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**Excellencies Co-facilitators Ambassador George Wilfred  
Talbot and Ambassador Geir O. Pedersen,**

**Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary-General for Economic  
Affairs,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As already noted, 2015 is an important year. With the agreement to the post 2015 sustainable development goals in September, the climate COP meeting in Paris in December, and the Finance for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July, we have a great opportunity to set the stage for the next 15 years. It should be one for all partners-public and private, national and international-working together for sustainable development, economic growth and transformation, and ending poverty.

This opportunity is not the one to be missed.

Ethiopia is very pleased to be hosting the Finance for Development Conference

The proposals that are put forward for consideration should be looked from both short and long term benefit in accommodative manner. Let us consider our citizens and customers or clients of the future and what they

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**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Allow me to reflect the benefits and impacts of the FFD discussions and decisions from national point of view. Ethiopia has planned to achieve middle income country status by 2025. We recognise that this vision could be seriously affected by almost all of the themes and agendas under FFD

In July we want to create an Addis Ababa Accord that is actionable and transformative, that will enable us to achieve our post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and shape our actions in the years to come. We want an Accord that incorporates the challenges identified since Doha, and considers the future challenges of achieving the post 2015 goals in a context of changing climate.

We in this room are setting ourselves a significant challenge, but one we can achieve. And as we get into the detail of the "elements paper" in the coming days, I would ask that every person here contemplates back to our ultimate goal of what we are trying to achieve including ending global poverty. In 15 years' time, we should be able to point out to our citizens that we came together, and put aside our differences for the global good.

**Thank you for your attention!**