# *Draft (as of 26 May 2020)*

# **STATEMENT**

# **on the outcome of the International Seminar on “Financing the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals: The role of Integrated National Financing Frameworks”**

1. We, the participants of the International Seminar “Financing the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals: The role of Integrated National Financing Frameworks”, gathered on the 28th of May 2020 through a videoconference, with an aim to discuss the ways to overcome the challenges, in particular of economic, social and financial nature, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, have adopted this statement.
2. Building on the outcomes of the fifth Forum of the Economic and Social Council on Financing for Development held on 23 April 2020 through a videoconference, outcomes of the First Caspian Economic Forum held in the city of Turkmenbashi on 12 August 2019, as well as of the International Conference on Partnership for Development Financing at the Heart of the Great Silk Road, held on 20-21 June 2018 in the city of Ashgabat, , we express our resolve to continue to scale up our joint efforts towards the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which builds on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. We welcome the High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond, which is convened by the United Nations Secretary-General on 28 May 2020 via videoconference, noting that the current International Seminar has paid more in-depth attention to financing for development agenda at regional level, having considered synergies between global, regional and national priorities for maintaining sustainable economic growth in the conditions of the pandemic.
4. Emphasizing that the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to cast serious implications for the stable implementation and financing of Sustainable Development Goals globally, and in particular in the countries that are part of the UN Special Programme for the economies of Central Asia (SPECA), we note the need to take urgent policy actions to address the socio-economic impact of the pandemic and to support vulnerable populations in our countries, which are particularly of risk from the negative impacts of the pandemic.
5. We recognize that vulnerable groups, including women and girls, youth, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, refugees, displaced persons, migrants, and other marginalized groups may be most affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, and we are determined to implement and scale up social protection and other support programmes for the above-mentioned groups of population in line with the principle of leaving no one behind, to maintain investments in critical social services, including health and education, which are critical for our social and economic welfare now and in the future.
6. Highlighting that the global economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed existing limitations in social-economic settings of all countries around the world, we underscore our commitment to resilient recovery continuing to pursue sustainable development policies aimed at addressing all types of inequalities, mitigation of climate change, and further promoting digital solutions and narrowing the digital divide.
7. Expressing concern about financial volatility brought forward by the COVID-19 pandemic, against the backdrop of falling commodity exports and the uncertain economic outlook, we attach critical importance to the implementation of immediate monetary and fiscal response to provide liquidity to businesses and households, to managing excess leverage, minimizing financial volatility and maintaining the stability of our trade and financial markets, and the stability of national currencies.
8. Referring to the Ashgabat initiative on reducing barriers to trade and transport using United Nations legal instruments, norms, standards and recommendations while bolstering connectivity in SPECA countries, we pay special attention to further enhancement of international connectivity through all modes of transport, which will be vital for ensuring undisrupted trade and supply chains among our countries and the rest of the world, thus facilitating quick recovery of national economies, especially of land locked countries, due to the negative influence of the pandemic. .
9. We welcome the initiative of Turkmenistan to create legal mechanisms aimed at ensuring sustainable and reliable international transport during emergency situations, and to hold an International Conference of Ministers of Transport of Landlocked Developing Countries.
10. We understand and believe that short-term actions also affect medium-term outcomes, so it is important that any crisis response takes into account longer-term impacts and be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.
11. Continuing the exchange of experiences in mitigation of immediate socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in our countries as well as on establishment of integrated national financing frameworks for financing the Sustainable Development Goals, we call on the United Nations entities and the International Financial Institutions to further expand support to SPECA countries through necessary technical assistance and concessional financing to help maintain the commitment to gradual achievement of the SDG 17 *(Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development)*.
12. Reconfirming our commitment to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda we encourage all countries to establish Integrated national financing frameworks to finance the Sustainable Development Goals, we note that consultations in the course of the international seminar have highlighted the importance of coordinated and comprehensive approaches to financing for development through policies that are conducive to attracting finances from all possible sources, including public-private partnerships, particularly in light of financing constraints brought forward by the current global economic downturn.
13. We highlight the importance of national SDG financing strategies as part of efforts on establishment of Integrated national financing frameworks, , which encapsulate the establishment of transparent, efficient and results-oriented public finance management systems, essential role of the private domestic and international finance, application of innovative financing instruments and digital finance, pooled fund options, as well as establishment of international public financial resources provided by Financial Institutions and Funds.
14. We acknowledge the important role of the private sector in financing the Sustainable Development Goals, thus reaffirm our drive for wider promotion of public-private partnership opportunities, where appropriate, and scaling up long-term private finance mechanisms to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in SPECA countries.
15. We take note of the results of consultations led by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the establishment of the Trust Fund of the UN Special Programme for the economies of Central Asia (SPECA) as a sub-regional financing instrument and express intent to consider various options for the establishment of such fund, calling on the International Financial Institutions and the private sector to engage in these next series of such consultations.
16. We agreed to continue exchanging experiences and discussions on financing for development issues and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the given format, as well as on various international platforms.
17. We thank the Government of Turkmenistan for the initiative to hold this international seminar, the results of which are called upon to serve as a good basis for holding the Global Conference on Financing for Development in the coming years.