



Regions
Refocus
2015

Regions Refocus Language Map Financing for Development (FfD3) Zero Draft

To inform ongoing advocacy and policy processes, [Regions Refocus 2015](#) has put together a Language Map of the Zero Draft of the Third Conference on Financing for Development, released 16 March 2015.

Using our “traffic light” methodology, the language map assesses how progressive each proposal is:

- + for **progressive** proposals
- for **weak** recommendations that could be amended for greater clarity or strengthened
- ✘ for **regressive proposals** favoring corporate influence or disregarding human rights or environmental agreements

| A. Domestic Public Finance | | Para |
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| Public revenue | - Countries with government revenue below 20 per cent of GDP agree to progressively increase tax revenues, with the aim of halving the gap towards 20 per cent by 2025, and countries with government revenue above 20 per cent of GDP agree to raise tax revenues as appropriate | 19 |
| | - Broaden the tax base and continue efforts to integrate the informal sector into the formal economy as appropriate and in line with country circumstances, while ensuring progressive tax systems | 20 |
| | + Countries should promote social infrastructure and policies that enable women’s full participation in the economy and in the labour force | 22 |
| | ✘ Agree to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) | 23 |
| | + Developed countries commit to provide additional financial resources and technical assistance to support the efforts of developing countries to address illegal trade in wildlife, including timber, and support the development of sustainable, alternative livelihoods for affected communities | 24 |
| International tax cooperation | - Commit to a global campaign to substantially reduce international tax evasion through more concerted international cooperation | 25 |
| | - Agree to work together to strengthen transparency and adopt pending policy innovations, including: public country-by-country reporting by multinational enterprises; public beneficial ownership registries; and multilateral, automatic exchange of tax information, with assistance to developing countries, especially the poorest, as needed to upgrade their capacity to participate | 25 |
| | + Decide to upgrade the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to a standing intergovernmental committee, to enhance equal participation in norm setting for international tax cooperation | 28 |
| | - Urge all States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the UN Convention against Corruption and commit to making it an effective instrument to both deter corruption, prosecute corrupt officials and regain the assets they have stolen | 29 |
| IFIs | + Agree to strengthen national regulation and international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows (IFFs), tax evasion and corruption, with the aim to substantially reduce such flows over the next 15 years, and agree to work to progressively reduce opportunities for tax evasion, as well as tax avoidance | 21 |
| | - Call on competing countries to engage in voluntary discussions on tax incentives in regional and international fora, which can also stimulate cooperation to stem illicit financial flows | 25 |
| | - We commit to strengthen efforts to develop global norms on taxation, taking into account the work of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for the Group of 20 on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, and we call for more inclusive deliberations to ensure that these efforts benefit all countries, including LDCs and SIDS, as well as a more inclusive governance structure to reflect its global impact | 26 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome the Report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Africa. We urge governments to take into consideration the recommendations of the report and invite other regions to carry out similar exercises building on this initiative. 27 ➤ To help track illicit flows, we invite the United Nations, the IMF, the World Bank and other relevant stakeholders, to develop a proposal for an official definition of IFFs, and to publish official estimates of their volume and breakdown 27 |
| Integrating Sustainable Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that our national policies are in line with good governance, accountability and gender-sensitive public financial management, and promote equity 30 ➤ Support implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, with a special focus on those furthest below the poverty line, including children, persons with disabilities, youth and older persons, as provided for in the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Recommendation 202 31 ➤ Continue to invest in human capital, including in the untapped potential of women’s human capital through inclusive social policies, including on health and education, in accordance with national strategies 31 ➤ Agree to complement national efforts with international support, particularly to LDCs and other vulnerable countries, to ensure that by 2030, every woman, every child and every family has access to a minimum package of essential services 32 ➤ Work to gradually eliminate harmful subsidies, where they exist, including fossil fuel subsidies for production and consumption, minimizing possible adverse impacts in a manner that protects poor and disadvantaged communities 33 ⊗ Consider the use of natural capital accounting to make more transparent the environmental externalities of our policy decisions 34 ➤ Ensure appropriate local community participation in decisions affecting their communities, based on country circumstances 36 |

| B. Domestic and international private business and finance | | Para |
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| Social and Environmental Impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Call on private actors to invest with the long-term horizons necessary for sustainable development, and to apply their creativity and innovation toward solving sustainable development challenges 38 ➤ Acknowledge the responsibility of governments to develop regulatory systems to align business incentives with sustainable development 38 ➤ Agree to create strong regulatory frameworks on ESG practices, including mandatory integrated reporting for large companies to be adopted by 20xx 40 ➤ To better align business practices with sustainable development, we will adopt regulatory frameworks that foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while protecting labour rights and environmental and health standards in accordance with internationally agreed norms, including the labour standards of the International Labour Organization and key Multilateral Environmental Agreements 40 ➤ Adopt policies to internalize externalities, such as the “polluter pays principle,” through a combination of taxation, regulation and other measures, in line with national strategies 40 ➤ Design capital markets regulation that promotes incentives along the investment chain that are fully aligned with long-term performance and sustainability indicators 41 ➤ Commit to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance 42 ➤ Encourage the private sector to contribute to advancing gender equality through ensuring women’s full and decent employment, equal pay and equal opportunities 42 | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Commit to ensuring access to formal financial services for all, including the poor, women, rural communities, marginalized communities and persons with disabilities | 43 |
| Foreign investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lower the cost of remittances, including through ensuring competitive and transparent market conditions, exploiting new technologies and improving data collection, with a view to reducing the charge for a remittance transfer to less than 3 per cent of the amount transferred | 44 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Recognize (on the national level) the potential of new investment vehicles, including development-oriented venture capital funds, potentially with public partners, as well as innovative debt funding structures and securitization, with appropriate risk management | 46 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Work towards establishing long-term bond and insurance markets, where appropriate, while strengthening supervision, clearing and settlement in existing markets | 47 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + <p>Support LDCs through providing financial and technical support for project development and contract negotiation and to provide advisory support in investment related dispute resolution and other functions as requested by the LDCs</p> | 49 |
| Infra-structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agree to imbed resilient infrastructure and energy investment plans in our national sustainable development strategies | 50 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strengthen capacity building as part of our overall effort to increase infrastructure investment, including for investment planning, project preparation and prioritization, and contract negotiation and management | 53 |
| PPPs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Recognize that blended finance (combining concessional and non-concessional international public finance) pooled financing platforms and public-private partnerships (PPPs) have significant potential to contribute in area of infrastructure | 52 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + <p>PPPs do not replace or compromise state responsibilities, nor should they impose unsustainable debt burdens or contingent liabilities on governments</p> | 52 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agree to develop and adopt principles, guidelines and standardized documentation for the use of PPPs, to build a knowledge base and share lessons learned through regional and global fora | 53 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Welcome and call for action on the recommendations put forward under the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, with a combined potential to raise over \$100 billion in incremental annual investments by 2020, through market based initiatives, partnerships and leveraging development banks | 54 |

| C. International public finance | | Para |
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| ODA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + <p>Urge all developed countries that have not yet done so to substantially increase their ODA starting immediately with a view to implementing by 2020 their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of GNI as ODA to developing countries, with 0.15-0.20 of GNI to LDCs</p> | 56 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hold open, inclusive and transparent discussions on the modernization of the ODA definition and on the proposed indicator of “total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD)” | 58 |
| Other International Public Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Welcome the increased contributions of Southern partners to sustainable development and look forward to a further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, including through multilateral efforts in new institutions | 59 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + <p>Implement additional innovative modalities, including a widening of countries participating in a financial transaction tax, carbon taxes or market-based instruments that price carbon, taxes on fuels used in international aviation and maritime activities, or additional tobacco taxes</p> | 62 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + <p>Agree to increase capacity, in particular in developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks, as well as for recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in LDCs and SIDS</p> | 69 |
| Multilateral development banks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Encourage MDBs to further develop instruments to channel the resources of long-term investors towards sustainable development sectors, e.g. through long-term infrastructure and green bonds | 63 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Encourage efforts by the MDBs to make the safeguards process more efficient and time-sensitive, to ensure that public investment is aligned with and contribute to the realization of sustainable development goals without being unduly burdensome | 63 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Call on the IFIs to establish a process to examine the role, scale and functioning of the multilateral and regional development finance institutions to make them more responsive to the sustainable development agenda | 65 |
| Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Call for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which currently works in and beyond fragile and conflict affected states, to be strengthened and scaled up to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to the relevant and effective learning outcomes | 70 |

| D. International trade for sustainable development | | Para |
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| Trade system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system as well as meaningful trade liberalization can serve as an engine of economic growth and promote sustainable development, not least by encouraging long-term private and public investment in productive capacities | 73 |
| Multilateral trade negotiations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional integration has boosted trade growth and must be further encouraged | 75 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Commit to combat protectionism in all its forms | 76 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Seek to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural and fishery markets, including by the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Agenda | 76 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Urge WTO members to commit to accelerate the accession of all developing countries, in particular LDCs, engaged in negotiations for membership in the WTO | 76 |
| Trade policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Commit to further simplify the rules of origin related to duty free quota free access | 77 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support assist WTO members to take advantage of the flexibilities in the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) to further the public interest in sectors of vital importance for sustainable development, including public health, in particular to provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, and responses to climate change | 78 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Urge the international community to increase its support to projects that foster regional integration, and call on regional and multilateral development banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to address gaps in trade and transport related regional infrastructure | 79 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Call for an increase in Aid for Trade to developing countries, in particular to LDCs, and we welcome additional cooperation among developing countries to this end | 80 |
| Investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Carry out all negotiations of future trade and investment agreements in a transparent manner to ensure that trade and investment treaties do not constrain domestic policies to reduce inequality, protect the environment or ensure adequate tax revenues | 82 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Strengthen safeguards in investment treaties, especially by proper review of investor-state-dispute-settlement (ISDS) clauses, to ensure the right to regulate is retained in areas critical for sustainable development, including health, the environment, employment, infrastructure (including electricity and transport), public safety, macro prudential regulations and financial stability | 81 |

| E. Debt and Debt Sustainability | | Para |
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| Debt management | – Continue to support the remaining HIPC-eligible countries in completing the HIPC process, and assist other countries facing potential debt crises | 82 |
| | – Agree to work in the appropriate forums towards a global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives | 85 |
| Debt crisis resolution | + Affirm that in instances where governments face the need to restructure their repayment obligations, it is important that debt restructurings be timely, effective and fair | 86 |
| | – Require a design of international arrangements that minimizes both creditor and debtor moral hazard, and facilitates a fair and efficient restructuring, that respects the principle of shared responsibility | 87 |
| | – Note the increased issuance of sovereign bonds in domestic currency under national laws and the desirability that the relevant guiding national legislation reflect internationally agreed principles and best practice of effective, timely and fair resolution of sovereign debt crises | 89 |

| F. Systemic issues | | Para |
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| Global monetary system | – The major economy countries among us commit to continue to strengthen international coordination of macroeconomic policies for greater global financial stability and sustainable development, acknowledging that national policy decisions can have systemic and far-ranging effects well beyond national borders | 93 |
| | – Remain committed to maintaining a strong and quota-based IMF, with adequate resources to fulfill its systemic responsibilities | 94 |
| | + Agree to hasten completion of the reform agenda on financial market regulation, including reducing the systemic risks of shadow banking, including markets for derivatives and repurchase agreements, ending the risk of “too-big-to-fail” financial institutions, and addressing cross-border elements in effective resolution of troubled systemically important financial institutions | 96 |
| | – Invite increased competition in the provision of credit ratings, including by establishment of public agencies, where appropriate | 97 |
| | + Resolve to ensure that international agreements, rules and standards are consistent with each other and with progress towards the SDGs, for example, those for trade, intellectual property rights, banking and insurance regulation, balance-of-payments management and accounting standards | 98 |
| Global governance | + Encourage all international and national development finance institutions to align their business practices with sustainable development objectives, including through assessments of their impact on the enjoyment of human rights, including indigenous peoples’ rights, progress toward gender equality, and ESG targets that they have adopted | 98 |
| | + Recommit to broadening and strengthening the participation of developing and transition economy countries in international economic decision-making and norm setting | 99 |
| | – Recognizing the positive contribution that well-managed migration and mobility can play for inclusive growth and sustainable development, we will make efforts to enable the orderly, safe and regular migration and mobility of people, while protecting the rights of migrant workers in compliance with the ILO’s fundamental conventions, as well as the rights of displaced persons | 100 |
| | – Resolve to strengthen the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade, and development policy and environment institutions and platforms, and increase cooperation of the major international institutions, while respecting mandates and governance structures | 101 |
| | – Work in partnership with all stakeholders, recognizing their different responsibilities and capabilities, and we commit to monitoring and reviewing our progress in implementation in an adequate, transparent, evidence-based and participatory manner, to ensure mutual accountability | 102 |

| G. Technology, innovation and capacity building | | Para |
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| Innovation | – To encourage innovation, countries should remove barriers to entrepreneurship and increase support for research and development, and foster cooperation, including among academia, industry, government, civil society and innovation laboratories | 105 |
| | – To overcome funding gaps for early stage sustainable technologies and support adaption of clean late-stage technologies, we will consider setting up innovation funds where appropriate, on an open, competitive basis that incentivizes collaboration among private and public actors | 106 |
| | + Scale up investments in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and enhance technical and vocational education and training, ensuring equal access for women and girls and encouraging their participation | 107 |
| | – Scale up support to PPPs targeting technology development and diffusion in priority areas, including low-carbon climate resilient technologies, climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable urban development (transport, buildings, food and service provision) and vaccines and medicines | 108 |
| Technology | – Based on the recommendations from the structured dialogues on a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, we support the proposal to establish an online global platform, building on and complementing existing initiatives, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders | 112 |
| | – Work towards enhancing ICT infrastructure development and capacity building in LLDCs and SIDS | 113 |
| | – Work to assure policy environments conducive for technology development and dissemination as well as balanced intellectual property rights (IPR) regimes, including the application of TRIPS flexibilities fully consistent with sustainable development strategies | 114 |

| Data, monitoring and follow-up | | Para |
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| Data | + Seek to improve the availability of sufficiently disaggregated financing data, including gender-disaggregated data, as well as data on other means of implementation, and to strengthen the capacity of our national statistical offices and systems | 115 |
| | – Request the UN Statistical Commission to facilitate enhanced tracking of data on all cross-border financing and other economically relevant flows that brings together existing databases, and to regularly assess and report on the adequacy of international statistics related to financing for sustainable development | 118 |
| | + Further call on the United Nations and the IFIs to develop a broader metric of well-being than GDP as a sustainable development indicator, which recognizes the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of domestic output | 119 |
| Monitoring and Follow-up | + Commit to monitor progress in implementing the agreements in this Accord in a transparent manner and with full multi-stakeholder participation, and to strengthen mutual accountability for development results | 120 |
| | + A strengthened follow-up process will need to monitor and review implementation of this Accord, comprising the overall financial, trade and investment policies of the global partnership for sustainable development, and ensure coherence and synergies across policy actions | 121 |
| | + Encourage the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and other organizations, to strengthen platforms for peer review and learning on priority thematic aspects of the global partnership reflected in the present Accord | 122 |
| | – Invite countries and Regional Commissions to report regularly on their progress and to share lessons learned with the global community | 122 |
| | + Invite relevant international institutions, regional and other development banks, academia, think tanks, civil society and business to provide input to the inter-agency task force | 123 |