

Session 13

Review of implementation SDGs and thematic review

SDG 17: Investing in and financing for SDGs

Thursday, 13 July 2017, 15:00-16:30, Conference Room 4

Draft presentation for HLPF Panel Discussion on “SDG 17: Investing in and Financing SDGs”

H.E. Mr. Ambassador Gebeyehu Ganga, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations

- Thank you, Vice President, and thank you Moderator.
- Let me thank Distinguished Keynote Speakers, the PRs of South Africa and of Belgium who wisely and successfully led the negotiation process of the Second FFD Forum into an inter-governmentally agreed outcome.
- As one of the developing countries, though our position has been to have a more ambitious outcome, we are pleased that the FFD Forum has its first substantive outcome, which we still believe has a lot of important elements that should be implemented.
- Coming back to share our perspective on some of the questions, I would like to stress that to accelerate the timely and effective implementation of the Addis Agenda what is required is renewed global commitment and political determination. Reports, including the Inter-Agency Task Force for Financing for Development have demonstrated that we cannot achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda with the current trajectory. The international community must take this message very seriously and must act with a sense of urgency to create a more favorable environment for inclusive and sustainable development. The difficult political, economic, social and environmental challenges that continue to impede the implementation of the Addis Agenda demand unwavering commitment for effective multilateralism.
- National actions are also important to realize the vision of 2030 Agenda. Here I want to underline national ownership and leadership. In Ethiopia, as poverty eradication is our primary policy objective, we are implementing SDGs by integrating them into our national

development plan. We have allocated more than 70 per cent of our budget to pro-poor programs and projects.

- We have prepared a Comprehensive Action Plan to implement the Addis Agenda in Ethiopia. We are taking policy interventions to mobilize domestic resources, including by launching a “Tax Transformation for Sustainable Development” initiative aimed at further reforming the tax administration system. We are one of the leading LDCs in attracting FDI that is aligned with our development priorities. We have been benefiting from North and South; as well as South-South cooperation. What we have been doing in Ethiopia is maximizing the impact of development finance, including ODA on poverty reduction and job generating programs such as infrastructure.
- In short what has worked for Ethiopia to reduce poverty and sustain its inclusive growth is its political commitment for implementing comprehensive development plans that are in line with our national contexts. And we continue to learn from our development process and the experience of others. Also, we have been harnessing international cooperation according to our development priorities.
- However, I must say that we still continue to face funding gaps to implement SDGs in Ethiopia. Coupled with the volatile international commodity price, our export has been sluggish. The negative impacts of climate change are also posing a significant challenge, affecting our financing priorities and economic growth.
- Finally, let me say that implementing SDGs in Ethiopia and other developing countries requires the concerted and joint actions of all development actors. Developed countries should respect their commitment to provide ODA, climate finance and technology. We need a reformed UN that is fit for purpose in supporting member states to implement SDGs. Multilateral development banks should finance sustainable projects that build productive capacity and promote regional integration. We also need the private sector to avoid “short-termism” and invest in long-term and SDGs-aligned projects that have impact on poverty. CSOs should also advocate for an enabling international economic environment that recognizes there is no one size that fits all. All these reaffirm what I said earlier: investing and financing SDGs require renewed sense of global solidarity and partnership.

I thank you