



**Discussions and outcomes  
from the Addis Conference on  
Financing for Development**

Presented at the Convergence Group on Gender  
meeting on 27th August 2015, UNFPA Offices

Presented by

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## **1.0. Background**

The International Conference on Financing for Development was first convened in Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002 as the first United Nations-sponsored summit-level meeting to address key financial and related issues pertaining to global development. It signaled a turning point in the approach to development cooperation by the international community. It was the first. It succeeded in placing financing for development firmly on the global agenda.

The Monterrey Consensus reflects a landmark global agreement between developed and developing countries, in which both recognized their responsibilities in key areas such as trade, aid, debt relief and institution building.

This was followed by the International Conference in Doha, Qatar, 29 November – 2 December 2008 that adopted the Doha Declaration that recognized that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of all those resources were central to the global partnership for sustainable development. Given the global economic situation at the time, the Doha Declaration called for a United Nations Conference at the highest level to examine the impact of the world financial and economic crisis on development.

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development will seek to (1) assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration; (2) address new and emerging issues; and (3) reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process.

## **2.0 The Third International Conference.**

### **Before**

With support from UN Women VACSI convened a national consultative meeting on Financing for Gender equality and obtained recommendations that informed the discussions in Addis. VACSI took part in the Women's Forum where presentations of the Uganda consultations were made and recommendations merged from other Women's rights organizations consultations to get the Women's proposals on FFD3. These were presented in the CSO forum and spread in all the thematic streams of the CSO forum and later surfaced in the CSO proposed outcomes for FFD3 that informed the negotiations with member states that happened during the main conference which VACSI gladly took part in and the highly energetic parallel sessions.

### **During**

The Third Financing for Development Conference that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13 to 16 July 2015. The scope of the FFD3 was set out in General Assembly resolutions [68/204](#) and [68/279](#), and focused on:

- i. assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration and identifying obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints;
- ii. **addressing new and emerging issues**, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation;
  - o the current evolving development cooperation landscape;
  - o the interrelationship of all sources of development finance;
  - o the synergies between financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development; and
  - o the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;
- iii. reinvigorating and strengthening the financing for development follow-up process.

**FfD3 resulted into the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)** adopted at the conclusion after a process of discussion debate and negotiations among various actors that include UN agencies, CSO, Business community

**In respect to financing for gender equality the AAAA out come** document left an impression that it was strong on Financing for gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s rights. Specifically in its 7 paragraphs laid out commitments to financing gender equality were reached as below summarized.

<p><b>Paragraph 1</b></p> <p><b>Strongest commitment to respecting all human rights, including the right to development. We will ensure gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment.</b> States committed to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and advance fully towards an equitable global economic system in which no country or person is left behind, enabling decent work and productive livelihoods for all</p>	<p><b>Paragraph 6</b></p> <p><b>Reaffirmed that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. We reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies.</b> Recommitted to adopting &amp; strengthening sound policies, enforceable legislation and transformative actions for promotion of gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment at all levels, to ensure women’s equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy and to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 21</b></p> <p>Evidence shows that gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital to achieve SD and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity. <b>States committed to promoting social</b></p>	<p><b>Paragraph 37</b></p> <p>We will foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while protecting labour rights, environmental and health standards in accordance with relevant international standards and agreements, (The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the labour standards of</p>

<p><b>inclusion in domestic policies; promoting &amp; enforcing non-discriminatory laws, social infrastructure and policies for sustainable development, as well as enable women’s full and equal participation in the economy, and women’s equal access to decision making processes and leadership</b></p>	<p>ILO, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and key multilateral environmental agreements, for parties to those agreements.) States will encourage impact investing, which combines a return on investment with non-financial impacts. They commit to promoting sustainable corporate practices, including integrating environmental, social and governance factors into company reporting with countries deciding on the appropriate balance of voluntary and mandatory rules. They committed to work towards harmonizing various initiatives on sustainable business and financing, identifying gaps, including in relation to gender equality, and strengthening the mechanisms and incentives for compliance</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 41</b></p> <p>We are committed to women’s and girls’ equal rights and opportunities in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation and to removing any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy. We resolve to undertake legislation and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology. Encouraged private sector to contribute to advancing gender equality through striving to ensure women’s full and productive employment &amp; decent work, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and equal opportunities, as well as protecting them against discrimination &amp; abuse in the workplace. We support the Women’s Empowerment Principles established by UN-Women and the Global Compact and encourage increased investments in female-owned companies or businesses</p>	<p><b>Paragraph 53</b></p> <p>We stress the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support towards the fulfillment of ODA commitments, including through raising public awareness, and providing data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results. We encourage partner countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets. We encourage the publication of forward-looking plans which increase clarity, predictability and transparency of future development cooperation, in accordance with national budget allocation processes. We urge countries to track and report resource allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 75</b></p> <p>Recognized role of development banks in alleviating constraints on financing development. Welcomed efforts by new development banks to develop safeguard systems in open consultation with stakeholders on the basis of established international standards, and encourage all development banks to establish or maintain social and environmental safeguards systems, including on human rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment, that are transparent, effective, efficient and time-sensitive.</p>	

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### 3.0 After- Reaction for Women's Working Group

Consequently the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) reacted to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) adopted at the conclusion of the Third Financing for Development Conference that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13 to 16 July 2015. They indicated that for feminists and women's rights organizations, the Outcome document of FFD3 failed to:-

1. Remove global obstacles to development and shifting the balance of power in the international financial architecture in order to address systemic issues and create the conditions to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, in particular women's rights.
2. Acknowledge the macro-economic dimension of the unpaid domestic and care work and the need to reduce and redistribute it among the State, private sector, communities, families, men and women.
3. It lacked an integrated, consistent and explicit human rights based approach. The references to gender equality and women also rely on previously agreed language (i.e. Rio+20, Open Working Group (OWG) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Doha), some of which consolidate regressive formulations (i.e., as found in Paragraph 6), others rely heavily on private sector contributions to achieving gender equality (such as Paragraph 41).
4. Some of the references about women's rights in the outcome document show strong tendencies towards the instrumentalization of women (i.e. Para 21) and to financing gender equality and women's empowerment as a means to achieve economic growth, to increase productivity and to improve economic performance. This reference is limiting, rather than realizing women's and girls' human rights as per the foundation of the UN
5. It seriously reduced the integrity of the Financing for Development (FfD) agenda. On several points, there has been a serious retrogression from the commitments made in Monterrey (2002) and Doha (2008). The potential of removing global obstacles to development, setting the right priorities, policies and rules for financing the SDGs/Post 2015 Development Agenda and allowing for the full implementation of other internationally agreed development agendas, including those critical for women's rights such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the Cairo Programme of Action is being severely curtailed.

The WWG on FfD flagged the following key issues and demands structural changes in the global economic governance and development architecture in order to move:

1. From ignoring systemic imbalances to creating a rights-based pro-development multilateral economic and financial architecture.

2. From making the business case on women's empowerment, to respecting, protecting and fulfilling women's human rights and establishing the structural conditions to realize these rights.
3. From creating an enabling environment to attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and talking "womenomics" towards safeguards, investment frameworks that have binding norms, including for Transnational Corporations, that are consistent with Human Rights.
4. From imbalanced global trade rules to respecting developing countries policy space for productive diversification, decent work for women, and sustainable industrial policy.
5. From taxing women in the informal economy, to progressive taxation and international tax cooperation.
6. From using Official Development Assistance (ODA) and development cooperation, to leveraging private finance and follow donor priorities, towards untied, additional and predictable ODA and development cooperation that contributes to the respect, protection and fulfilment of gender equality, human rights and sustainable development.
7. From "new social compacts", towards the implementation of comprehensive and universal social protection systems and public services.
8. From reducing the FfD agenda to the Means of Implementation of the Post 2015 Agenda, towards a robust FfD mandate and follow up mechanism that maintains the integrity of FfD commitments in order to remove global obstacles for the implementation of all internationally agreed development agendas.

As feminists and women's human rights organizations, we reaffirm the centrality of ensuring respect, protection and fulfillment of women's human rights also in the Financing for Development Agenda. The Forum for Financing for Development, more than ever, will be the space in which we continue to strive for structural commitments to change the current economic and financial rules, system and unequal power relations. We will keep on demanding the level of ambition needed to achieve this task from Member States, so that true actions to subvert structural inequalities are implemented.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015, the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) to guide global development priorities for the next fifteen years. Its strong on gender but structural obstacles remain.

### **The sweet**

A win for women's rights and feminist advocates is evident: gender equality and women's empowerment is not only recognized as "a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets"(paragraph 20), but also as a stand-alone goal with specific targets (Goal 5).

**Goal 5** speaks specifically to governments' commitments to end discrimination and gender-based violence; eliminate child marriage and female genital mutilation; ensure access to sexual and reproductive health care services and education for all; protect women and girls' reproductive rights; eliminate gender disparities in schools and ensure equal access to education; provide education that promotes gender equality and human rights; expand women's economic opportunities and recognize their rights to resources; and reduce the burdens of unpaid care work on women and girls.

All of this represents a big leap compared to the minimal commitments on gender in the predecessor Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and give powerful tools to work for implementation

### **The bitter**

While the commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment are very welcome, some frustrating debates took place in the last session that give cause for caution, for the co-optation and reduction of gender equality to its very minimal expression of equality between men and women.

**The African and Arab Groups insisted on including the empowerment of women and girls after every use of the term 'gender equality'.** This was a red line that had to be dealt with for the document to reach consensus. The (not so) hidden agenda behind this was to avoid recognizing LGBTQI rights or give way to protecting people against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In addition, it was important to push back against simplistic understandings of women's empowerment that solely focuses on women's participation in the workforce and helping women become better consumers. There can be no women's empowerment without rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights that guarantee bodily autonomy.

Similarly disappointing was the deletion of migrant status, ethnicity and age from paragraph 19 of the outcome document focusing on prohibited grounds of discrimination. Again, in the spirit of consensus, the preferred "other status" was maintained.

The Means of Implementation (MoI) section for Agenda 2030 was a big stumbling block over the two-week negotiations. The 2030 Agenda did not advance at all from the weak Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the outcome document of FfD3, adopted last month, which failed to scale up public financing to fund the SDGs, nor provide the necessary changes in global governance, macroeconomic, financial, trade, tax, debt and monetary policies in favor of people and planet.

The Addis FfD3 outcome demonstrated the determination of the US and other rich countries to shift the burden of responsibility for financing sustainable development to developing countries and the private sector.

## Comments

Elizabeth

- PS is positive onus is on the state to provide resources
- Qns  
Given this scenario  
What do you see as priorities as head for Africa and Uganda  
Aligning to this new agenda

What would u highlight as key messages when it comes to this new agenda.

What do u see as the work you have done as key milestones.

Rosalita

Donor landscape has changed heyfor gender equality would want to see what are you contributing.  
Example of SD education onus is upon us to push and ensure that our governments take full responsibility for gender equality.

What are the sustainable mechanisms?

We need to translate this and have an action plan for Uganda on SDG WOMEN ASPIRANTS AND CANDIDATES NEED TO BE GIVEN these commitments as issues to seek for. This can be used to hold them accountable.

Are there any African states that have good practices that we could learn from and see how we can domesticate the goals?

How do we engage the private sector to area most of the priority areas.

Unpack the commitments identifying roles of all actors and ensuring that we all play our parts.