Overview

2015 is a landmark year that will define the global development agenda for the next 15 years. The global development community, led by the UN, is working toward consensus on implementing a post-2015 development agenda. This centers on agreement on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs will build on the experience acquired in pursuing the Millennium Development Goals, but they go further, highlighting a comprehensive vision of sustainable development that embraces economic, social and environmental dimensions. The financing resources needed to achieve the SDGs will surpass current development flows. On May 21-22, 2015 the World Bank Group will convene key influencers and decision-makers from the public and private sector in Rotterdam to discuss the significant scale-up of public and private investments needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A paradigm shift on how development will be financed is required to unlock the resources needed to achieve the SDGs. The development community needs to move the discussion from “billions” generated from public resources, including official development assistance (ODA), to “trillions” in investment of all kinds: public and private, national and global, in capital and capacity.

This first Development Finance Forum (DFF) will take place six weeks before the Third Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa. In Ethiopia, the international community will convene to agree on critical actions and incentives to catalyze the flow of international and domestic public resources, to unlock private finance, to make private-public partnerships more robust and to effectively position and scale up blended instruments for sustainable development.

Objectives

The Forum has the following key objectives:

- Identify key decisions and actions that contribute to increasing the volume and improving the leverage of public and private finance for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.
- Identify opportunities for constructive engagements and partnerships between governments, businesses, investors and the World Bank Group and other MDBs, that can lead to momentum in the implementation of the SDGs.

About this Event

The Development Finance Forum has been designed to provide an opportunity to “move the needle” on issues of common concern and to provide the basis for guidance to policy makers. The Forum will bring together high level officials from ministries of finance and foreign affairs, strategists from private sector companies and private foundations, investors, representatives from international financial institutions and development experts.

The event will take place on Thursday May 21 from 9:00am-6:00pm, with a conference dinner from 7:00-10:00pm. On Friday May 22nd, sessions will run from 9:00am through 12:30pm. A buffet lunch will be available on both days. The event will be conducted in English.

Contact the Event Secretariat

- Email: dff2015@worldbankgroup.org
- Tel: 202-473-4002, 202-458-2992
- Website: http://www.worldbank.org/dff2015
Join the Conversation
Framing the Conversation

Topic areas to be addressed during the event include:

• **Preparing for Addis Ababa and New York**

As a year of global action, 2015 presents unprecedented opportunities for the public and the private sector to invest in the attainment of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals. These opportunities are not easy to grasp amidst heightened global economic and political uncertainties. Never before have global savings and liquidity been so abundant, yet global economic growth remains remarkably flat. Never before has cooperation been so essential to deal with rising multipolarity and political instability, yet multilateralism is at risk. Given these uncertainties, how can international institutions, governments and corporations in the public and private sector come together to mobilize the massive investments needed for a global, innovation-led sustainable economy?

• **Unlocking Private Finance**

Inclusive, ‘smart’ and sustainable growth will not happen on its own. Functioning, self-sustaining private sector markets that respond to economic demands are central to the sustainability of development gains. Private investment underpins economic growth, technology transfer, job creation and productivity gains. The vast majority of funding for sustainable development will come from the private sector. The drivers of private finance are distinctly different from the motivations of public finance, with private sector entrepreneurs, businesses and investors basing their decisions primarily on risk-return considerations. Governments play a critical role in providing a conducive investment climate and creating the environment in which innovation, risk-taking and long-term investment can flourish. At the same time, businesses increasingly take into account the sustainability of their business models and demonstrate how they can deliver profit and development impact simultaneously.

• **The Power of Public Investments**

Public finance for development connects taxpayers worldwide, whether taxes are raised for official development assistance (ODA) or for domestic spending. Increases in these financing flows require the support of taxpayers. Transparent and accountable policies and efficient public expenditures at national, regional and municipal levels are the basis for such support. Civil society can play an important role in improving transparency and raising trust in public institutions. International financial institutions can help catalyze and scale-up these public investments through an effective use of their knowledge, concessional and non-concessional finance instruments.

• **Partnerships Matter: New Resources and Approaches**

Partnerships for sustainable development seek to pool resources and talent, share risks and deliver mutual benefits. When well designed, public-private partnerships and blended finance allow governments and international public financiers to leverage official funds with private capital, share risks and returns, while pursuing social, environmental and economic goals in areas of public concern. It is clear that the complexities of sustainable development require strategic alliances through partnerships. Are we using these effectively? Which are considered best practices? What works and what doesn’t? What partnerships are absolutely required to work in the post-2015 framework?

**Additional Resources**

- [Financing the Post-2015 Development Agenda WB website](#)
- [Development Committee paper](#)
A Different Way of Working

The Rotterdam event will be purpose-driven. The format will be informal but facilitated (by The Value Web, see right) and outcome-oriented, designed to help participants identify and forge a shared understanding of the most practical and promising development financing solutions that bridge the public-private nexus.

Participants will work together in interactive breakout sessions to move the conversation forward toward prioritizing a range of areas seen as holding the greatest promise for unlocking and scaling up the resources—moving from billions of dollars to trillions—needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These include financial and policy instruments that can incentivize sustainable and productive private sector engagement; actions to support governments in increasing their domestic resource mobilization.

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<td>A Different Way of Working</td>
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<td>Lunch - Forum Café</td>
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<td>Domestic Resource Mobilization</td>
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<td>Plenary - Readout</td>
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<td>Friday 5/22 Morning</td>
<td>PRIORITIZE</td>
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<td>Recap, Work to be Done, Vote with Your Feet</td>
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<td>Closing Statement</td>
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The Value Web is an international non-profit association, based in Switzerland, focused on multi-sector/multi-stakeholder collaboration in transformational projects for a more sustainable, equitable world. They design and deliver collaborative engagements to support like-minded leaders and their organizations around the world.

The Value Web’s collective experience allows its design processes to cut through the complexity found in the worlds of business, government, non-profit and civil society – and build connections at the intersections where these communities come together.
Registration

Participation in the Development Finance Forum is by invitation only. You are invited to register using the link below. You will be sent an automatic response and subsequently be contacted by the Event Secretariat.

Please note that the registration form will also prompt you for other details, notably whether you will be joining us at the conference dinner on the evening of Thursday, May 21, any dietary considerations, and whether you expect to stay at one of the preferred event hotels (described below).

During registration (Click here to register), you will be prompted for a password - “Sustainability”.

You can also access the link at http://www.worldbank.org/dff2015

About the Conference Venue

The venue for the Development Finance Forum is the World Trade Center (WTC) aka. the Positillion Convention Centre - the heart of the international business community in Rotterdam. The WTC is a vibrant place that supports a wide and growing range of international conferences and business expos.

Centrally located, minutes from the event hotels and transport hubs, the diverse facilities provided by the WTC are conducive to new ideas and productive dialogue.

Positillion Convention Centre
Beursplein 37
3011 AA Rotterdam

About Rotterdam

The largest port of the European Union is at the heart of the globalized economy. Rotterdam provides an excellent backdrop for this first World Bank Group Development Finance Forum. Sustainability, productivity and cultural enrichment go hand-in-hand in Rotterdam. It is therefore not surprising that Rotterdam made it to the top-10 in the New York Times’ list of 52 places to visit in 2014. Rotterdam is ready for a sustainable and green future.

Getting to Rotterdam

Schiphol Airport is an international gateway to Europe and is frequently recognized as one of the most friendly and efficient airports in the world. 46 km from Rotterdam, the city is connected by a direct rail link that takes around 27 minutes.

Participants arriving through Schiphol will be met by Conference Staff and guided to the correct train. Once in Rotterdam, you will be transported to your hotel.
Accommodation

The organizers have negotiated preferential rates at hotels conveniently located near the World Trade Center. A number of rooms have been blocked and you are invited to contact the hotels directly to make a reservation. Please note that you are responsible for the cost of the room and any incidental costs. The rooms are blocked until May 8th, although the nhow will accept reservations until May 20th depending on availability.

The contemporary nhow hotel is located in the sleek new “de Rotterdam” building on the banks of the Maas. Designed by Rem Koolhaas, the nhow makes the most of the stunning location, with floor-to-ceiling windows bringing Rotterdam’s cityscape into your room. Less than 20 minutes walking from the World Trade Center (buses will be provided).

Room options (rates inclusive of city tax, including breakfast, free wifi):

• Urban Room  € 150.31


or, contact Reservations at +31 10 206 7600 - reference “Development Finance Forum - World Bank Conference”.

The Mainport / Inntel hotel offers a range of room options less than a 10 minute walk from the World Trade Center, the hotel also provides access to excellent spa / health facilities. The hotel is located on the banks of the river Maas with sweeping views over the water and the skyline of Rotterdam.

Room options (rates inclusive of city tax, free wifi, including breakfast):

• Waterfront Spa  € 235.13  •  City XL  € 188.10
• Corner Harbor  € 198.55  •  Standard City  € 167.20


or, contact Reservations at +31 10 217 57 57 - reference “World Bank Forum”.

The citizenM hotel is located in central Rotterdam. All rooms are non-smoking and include XL king size beds, wall-to-wall windows, rain showers, free movies free Wi-Fi, international plug system. Modern and chic, the hotel promises “absolutely no trouser presses, bellboys, towel swans, or pillow chocolates”. Less than an 8 minute walk from the World Trade Center.

Event room options (rates inclusive of city tax, excluding breakfast, free wifi):

• Standard room  € 124.00 - € 150.00 (depending on options)

Book [online](http://www.mainporthotel.com/en/worldbank)
Event Venues

Contact us:
Event Secretariat: dff2015@worldbankgroup.org
Tel: 202-473-4002, 202-458-2992