OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)

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REFERENCE: DESA-15/01475 30 December 2015

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, in adopting the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States of the United Nations encouraged the Secretary-General to convene an inter-agency task force to report annually on progress in implementing the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to advise the intergovernmental follow-up thereto on progress, implementation gaps and recommendations for corrective action, while taking into consideration the national and regional dimensions.

The task force report's primary role will thus be to inform the deliberations of Member States at the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Its analysis and recommendations should also inform implementing agencies that are guided by the priorities set in the Addis Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, and those outside the public sector that assess progress or advocate for change, including think tanks, civil society and the private sector.

In accordance with paragraph 133 of the Addis Agenda, the task force should include the major institutional stakeholders and the United Nations system, including funds and programmes and specialized agencies whose mandates are related to the follow-up, and should build on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force.

The Secretary-General has tasked me to chair the task force. In order to ensure that the task force can report to the inaugural ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up in April 2016, I intend to convene its first meeting on Monday, 11 January 2016. To this end, I kindly request you to nominate a focal point within your organization. Please convey this information via email to Ms. Shari Spiegel at spiegel@un.org and Mr. Oliver Schwank at schwank@un.org in the Financing for Development Office by Tuesday, 5 January 2016.

I am pleased to enclose the terms of reference of the task force, as approved by the Secretary-General, and look forward to our constructive collaboration in this important exercise.

Yours sincerely,

WU Hongbo Under-Secretary-General