

To the kind attention of:

H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations
H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations
Co-Facilitators for the 2018 ECOSOC FfD Follow-up Forum Outcome Negotiations

Cc:

Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, UNDESA Financing for Development Office
Permanent Representatives and Observers to the United Nations in New York

05 April 2018

RE: Civil Society comments on Revised Zero Draft and engagement modalities in outcome negotiations

We, the Civil Society Financing for Development Groupⁱ, representing a wide range of organizations, federations and networks from diverse regions and constituencies around the world (including the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development), wish to congratulate the two Co-Facilitators for their appointment and look forward to a trustful, transparent and effective working relations in the lead up to the Forum's outcome. We also like to respectfully submit some feedbacks and suggestions on the Revised Zero Draft of the Outcome Document of the upcoming 2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD) Follow-up (attached).

We would also like to express some concern for the stated intention to conclude the outcome negotiations prior to the actual Forum as this significantly limits the opportunities of contribution of civil society and other constituencies. To counter such risk, we would like to advance the following requests in line with past and emerging practice:

- All negotiating documents to be systematically shared with civil society in accordance to the past practice of including one designated focal point of the CS FfD Group within the email distribution list;
- Civil society be allowed to be present in the room during the negotiations and generally all sessions held in the lead up to the agreement of the Outcome document and, at the discretion of the Co-Facilitators, be allowed to provide comments during the negotiations, in the moments to be considered most appropriate. However, given the vast geographical distribution across the world, this would require use available webcasting opportunities. We would therefore respectfully request that UN Web TV web-casting be enabled for as many negotiating sessions as possible; and,
- Co-facilitators to grant periodic meetings with civil society, including via remote connection to allow adequate representation in these dialogues.

We remain at your disposal for further elaboration or clarifications on these requests and look forward to constructively engaging in the negotiation process.

Sincerely yours,

Civil Society FfD Group (including the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development)

ⁱ For more information about the CSO FfD Group, see here: <https://csoforffd.wordpress.com/about/>