

Speech by the Director-General for International Cooperation

Financing for Development Forum

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Ladies and gentlemen, first of all the Netherlands will

might lead to a twofold increase in extra revenues that one could use to invest in health and education. Yet, only less than 0.1% of all ODA is spent on taxes.

As a key initiator of the Addis Tax Initiative we are committed to doubling capacity-building efforts in developing countries. We have doubled our contribution to the IMF's African Regional Technical Assistance Centres. I would like to appeal to countries to join the Addis Tax Initiative.

The SDGs are a universal agenda, so we should also look at ourselves. Are we coherent in our behavior? The Netherlands is now renegotiating its Tax Treaties with 23 countries to include anti-abuse clauses, so that more tax will be paid in developing countries. We also stopped asking for tax exemptions in our development cooperation policies when we deliver Dutch goods and services.

I would also like to call on partner countries to make full use of the Tax Inspectors Without Borders initiative, where we have just taken up a post on the Governance Board. This initiative helps countries collect more tax revenue by providing on-the-job audit training.

Another joint initiative we are planning to launch is geared towards promoting gender-responsive planning and budgeting. This will help achieve gender equality and women's empowerment globally.

We launched the Addressing Root Causes Fund. The Fund will partner with local and international civil society organisations to enhance stability in 10 countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and South Sudan. With a budget of 125 million euros, the Fund will address the root causes of instability, conflict and irregular migration.

As a delta country that has been fighting the water throughout our entire history, we have lessons to share. We started Local Water Boards that are financed through a Local Water Bank. In this regard, we are providing financial support through a new Local Water Banks Initiative, which is helping to establish Water Financing Facilities in 10 countries, such as

Kenya and Ghana.