

“Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2017” - HLPF Side event of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development

13 July 2017, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m., CR B, UN Headquarters

Summary

The HLPF side event “Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2017” served to present the 2017 report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) audience and also explored how future IATF reports could be supportive of SDG follow-up. The event attracted great interest by Member States, representatives of UN agencies and other stakeholders, and was attended by around 100 participants in total. Participants underlined the report’s critical role for the intergovernmental follow-up in the Financing for Development process, but also noted that its links to SDG follow-up could be strengthened. In this regard, several ideas were discussed, including for example to link the thematic chapter of the report to the theme of the HLPF in the respective year.

In this opening remarks, delivered on behalf Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, Chair of the Task Force, Mr. Trepelkov, Director of the Financing for Development Office, presented key findings of the 2017 task force report and a tentative work programme for the 2018 cycle. The Task Force had found progress across the agenda, with countries having taken early actions on many commitments, but that a difficult global environment had impacted national implementation. He highlighted several focus areas for the upcoming 2018 report, and the possibility of linking the thematic section of the report to the theme of the 2018 HLPF – transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies – and those SDGs that will be under in-depth review.

In the subsequent panel discussion, representatives of Ethiopia, Mexico and Canada and from civil society shared their perspectives on the Task Force’s work and ideas on strengthening its relevance for SDG follow-up going forward. Panelists emphasized that the report, as well as briefings provided by the Task Force on its key messages, were instrumental in achieving a substantive outcome at the FfD Forum. They also noted that many of the policy recommendations should be implemented, and highlighted areas that the Task Force should focus on in future reports, including for example infrastructure investments, graduation issues and alternative measurements of progress, and gender. In this context, panelists also noted that the links between the report and the SDGs under in-depth review should be strengthened going forward, in order to overcome silo-approaches to UN processes, and that the Task Force should consider developing a multi-year work programme.

Members of the Task Force then shared their perspectives on the panelists’ interventions and the contributions and role of the Task Force report going forward. They highlighted areas for continued analytical work, including for example on domestic resource mobilization, access to universal basic infrastructure, gender, fragility, the digital economy, and others. The meeting concluded after several participants added their reflections from the floor, noting the importance of financing for development for SDG implementation.