

Interactive dialogue 6

A strengthened global partnership for realizing the post-2015 development agenda

I. INTRODUCTION

Both the 2030 agenda for sustainable development that will be adopted at this Summit and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted in July 2015 underline the utmost importance of mobilizing the means to implement the Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, bearing in mind that the Agenda is global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while respecting different national circumstances.

The new Agenda deals with the means required for implementation of the goals and targets. These will include the mobilization of financial resources as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. Public finance, both domestic and international, will play a vital role in providing essential services and public goods and in catalyzing other sources of finance. The 2030 agenda acknowledges the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in implementation.

The 2030 agenda, including the SDGs, can be met within the framework of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). The AAAA supports, complements and helps contextualize the 2030 agenda's means of implementation targets. These relate to 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, and data, monitoring and follow-up.

The Global Partnership will work in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular solidarity with the poorest and with people in vulnerable situations. It will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources.

The Global Partnership has to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions in an integrated manner; build on existing commitments and mechanisms; reinforce synergies and policy coherence in the implementation; and strengthen the governance and accountability frameworks.

II. STOCKTAKING

Countries, acting individually and collectively, bear the primary responsibility for implementing the 2030 agenda. International public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. Globally, ODA remains an important source of public financing for developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island development States (SIDS) as well as middle-income countries (MICs). In LDCs, for instance, ODA represents about half of all external financing available to close their savings gap. Yet, the 0.7 per cent of gross national income ODA target, including the 0.15 to 0.20 per cent target for LDCs, remains largely unfulfilled by donors. Given the level of financing required to reach the SDGs, an important use of international public finance, including ODA, will be to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private.

Science, technology Innovation (STI) and related capacity building are essential components of the development of productive capacities. For developing countries to benefit from innovation, they need to access, learn and master more advanced, often foreign, technologies, a process which requires building domestic technological capabilities. This is true both of existing technologies and of new and emerging, including green, technologies. However, international knowledge and technology gaps remain huge and the efforts to close them are far from sufficient. In 2015, 57% of the global population still do not have access to the Internet on a regular basis, preventing them from accessing the online economy.

The number of professionals in research and development (R&D) per million people in developing countries corresponds to just 15% of the level in developed countries, while in the case of LDCs the proportion is only 1.4%. Largely as a consequence, the number of resident patent applications per million people is just 1 in LDCs, as compared to 152 in all developing countries and 655 in developed countries.

Growing trade (from \$3.5 trillion in 1990 to \$18.9 trillion in 2014) and rapidly increasing international investment flows have made our economy a truly global and interconnected one. Indeed, the digital economy can be the next big growth sector for many developing countries, provided they can gain sufficient skills and technical capacity. Trade can be a major engine of growth and can generate massive financial contributions to finance development. With the help of the steady reduction of tariff and non-tariff measures, developing countries have experienced high and sustained growth, with their share in world trade increasing from 33 per cent to 48 per cent since 2000. Together with the emergence of global value chains (GVCs), these shifts in the global economy have created new capacities for economic growth, development and poverty reduction. Still, the degree to which developing countries have been able to avail themselves of the development potential of GVCs has been largely dependent on the level of development of their productive capacities.

III. PROPOSALS FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES IN NEW AGENDA

All financial and non-financial means of implementation, including governance, trade, finance and technology, ICTs, policy and institutional coherence, labour mobility, and capacity-building cut across the full set of SDGs, requiring synergies and coherence across goals.

The new agenda underlines the important role and comparative advantage of an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective UN system in supporting the achievement of the SDGs and sustainable development.

It is important that international financial institutions support, in line with their mandates, the policy space of each country, in particular developing countries. The new agenda recommit to broadening and strengthening the voice and participation of developing countries – in particular African countries, least developed countries, land-locked developing countries, small-island developing States and middle-income countries – in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance.

Financing: Challenges concerning the financing for development include strengthening of domestic public finance; expansion and effectiveness of international public finance – including meeting international commitments on the quantity, quality and modes of delivery of ODA; mobilization of private financial resources – including at the domestic level and for local investment; expanding access to financial services, including through information technology; and accountability of the private sector for allocating investments towards attaining sustainable development goals. Also, the global partnership should provide opportunities to exchange policy experiences on *channelling/redirecting* existing finance from resource-intensive, highly polluting industries to low-carbon, energy-efficient and socially inclusive investment.

Science, technology, innovation (STI) and capacity-building: Reaching the SDGs requires the upgrading of the productive structure of developing countries and a strong rise in labour, capital and total factor productivity. This supposes strengthening national knowledge systems and the synergies between academic and research institutions and the private sector, as well as active structural and industrial policies. It also requires increasing investments in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education; enhancing technical, vocational and tertiary education and training; ensuring equal access and participation for women and girls in education and employment; and developing the needed skilled experts, engineers and researchers. The technology facilitation mechanism (TFM) that has been agreed at the Third Financing for Development Conference and is being launched at this Summit together with the technology bank for LDCs could prove to be powerful tools for coherence and coordination in this area. The United Nations Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs will promote coordination, coherence, and cooperation within the UN System on STI related matters, enhancing synergy and efficiency, in particular in capacity-building initiatives, and will organize a multistakeholder forum on STI and maintain an on-line platform which will be used to establish a comprehensive mapping of, and serve as a gateway for, information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, within and beyond the UN.

Trade: Trade expansion should ideally contribute to growth and development in a socially and environmentally sustainable way, with all countries – including the poorest ones – reaping its development benefits. Harnessing the full potential of trade will require action on several fronts. In addition to promoting the open, predictable, non-discriminatory, and rules-

based multilateral trading system as stated in the SDG target 17.10, the global partnership needs to provide targeted support to help vulnerable populations as well as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) to overcome the constraints they face in benefiting from trade. Key elements of this agenda are to strengthen productive capacities and to reduce trade costs of the poorest countries, with a specific attention paid to the constraints faced by MSME and the most vulnerable social groups. Education and skills development of the poor and vulnerable populations will be important to enable them to share in new employment opportunities generated by trade expansion.

To ensure that trade and environmental policies reinforce each other, at national, regional and global levels, efforts should focus on harnessing win-win opportunities for trade and the environment, for example through trade facilitation, lowering barriers to trade in environmental goods and services and linking trade expansion to transfer of scientific and technological knowledge in support of sustainable natural resource management.

In addition, developing countries could better capitalize on the contribution of their diasporas and South-South and Triangular cooperation as a source of remittances, savings, knowledge sharing, technology transfer, trade, investment and innovation.

The review of progress on the SDGs will take place on various levels. The reviews will include all of the SDGs including their means of implementation. This will help ensure that the delivery of means of implementation remains commensurate with the ambition of the new agenda.

In particular, at the global level, the HLPF will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes. It will facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. The dedicated follow-up and review for the Financing for Development outcomes as well as all the means of implementation of the SDGs, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, is integrated with the follow-up and review framework of the new Agenda. The intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the annual ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development will be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agenda in the HLPF.

Questions for discussion:

- What would be needed under the renewed Global Partnership in order to ensure the integration of all means of implementation, of all stakeholders, and their contribution across all SDGs?
- How can we best learn from the Global Partnership to implement the MDGs? Which strengths should we build on, which weaknesses should be overcome, and how to do so?
- How can we be sure that a revitalized Global Partnership is providing effective in mobilizing the resources and know-how and supporting adequately the implementation of this ambitious agenda?
- How can we ensure that public and private sources of finance, both domestic and international, reinforce and complement each other to support the SDGs and that we have coherent policies for achievement of sustainable development?