

## **HLPF 2016 Side event – Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development**

### **“Monitoring progress on the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda”**

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (FfD) held an HLPF side event on “Monitoring progress on the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda” on 12 July 2016. The event served to elicit Member States’ perspectives on the Task Force’s contribution to follow-up and review of the means of implementation of the SDGs and to provide an initial assessment of the status of implementation of financing commitments. It also served as an opportunity to present Issue Briefs drafted by Members of the Task Force

The event, which was well attended by Member States, UN Agencies and other stakeholders, was opened by Mr. Wu Hongbo, USG of DESA and Chair of the Task Force. In his opening remarks, Mr. Wu stated that the 2016 High-level Political Forum provides an opportunity to assess initial progress on the SDGs, including their means of implementation. He noted that feedback from this event could help the Task Force ensure that its work is relevant to Member States, particularly in their deliberations at future HLPFs.

In the ensuing interactive discussion, panelists – representatives from developed and developing countries and civil society – commended the Task Force on its inaugural 2016 report and welcomed the monitoring approach that it proposed. Panelists, stakeholders and Task Force members also commended the Task Force as a positive example for strengthened cooperation amongst UN agencies for implementation of the 2030 and Addis Agendas.

Participants underlined the importance of the Task Force’s work for the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, and noted that the analytical nature of the Task Force’s annual report would be an important complement to the statistical report on the SDGs and their means of implementation targets. Ambassador George Talbot, co-facilitator of the negotiations on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, called for the Task Force to promote and maintain a holistic and integrated process, produce reports that focus on contemporary issues while also being forward looking, and provide clear recommendations for corrective action.

Panelists and other participants also encouraged the Task Force to focus its analysis on themes relevant to the HLPF in future years, and expressed support for the idea to review in greater detail the means of implementation targets of those goals that are under priority review in that year. They called for strengthened synergies between the Task Force and national and regional level stakeholders. They also noted that the lack of availability of quality data is a key challenge faced by the Task Force.

Finally, representatives from Member States suggested that future Reports should be available to Member States well in advance of the FfD Forum, so that it could inform negotiations on its outcome, and that its findings should also inform deliberations at the HLPF.

Several members of the Task Force, including the IMF, UNCTAD, and ITU, presented a selection of the 20 Issue Briefs that have been prepared as part of the Task Force’s work

programme to date. These Issue Briefs provide in-depth analysis on a wide range of topics, reflective of the broad scope of the Addis Agenda. They will also be the basis of the on-line annex mandated in the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2016 FfD Forum. The presentations – ranging from issues such as taxation and financing for infrastructure to remittances and debt crisis prevention and resolution – bore evidence to the breadth of the work of the Task Force. They also highlighted ongoing work within the Task Force to improve and harmonize data relevant to monitoring the FfD outcomes, including in the area of domestic resource mobilization.

In conclusion, Member States welcomed the opportunity to interact with the Task Force in the context of the HLPF, and called for additional briefings on the progress of work of the Task Force as it develops its analysis and monitoring of progress for the 2017 cycle.