

2nd Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Ministerial Scene-setter: *“What are the key financing policy reforms and solutions that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development should deliver?”*

3 December 2024, 11:10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Concept Note

Background

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) from 30 June–3 July 2025 in Seville, Spain presents an important opportunity for Member States and the international community to agree on ambitious solutions to financing challenges and foster new pathways to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Conference is mandated to assess “progress made in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Agenda) and the outcomes of the previous Financing for Development Conferences, address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs, and support reform of the international financial architecture.”

The preparations for FfD4 are taking place as the SDG financing gap for developing countries is estimated to have grown as high as \$4 trillion annually. Multiple global crises, escalating debt burdens, and limited fiscal space have hindered investments in sustainable development. The international financial architecture has proven unable to mobilize the long-term financing necessary to address these challenges. As a result, financing divides between developed and developing countries have deepened and progress on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs has been insufficient, and in some cases reversed. A revitalized global financing framework is needed to address new challenges as well as gaps in implementation of the Addis Agenda and turbocharge efforts to achieve the SDGs.

In response to the call for inputs for an elements paper issued by the co-facilitators of the FfD4 outcome document, Member States, UN entities, international financial institutions, and stakeholders put forward a rich array of solutions in nearly 300 submissions. Building on these inputs, the elements paper, published on 22 November 2024, highlights concrete policies, actions and reforms for Member States to consider.

The second session of the FfD4 Preparatory Committee (2nd PrepCom) to be held on 3 – 6 December 2024 at UN headquarters in New York will provide a platform for Member States and other stakeholders to reflect on the elements paper with a view to sharing

priorities and expectations for FfD4 that will feed into the zero draft of the FfD4 Outcome Document.

Objective

The Ministerial scene-setter will serve as a cornerstone to frame the discussions and signal political commitment and ownership of the FfD4 preparatory process. The session will set the stage and provide political steering for discussions on the elements paper, which will take place over the following four days. High-level participants are invited to reflect on the policy solutions and actions put forward in the elements paper with a view towards advancing ambitious but politically feasible ideas that could be agreed at FfD4.

Format

The session will be split into 2 parts: 11:10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. These two parts will each consist of a panel of Ministers and/or Vice ministers, a moderator, and a chair. The panel interventions will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience.

Delegations wishing to intervene during the interactive segment should indicate their interest by pressing the microphone console during the session or in advance via email to the Secretariat (ffd4@un.org), with copy to the Co-chairs - Burundi (landry.sibomana@gmail.com) and Portugal (duarte.valente@mne.pt).

Time limits for statements during the interactive segment will be 5 minutes for statements on behalf of groups of countries and 3 minutes for national statements.

Guiding questions

1. How can the global financing framework be revitalized to fully implement the commitments of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda?
2. Which policies and actions proposed in the elements paper have the greatest potential to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs?
3. What politically feasible solutions should FfD4 deliver to ensure robust commitments and practical pathways for bridging the estimated \$4 trillion SDG financing gap?
4. How can the international financial architecture be transformed to mobilize long-term financing for sustainable development and address growing financing divides between developed and developing countries?