

**HLPF side event of the
Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) on the
Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Progress and Prospects 2018**

13 July 2018, 13:15 – 14:30, Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters

The 2018 Financing for Sustainable Development Report of the Inter-agency Task includes an exploration of financing opportunities and challenges for the five SDGs under in-depth review at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: (i) water and sanitation; (ii) affordable and clean energy; (iii) sustainable cities and communities; (iv) sustainable production and consumption patterns; and (v) terrestrial ecosystems. It views these issues through the cross-cutting lenses of gender equality; the commitment to leave no one behind; and the role of new technologies in achieving the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The side event will explore implementation of the highlighted SDGs, in the context of a global environment that has seen increased growth and investment but is also marked by significant and growing risks.

Background

The Addis Agenda stresses that all sources of financing are needed; however it is often unclear how best to fill financing gaps at the country level, and how best to use public, private or blended finance across sectors. While infrastructure investments with attractive risk-return profiles — such as telecommunications, ports and others sector — are often privately funded, projects with high social but low financial returns — such as the conservation of ecosystems — tend to be funded by public resources. In other areas, including energy, water and sanitation, things are less clear-cut and different financing structures have been used.

The Financing for Sustainable Development Task Force report identifies options for capital structures and financing for investments in the five SDG sectors under review, emphasizing the need to consider the characteristics of each investment and the specific situation of each country. It underscores that different financing structures have important ramifications for access, equity and efficiency of service delivery — and thus implementation of the SDGs. They can have particularly strong impacts on gender equality and the principle of leaving no one behind. The report notes that, at the same time, the empowerment of women and girls feeds back into the achievement of the SDGs, including through the effect of women's increased participation in the formal labour force and in leadership at all levels of decision-making on economic growth and development.

The 2018 assessment of the Task Force draws on the expertise, analysis and data collected by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organisation, UNCTAD and UNDP, as well as over 50 United Nations agencies, programmes and offices, regional commissions and other relevant international institutions that make up the Task Force.

Objectives

The side event has several distinct aims:

1. Discuss the Task Force work on the financing for the Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth in 2018;
2. Familiarize participants of the High Level Political Forum with the findings of the 2018 Task Force report related to Goal 17 and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and
3. Explore how to further strengthen the links between the Task Force's work and the HLPF, especially in relation to the means of implementation of the SDGs.

Programme

The side event will be structured as an interactive panel discussion.

Opening remarks: Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary General, UN-DESA

Speakers

- Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN DESA
- H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations
- Ms. Elissa Golberg, Assistant Deputy Minister for Strategic Policy, Global Affairs Canada

Open discussion, moderated by Mr. Navid Hanif

Initial interventions:

- Major institutional stakeholders of the Inter-agency Task Force (World Bank, IMF, UNCTAD, UNDP)
- Other members of the Task Force
- Civil society
- Business sector