

Some reflections on the structure of the Third FFD Conference Outcome Document

CIDSE Briefing Note

January 2015

In our conversations with governments in the lead up to the Third Financing for Development (FFD) Conference, to be held in Addis Ababa, July 2015, we have received inquiries on whether the structure of the Monterrey Outcome Document should be maintained.

Our answer is a resounding yes. In short, we strongly believe a departure from the structure of the Monterrey Consensus would be advised and prone to deepen mistrust at a time when all possible efforts should be put into strengthening trust to ensure ambitious outcomes for the three important conferences that will take place in 2015.

The Outcome Document of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in 2002, addressed mobilization of domestic resources, mobilization of international private flows, international trade, external debt, official development assistance, and “systemic issues” included both issues of reform of the global financial and monetary system and global macro-governance. An extra chapter, “Staying engaged,” addressed process and institutional issues related to the follow up.

The Doha FFD Review (“Doha Declaration”) included an innovative new chapter that focused on so-called “Other new challenges and emerging issues.”

The General Assembly resolution that called the Third FFD Conference (A/RES/68/264) of 20 December 2013 stated that the conference should “assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, identify obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation, taking into account the current evolving development cooperation landscape, the interrelationship of all sources of development finance, the synergies among financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (emphasis added)

Therefore, the legal basis for calling the Addis Ababa Conference closely ties it to the review of the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration. It will be extremely difficult to be faithful to the structure embedded in that document if it is not done with all the elements of the C I

Moreover, it is worth noting that the Monterrey Consensus presented a delicate balance between views of different clusters of stakeholders about the importance of certain international and national policy issues. Thus, a decision to depart from such a structure in the upcoming review risks upsetting that balance and, depending on what chapters disappear in a new structure, may sugges

