



Chilean Presidency of the Leading group on innovative financing for development 2015 roadmap

Chile took over the rotating presidency of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing as of July 2014 and will be its spokesperson until October 2015, following the UN summit on sustainable development goals (post-2015 agenda).

The Leading group was established in 2006 under the leadership of France, Chile, Brazil and Spain. This informal forum gathers sixty-four states and twenty international organizations, NGOs, private foundations and local entities dedicated to the eradication of poverty and the preservation of global public goods. Representative of the diversity of the actors involved in the international development agenda, the Leading group seeks to embody the idea of "global partnership" mentioned for the first time in 2000 in the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 8). This partnership, composed of a wide variety of public and private actors, illustrates an inclusive vision of development beyond the traditional clivage between the North and the South and seeks to mobilize all financial flows that can respond to social, economic and environmental issues. The primary objective of the Leading group is to create a privileged forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices on various innovative solutions to achieve the development goals.

The beginning of the Chilean presidency of the Leading Group was marked by three important events. First, the Leading group organized a high-level event in the margins of the opening of the 69th UN General Assembly (UNGA) in late September 2014 in New York. Then, the Commonwealth Secretariat (member of the Leading group) submitted to France and Chile an innovative financing toolkit (Innovative finance for development, a Commonwealth Toolkit, October 2014). Finally, Chile made an intervention at the first informal session in preparation for the Addis Ababa conference in New York (10-13 November 2014) to attract the attention of the international community on the added value of innovative financing for sustainable development. While the high-level side event and the Chilean intervention helped to put innovative financing on the agenda of the preparation for the Addis Ababa Conference, the Commonwealth report paves the way for the formalization of a technical contribution of the Leading group to the UN work on financing for development.

The Leading group's mission in 2015

The year 2015 is a crucial year for development financing. At the request of the G77 countries, the international community agreed on the organization of a follow-up conference of the Monterrey (2002) and Doha (2008) conferences on financing for development. The event, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, is the opportunity to clarify the overall strategy for a shift of paradigm in development financing to respond to sustainable development and climate needs. Innovative financing have a role to play in this process.

Chile's mandate is thus in line with the preparation of the Addis Ababa conference and the summit on sustainable development objectives.

The Chilean Presidency will focus on four events during the year:

1. A technical meeting on the margins of the first official session of preparation for the Addis Ababa conference (January 28th, New York)

An informal meeting took place on January 28th at the French Mission to the United Nations in New York. It brought together the Leading group members to discuss concrete results that the group wishes to obtain at the Addis Ababa conference in terms of innovative financing.

While innovative financing is often mentioned in the international community discussions on development assistance, the lack of common understanding of the concept and the important number of existing initiatives makes difficult the realization of an engagement of development actors in the area of innovative financing. The mission of the Leading group on the way to Addis Ababa could be to highlight what innovative sources and mechanisms are most likely to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals and climate financing. It also allowed discussing the operational integration of innovative financing, and their dynamic, in the overall funding and implementation strategy of the development agenda to be adopted in Addis Ababa. This first meeting was also an opportunity to address important issues to be debated in the preparation of Addis (differentiation sources / mechanisms idea toolbox; role of the private sector, etc.) and explore concrete examples of initiatives to be promoted based on the evaluation methodology conducted by the Commonwealth namely.

2. A thematic meeting on the context of the regional seminar of ECLAC (March 11-13, 2015, Santiago, Chile)

The Chilean Presidency wishes to organize in the context of the regional seminar of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) a thematic meeting on innovative financing on March 11 in Santiago, Chile. This event would raise awareness of new Latin American partners (little represented in the Leading group) on the added value of innovative financing for sustainable development.

ECLAC, whose the Executive Director participated in the high-level side event of the Leading group in September 2014, has shown a particular interest in innovative financing and has a privileged status to facilitate the identification of existing initiatives on the continent that can be integrated in the mapping of innovative instruments for financing development.

This meeting will bring together the main countries of the region interested in innovative financing and several members of the Leading group from other regions that can share their experiences in the implementation of sources and mechanisms of innovative financing for development. Solidarity taxes, impact investments and citizen contributions are among the leading categories that can be placed on the agenda.

3. A high-level side event on the margins of the Addis Ababa conference (13-16 July 2015)

The side events organized by the Leading group on the margins of major international summits and conferences on development are intended to communicate with the international community - through the intervention of a high-level panel - on the benefits of investing in innovative sources and mechanisms of financing for sustainable development and climate. The Addis Ababa conference is a major opportunity to be seized to highlight the respective contributions of each innovative financing option in given situations.

This event intends to gather several heads of state and heads of international organizations wishing to assert their political support to innovative financing initiatives. Such high level political mobilization is essential to progress in the scaling up of innovative financing instruments that have proven their feasibility.

4. A plenary session in Santiago (October 2015)

To take stock of ongoing projects, a plenary session is held once a year in the capital of the country holding the presidency. The Chilean presidency expressed the wish to hold a plenary session in Santiago at the end of term. This could take place after the UN summit on the post-2015 agenda. The agenda will be defined depending on the chosen date and the results achieved during the Addis Ababa conference and the post-2015 summit.