**CSO Financing for Development Coordination Meeting**

**Rome, Italy**

**3-4 March 2016**

Since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in July 2015, things have been relatively quiet on the Financing for Development front. There have been some ancillary discussions taking place which relate to the AAAA outcomes, like work on TOSSD at the OECD, on PPPs at the World Bank, and debt related discussions at the IMF and UNCTAD to name a few. At the level of the UN, however momentum following Addis slowed some following the hectic summer and fall. That is, until the first follow up forum on Financing for Development takes place this year.

In preparation for the forum which has finally been confirmed and scheduled for 18-20 April, the CSOs which serve as the coordinating group for the FfD discussions met to discuss latest developments and upcoming preparations. The theme of the FfD Forum will be *Financing for sustainable development: follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.* At this stage however, beyond the general theme we can only make educated speculations about the agenda. There was immediate concern about the length of the forum only being three days, despite that members of the G77 had originally wanted a full five-day meeting. The main concern is that this will set the tone for future forums.

Discussions amongst CSOs in Rome focused on our efforts towards the forum, first and foremost looking at expectations for an outcome. The FfD Forum is in principle meant to produce a resolution each year with strengthens the commitments made in Addis and more generally on the FfD process as a whole. There is some concern this year that governments will opt to avoid a negotiated resolution given that the forum takes place so shortly after the Addis agreement was forged. The concern of this approach is that the inaugural forum will set the precedent for future forums, and by stripping it of its key means of leverage to see the FfD agenda realized would prove a setback for the agenda overall.

As for the content of the forum, a main component for the discussions will be the report [the Interagency Task Force on the follow-up to the Financing for Development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/inter-agency-task-force.html). The IATF on FfD will have had a very short turnaround time to produce the report which is supposed to as the main output of the follow up and review of the FfD process. [Guiding questions](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Guiding-questions-and-roadmap-for-2016-IATF-report.pdf) as well as a [complete outline](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/IATF-on-FfD_2016-Report_Full-Outline_22-2-16.pdf) for the report, which is slated to be presented at the forum on 18 April, are available online. Presumably, the IATF for FfD Report will also be the main input from the FfD forum to the High Level Political Forum set to take place in July 2016.

For the topics of the Forum, we can expect a heavy focus on the private sector amongst other important topics amongst CSOs like international tax cooperation, aid quality and development cooperation, systemic issues and debt. On the issue of the private sector, while the Addis agreement is not particularly strong, there are many open items and pressure points where we can leverage a trade union agenda, for example on blended finance and PPPs.

The interaction with Civil Society at the forum is still to be defined, but will at a minimum follow common practice under the FfD Agenda until now. Whether there will be space for civil society hearings which had been something of a semi regular occurrence is still an open question. Regardless, it will be important to have strong CSO representation and a trade union delegation at the meeting to signal that this agenda remains a priority and that governments must fulfil their commitments on FfD.