shanghai Institute for International Studies.

http://big5.xinhuanet.com/gate/big5/news.xinhuanet.com/english/bilingual/2015-07/21/c_134433431.htm

United Nations Hails China's Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in Final Report

24 July 2015, Beijing, China



As the end of 2015 and the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, the Government of China in partnership with the United Nations (UN) System in China today jointly launched the Report on China's Implementation of the MDGs (2000-2015). This is China's final progress report on the MDGs before the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda later this year. The event took place on 24 July 2015, Beijing, China.

Highlights of China's progress in the past 15 years include lifting over 439 million people out of poverty between 1990 and 2011, reducing the under-five mortality rate by at least two-thirds, cutting the maternal mortality rate by three quarters, halving the proportion of the population

without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and actively engaging in South-south cooperation and providing help to over 120 developing countries in their efforts to attain the MDGs.

The Report on China's Implementation of the MDGs (2000-2015) follows the UN's global MDG final assessment report released on July 6. The UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon stated on that occasion that "the global efforts to achieve the Goals have saved millions of lives and improved conditions for millions more around the world." Furthermore, he said, "The MDGs have greatly contributed to this progress and have taught us how governments, business and civil society can work together to achieve transformational breakthroughs."

<http://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/07/-united-nations-hails-chinas-progress-towards-the-millennium-dev/>

Upcoming Events

August 2015

1. Sixth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific

Dates: 16-19 August 2015

Venue: Dharubaaruge Convention Centre

Description: The conference is organized on the theme, '3R as an Economic Industry - Next Generation 3R Solutions for a Resource-Efficient Society and Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific'. It will focus on water security, tourism, waste management and sustainable urban management. The conference is jointly organized by the Governments of Japan and Maldives, and the UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). Participants include high-level government representatives from Asia-Pacific countries, city mayors and other professionals.

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/>

2. World Water Week 2015

Dates: 23-28 August 2015

Venue: Stockholm, Stockholms Lan, Sweden

Description: World Water Week 2015 will meet under the theme 'Water for Development,' with experts, practitioners, decision makers, business innovators and young professionals from a range of sectors and countries coming together to network, exchange ideas, stimulate innovative thinking and develop solutions to water-related challenges. The Week will include 160 events and eight workshops to discuss issues related to financing, the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs), integrity, gender, climate change, energy, sanitation, food, conflict resolution and water management.

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/world-water-week-2015/>

Voices



“The Addis Ababa Action Agenda will be the starting point of a new path for financing sustainable development... Let us send a clear signal that we are serious about supporting sustainable development and providing a life of dignity for all.”

Secretary-General Ban in remarks at opening of Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 13 July 2015.

<http://www.un.org/sg/>

“Looking ahead, China will tackle difficulties and challenges head-on, step up to its development responsibilities and obligations, and pursue the Chinese dream of great national renewal. Many may wonder what kind of path China will take in implementing the post-2015 development agenda.”

Video Message by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At the Launch Ceremony of The Report on China's Implementation of The Millennium Development Goals, 24 July 2015.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1283853.shtml



“Our world has been increasingly diversified, and we hope that we could establish connections between different culture and civilization, which will lead to the prosperity of our world.”

Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria, the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning at the International Conference on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 24 July 2015.

<http://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/07/-united-nations-hails-chinas-progress-towards-the-millennium-dev/>





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