



Financing for Sustainable Development

**Financing for Development Dialogues: from Evidence to Action
2 December 2024 New York, United Nations Headquarters
Program**

Room	CR 4	CR 8	CR 9	CRA	CR E	S-1519	CR6
10:00-11:15	Introductory Session: From Evidence to Action, the Importance of Academia for the 4FfD (hybrid)	-	-	-	-	-	
11:30-12:45	The Debt and Financing Conundrum: How Can Debt Sustainability Assessment Reform Help? (hybrid)	Taxation, Institutions and Governance (hybrid)	How to Make Crisis Finance Work for Development: Crafting a Global Financial Safety Net Fit for Purpose for All (hybrid).	Outcomes of the Global Research Network (GRN) on Public Development Banks (PDBs)	Avoiding the Climate-Debt Spiral: The Role of the IMF and FfD 4.	Financing Energy Transition in Latin America: Domestic and Regional Considerations	
1:00- 2:15	Addressing the Root Causes of Dysfunctions in the International Financial Architecture (hybrid)	Innovations in Public Finance Management and Feminist Fiscal Policy to Meet the SDGs (hybrid)	Financing Resilient Prosperity in Small Island Developing States: How FfD4 Can Deliver for SIDS (Hybrid)	Towards a Coherent and Transformative Approach to Financing Sustainable Development, Climate and Nature Goals.		Roundtable on Local Currency Loans for Financing for Development (hybrid)	
2:15- 3:00	Lunch						
3:00- 4:15	Middle Income Countries and the Holistic Action Agenda for Financing for Development: Challenges and Opportunities at FFD4.	A Proposal for a Principled and Pragmatic Approach to Dealing with Market Debt of Low-Income Countries in Debt Distress. (hybrid)	Supporting Common Priorities for a Successful FfD4 (hybrid)	Public Development Banks (PDBs) role in financing the transition.	The Case for Disentangling Climate Finance from Development Finance.	Global Tax Reform to Produce Financing for Development. (hybrid)	Financing for the Future: A UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue
4:30- 5:30	International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development (Hybrid)						
5:30- 6:00	Closing Remarks						

Introductory Session: From Evidence to Action, the Importance of Academia for the 4FfD

Welcoming words

- **Navid Hanif - Assistant** Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- **H. E. Zephyrin Maniratanga**, Permanent Representative of Burundi, Co-Chair of the FfD4 Preparatory Committee

Dialogue, from evidence to action, the importance of the academia for the 4FfD

This dialogue will explore the dynamic interplay between academic research and policymaking, focusing on how evidence-based insights can effectively shape the Financing for Development (FfD) agenda. It will center on two key themes, each addressing critical aspects of the research-policy nexus.

The first theme will examine academia's influence on policy formulation and implementation, highlighting successful examples and potential pathways for researchers to impact policy decisions. The panel will analyze the mechanisms through which academic findings can be translated into actionable strategies and how these lessons can inform both the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and broader UN discussions.

The second theme will delve into substance, exploring the panelists' perspectives on what FfD4 should achieve. This discussion will focus on identifying the most impactful solutions and reforms needed to address pressing global challenges, from mobilizing resources to fostering sustainable and inclusive development.

Panel Participants

- **Kunal Sen** - Director of the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) (Moderator)
- **Marina Zucker Marques** - Senior Academic Researcher, Global Economic Governance Initiative, Boston University
- **Amir Lebdioui** - Associate Professor, Oxford University, UK

- **3rd Panelist to be confirmed**
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Public Development Banks (PDBs) Role in Financing the Transition

Description

The forthcoming Public Development Banks (PDBs) Reference Book is a collaborative initiative by the World Bank, UNDESA, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and the Finance in Common Coalition (FiCS). This essential resource provides an in-depth view of how PDBs are positioned to tackle today's most pressing financial development challenges. Synthesizing a decade of research, the Reference Book offers key insights, data, and analyses that underscore the critical role of PDBs in catalysing the green transition and advancing sustainable development goals. Through real-world case studies and actionable recommendations, it addresses the urgent imperative for PDBs to align their strategies with sustainable development. Attendees of this session will gain exclusive access to the PDBs Reference Book's insights, discovering both the opportunities and strategic pathways for PDBs in financing a transition toward a resilient, sustainable future.

Panel Participants

- **Régis Marodon, PhD** - Special Adviser on Sustainable Finance, French Development Agency
- **Pasquale di Benedetto** - Senior Financial Sector Specialist, IMF
- **Oliver Schwank** - Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office
- **Thomas Marois** - Professor of Political Economy, Department of Political Science and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Public Banking, McMaster University
- **Joshua Yindenaba Abor** - Financial Economist & Professor of Finance, University of Ghana Business School
- **Valerie Laxton** - Senior Associate specialized in Climate Ambition, Development Finance Institutions, WR
- **Ronald James** - Lead Economist at Caribbean Development Bank

- **Adama Mariko**, Secretary-General, Finance in Common (FiCS)
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A Proposal for a Principled and Pragmatic Approach to Dealing with Market Debt of Low-Income Countries in Debt Distress

Description

This panel will be a roundtable discussion among a diverse group of experts about the feasibility and desirability of a proposal for dealing with the international bonds of low-income countries in distress. The proposal is based on the assumption that the Common Framework, which is the current approach for dealing with the debts of these countries, is working sub-optimally. Thus, there is a need for a new and creative approach that meets both bondholders' interest in receiving cash for their bonds and the debtor's need to resolve its debt problems in a way that is economically, financially, environmentally, and socially sustainable.

The proposal on which this panel will focus is a two-part proposal. The first part is that the official creditors and the IMF should create and fund a strategic buyer “of last resort” who can purchase distressed (and expensive) debt at a discount from bondholders. The buyer, now the creditor of the country in distress, can restructure the debt on terms that are appropriate for the circumstances of the debtor country and are consistent with shared principles. The net result is that the bondholders receive cash for their bonds, while the debtor country benefits from substantial debt relief. In addition, the debtor and its remaining official creditors benefit from a simplified debt restructuring process.

Second, both debtors and creditors should commit to the following set of eight shared principles, based on internationally accepted norms and standards for debt restructurings: Guiding norms (credibility, responsibility, good faith, optimality, inclusiveness, effectiveness) and transparency, due diligence, optimal outcome assessment, monitoring, inter-creditor comparability, fair burden-sharing, maintaining market access

Panel Participants

- **Prof. Daniel Bradlow** - Centre for Advancement of ScholarshipAS, University of Pretoria. (Moderator)

- **Dr. Marina Zucker-Marques** - Global Development Center, Boston University
 - **Jason Braganza** - Executive Director, AFRODAD
 - **Anna Gelpern** - Georgetown University Law Center
 - **Homi Kharas** - Brookings Institution
 - **Christina Laskaridis** - Open University
 - **Matthew Martin** - Development Finance International
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Middle-Income Countries and the Holistic Action Agenda for Financing for Development: Challenges and Opportunities at FFD4

Description

This roundtable will address the key strategic challenges and opportunities that Middle-Income Countries (MICs), as an important constituent of the Global South, are facing in the context of the global holistic agenda for financing for development, including its national, international, and systemic dimensions. Our interactive discussion will emphasize the critical role that MICs play as contributors to addressing systemic dysfunctions worldwide. MICs are also pivotal in opening new pathways toward equitable and sustainable development and shared prosperity, especially in the context of the ongoing technological revolution. As MICs pursue their own development in alignment with the collective action required to confront global challenges, it is crucial to respect and enhance their regional and national policy spaces. Additionally, we must reinforce their capacities to implement international agreements with the support of international development cooperation. This should occur within an enabling international economic environment that is firmly grounded in equitable burden-sharing and more inclusive participation in international decision-making and norm-setting.

The panel will focus on the following priority action pathways: tackling systemic challenges for an improved and more inclusive global economic governance, consolidating regional and national policy spaces for mutually beneficial investments and technological transfers within long-term industrial policies, fostering the green transition while preventing trade

protectionism, mainstreaming the gender perspective in all financing for development policies, revitalizing international trade as an engine for shared development, and ensuring the global technological transformation supports shared global development.

Panel Participants

- **Prof. Eduardo Gálvez** - Fellow at the Diplomatic Academy of Chile, Lead Negotiator of the Monterrey Consensus. (Moderator)
 - **José Antonio Ocampo** - Professor, Columbia University, President of the International Commission of Experts on FFD4
 - **Dorotea López** - Director, Institute of International Studies, Universidad de Chile
 - **José Manuel Campos** - Head of Mega Trade Agreements, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
 - **Mauricio Escanero** - Former Facilitator of the Monterrey Consensus
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Addressing the Root Causes of Dysfunctions in the International Financial Architecture

Description

Drawing from their work at the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), panelists will provide brief presentations on the following topics, followed by a discussion with participants:

1. Financing global public goods and crises: how Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) can enhance support for global public goods, like combating pandemics and climate change, through mechanisms such as contingency clauses for debt service suspension during crises.
2. Innovative financial mechanisms: how financial instruments, such as guarantees and concessional loans, can support developing countries' financing needs.

3. Strengthening global-regional cooperation: ways to strengthen relations between the World Bank, regional development banks, and subregional monetary institutions to create a cohesive network in collaboration with the IMF.
4. IMF interventions in bond markets: a novel idea for stabilizing bond markets in emerging and developing countries during crises.
5. Social and fiscal policy alignment: examining fiscal policy implications on social protection and expanding fiscal space for social spending.
6. Trade and financing for development: strategies to improve capacity for trade-led transformation to move up global value chains.

Panel Participants

- **Matthias Bruckner**, Officer-in-Charge, CDP Secretariat, Development Policy Branch, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Moderator)
- **José Antonio Ocampo** - Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
- **Sakiko Fukuda-Parr** - Professor of International Affairs, The New School, USA, Chair of the CDP
- **Liliana Rojas-Suarez** - Director, Latin America Initiative, Center for Global Development (Virtual)
- **Annalisa Prizzon** - - Principal Research Fellow, ODI Global (Virtual)
- **Trudi Hartzenberg**, Executive Director of the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa, South Africa (Virtual)

Roundtable on Local Currency Loans for Financing for Development

Description

This roundtable will delve into recent research and insights on local currency loans as a key mechanism for financing sustainable development, with a focus on supporting the green transition. MDBs play an essential role in providing local

currency loans in developing countries, yet they face significant financial challenges related to currency mismatch and FX risks. These challenges raise concerns about the feasibility of mobilizing external financing needed to address the climate crisis.

Key issues include understanding FX and balance of payment risks, exploring barriers to expanding local currency loan offerings by MDBs, examining financing strategies for MDBs to provide local currency loans effectively, analyzing financial tools that provide FX hedges for green projects with local currency loans, and highlighting success stories and obstacles in local currency lending in developing economies.

This discussion aligns with the broader FfD4 agenda, focusing on the necessity of innovative financial instruments and strategies for sustainable development. The session will present valuable insights for policymakers, financial institutions, researchers and other stakeholders aiming to reduce financial risks in development projects by providing local currency loans and mitigating FX and balance of payment crisis risks.

This roundtable will contribute to the FfD4 process by leveraging the expertise of key academics and practitioners, fostering dialogue on the strategic use of local currency loans for development finance. The panel aims to inspire further research and collaboration, ultimately guiding policymakers toward more resilient financial frameworks that are less vulnerable to currency fluctuations and external shocks.

Panel Participants

- **Alfredo Schclarek Curutchet, PhD** - National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), National University of Córdoba, Argentina (Moderator)
- **Jiajun Xu, PhD** - Tenured Associate Professor, Peking University, China (Virtual)
- **Zeineb Ben Yahmed, M.Sc.** - Climate Policy Initiative, USA
- **Jan Toporowski, PhD** - SOAS University of London, UK (Virtual)
- **Massimo Cingolani, PhD** - European Investment Bank, Luxembourg (Virtual)

Taxation, Institutions and Governance

Description

Government revenues from taxation are a critical source of public finances, supporting fiscal space for economic development and public investments in the United Nations Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals. Despite large efforts to improve revenue collection in low- and middle-income countries, high-income countries still collect, on average, more than double the share of total revenues than low-income countries. This panel examines the role of institutions in explaining the design and structure of fiscal systems in LMICs and discusses key institutional challenges in closing the domestic revenue mobilization gap between higher and lower-income countries.

Key questions:

- Taxation and the social contract: How do citizens and elites respond to taxation?
- Taxation and institutions: What role do complementary institutions, such as property rights, play in tax revenue, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa?
- Taxation and long-term financing in resource-rich economies: How can institutions facilitate taxation in resource-abundant countries?

Panel Participants

- **Marta Roig** - Chief of the Emerging Trends and Issues in Development Section at the Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA, (Moderator)
- **Santiago Tobin** - Associate Professor, EAFIT, Colombia
- **Marina Nistotskoya** – Professor, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- **Kunal Sen** - Director of the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)
- **Amir Lebdioui** - Associate Professor, Oxford University, UK

The Case for Disentangling Climate Finance from Development Finance

Description

This panel will explore the case for disentangling climate finance from development finance, focusing on three levels: aggregate fund flows, the role of development finance institutions (DFIs), and individual project transactions. At the aggregate level, the panel will address calls from the Global South for climate finance to be additional to ODA-based development finance. At the institutional level, it will examine how DFIs manage the tension between climate mandates and traditional development missions. Finally, at the transaction level, it proposes a new financing mechanism to disaggregate climate and development benefits within projects.

Panel Participants

- **Wasim Tahir** - Research Fellow, Harvard University (Moderator)
- **Akash Deep** - Senior Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
- **Douglas Beal**, Partner and Head of Sustainable Investing & Social Impact at Boston Consulting Group
- **Zeineb Ben Yahmed**, Climate Policy Institute
- **Reinaldo Fioravanti , PhD**, Group Head - Principal Specialist (Infrastructure & Transportation)

Avoiding the Climate-Debt Spiral: The Role of the IMF and FfD4

Description

Public debt levels and situations of debt distress have significantly increased since the FfD 3, with the growing impacts of climate change on debt one cause of this worrying trend. Meeting climate mitigation and adaptation investment needs requires additional investments that debt-constrained countries struggle to make, while failing to make these investments increases the size of future damages that will jeopardize countries' debt sustainability. These climate risks can increase

countries' cost of borrowing, further exacerbating debt challenges. While debt relief is part of the solution, managing this potential climate-debt spiral will require broader reforms to the sovereign debt, development finance, and financial stability architecture, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s surveillance, lending, and coordination playing a central role in this global effort.

Apart from a brief mention in paragraph 102, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda did not address the intersection of climate change and debt, making it essential that FfD 4 advances solutions for this increasingly important issue. This panel will synthesize topical research from the Task Force on Climate, Development and the IMF, a consortium of experts from around the world utilizing rigorous, empirical research to advance a development-centered approach to climate change at the IMF. The research to be discussed includes an analysis of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust, the IMF's first foray into climate-related lending; a detailed assessment of the integration of climate change in the IMF's Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, which plays a key role in shaping sovereign fiscal and debt policy and outlining the scope of debt relief; a study of the potential impact of climate change on economic growth and fiscal accounts for six Central American and Caribbean countries; and a forthcoming study of debt, public spending, and climate mitigation and adaptation in Africa. The panel will outline the findings of this research and make tailored recommendations for how FfD 4 can address the intersection of climate change and debt.

Panel Participants

- **Tim Hirschel-Burns** - Policy Liaison, Boston University Global Development Policy Center, (Moderator)
- **Jwala Rambarran** - Senior Advisor, Financial Futures Center
- **Marilou Uy** - Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Boston University Global Development Policy Center
- **Daniel Titelman** - Director, Economic Development Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Supporting Common Priorities for a Successful FFD4

Description

The upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (4FfD), to be held in Spain in June-July 2025, comes in the context of a more fragmented world, characterised by increasing polarisation, diverging recovery paths and a slow progress towards achieving the SDGs. If aligning priorities around a common agenda already proved to be challenging in 2015 during the FFD3 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, it will certainly be even more challenging for the 4FfD. The ETTG will organise a closed-door roundtable discussion with participants from governments (ministries of foreign affairs and finance), regional institutions, financial institutions for development and think tanks from Europe and the Global South. The objective will be to discuss and identify which elements (and concrete solutions/proposals) of the 4FfD should be pushed forward (and those that should not), based on both their technical (how impactful they will be) and political (how much traction they benefit from) merit. In doing so, we aim to facilitate the current and future FFD4 processes by helping facilitate the negotiation process and the adoption of common positions. In doing so, our goal is to go beyond the North/South traditional confrontations within FFD, and to make bridges and synergies from experts from different regions in order to unlock the discussion. This roundtable discussion is thus aiming to make a clear link between the academic day and the formal preparatory meetings, and is geared towards influencing the positions of some of the key actors involved in the 4FfD. Having this discussion closed-door and informal will be key to have a frank and open exchange, which may not be possible under the formal 4FfD processes. This roundtable discussion will build on ETTG and ETTG individual members' past and current work, including consultations held with Global South think tanks, with European governments and with regional and multilateral actors, to identify common priorities and positions on the key elements of 4FfD. Importantly, this roundtable discussion is not just a one-off: it would also draw from ETTG members' other initiatives (such as Elcano's support to the Spanish MFA in its work towards defining the Spanish position for the Conference), as well as support future ETTG work on integrating Global South priorities in the EU common position on the 4FfD - which will ultimately contribute to what we hope will be a successful and useful 4FfD.

Panel Participants

- **Iliana Olivie** - Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid & Director, ETTG, (Moderator)
- **Karim Karaki** - Head of the Economic & Recovery Programme, ECDPM
- **Mónica Colomer** - Ambassador on Special Mission for Development Financing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain.

- **Rodolfo Reta Haddad - Expert** for macroeconomic, climate change and environmental affairs, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations (TBC)
 - **Joseph Matola - SAAIA** (virtual)
 - **Gabriela Keseberg Dávalos** - Independent Policy Advisor & Southern Voice Fellow (Virtual)
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Innovations in Public Finance Management and Feminist Fiscal Policy to Meet the SDGs

Description

Public finance plays a crucial role in promoting gender equality by helping reduce the gender poverty gap, eliminate discrimination, and channel investments in sectors that are critical for social reproduction (care) and production as countries move toward a climate resilient and equitable world. Few of the background documents for the Addis Ababa Action, addressed holistically the ways that domestic resource mobilization (considering debt and fiscal space, taxation and public expenditure together) and development cooperation for are essential for supporting SDG5, especially the care economy, in the context of the climate transition. Scholars at the Brookings Institution have been working on debt and new proposals to open fiscal space, which is important for fiscal policy to succeed. There is emerging work in public finance to develop new paradigms for how tax policies can support gender equality. In a recent policy brief, Caren Grown and Giulia Mascagni argue that existing literature has focused policy analysts on a narrow set of issues (e.g., looking for biases in different types of taxes) as opposed to tackling issues critical for domestic revenue mobilization (such as taxing the wealthy and capital income), and for tackling systemic gender inequality (such as addressing unpaid care work and the sectors that are necessary for social reproduction). They argue for a larger approach that embeds tax firmly within the policymakers' toolkit to address gender equality. The expenditure side of public finance has received a great deal of attention, both in terms of research and through gender budget initiatives in many countries, but these initiatives have rarely been linked to revenue mobilization. The gender budget community and those who work on public finance management are seeking new ways for these initiatives to gain traction and achieve real changes in country systems. In the context of FFD, there exists an opportunity to discuss how to streamline a feminist approach in fiscal policy that connects taxation with government expenditure in the context of longer-term fiscal policy planning and reform of the international financial architecture. The roundtable will involve an open and

candid discussion of the entry points (such as joining with the Bridgetown 3 initiative) and the bottlenecks that can be tackled for pushing an agenda that goes beyond lip service, but at the same time is mindful of the pragmatic difficulties that the international community and governments face.

Panel Participants

- **Caren Grown** - Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution (Moderator)
- **Homi Kharas** - Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution
- **Laura Abramovsky** - Senior Research Associate, ODI
- **Latif Dramani** - Professor of Economics, University of Thiès
- **Lekha Chakraborty** - Professor, NIPFP
- **Ozlem Onaran** - Associate Head, School of Accounting, Finance & Economics, University of Greenwich
- **Juna Miluska** - Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of New York Tirana
- **Diane Elson** - Emeritus Professor, University of Essex (Virtual)
- **Mayra Buvinic** - Senior Fellow Emeritus at the Center for Global Development and Senior Fellow at Data2X
- **Gloria Afful-Mensah** - Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana (Virtual)

Global Tax Reform to Produce Financing for Development

Description

The OECD promoted its 2021 global tax reform proposal with a brochure that featured a sun-drenched island overflowing with coconut trees, cash and gold. Although that publication falsely indicated that small island developing states should be blamed for the failure of the global tax system, that illustration hints at a different possibility. Global tax reform designed to

serve rather than demonize developing states could unlock the revenues small island developing states and others need for climate resilience, health, and education.

In the 1950s, the United Nations served as the forum for ambitious efforts to tax multinational to deliver the resources developing states needed. The rise of the OECD in the 1960s served as a rebuke to those efforts, curbing the power of poor states to tax multinationals. Despite innovations such as the controlled foreign corporation rules—essentially early versions of today’s global minimum taxes—designed to promote the taxation of multinationals by wealthy states over time multinationals exploited the OECD's rules to avoid taxation everywhere.

Recent efforts to shift the center of global tax policymaking back to the United Nations could reverse that decades-long trend. Innovations such as the digital services taxes the United States and the OECD have fought hard against highlight the relatively simple ways in which UN-led reform could generate meaningful resources for developing countries.

Panel Participants

- **Steven Dean** – Professor of Law, Boston University (Moderator)
- **Attiya Waris** - University of Nairobi and UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt (Virtual)
- **Jay Butler** - Joseph W. Dorn Research Professor of Law, University of Virginia
- **Christine Kim** – Professor, Cardozo School of Law
- **Ivan Ozai** – Professor, York University,

Financing Resilient Prosperity in Small Island Developing States: How FfD4 Can Deliver for SIDS

Description

Generating resilient prosperity in SIDS requires a strong enabling environment and significant financial support. SIDS have limited capacity to mobilise domestic resources to build resilience, a problem compounded by restricted access to affordable

finance. Resolving these momentous challenges in the context of increasing climate and other shocks is both vital and daunting for these small island nations.

This side event will assess proposals set out in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS for financing resilient prosperity over the next decade, and identify which reforms in international financial institutions are most critical for SIDS. It will include a presentation of a new study examining the costs of borrowing in SIDS, as well as a set of reflections from economists and political scientists on how the structural vulnerabilities of SIDS could be ameliorated through reforms to development and climate finance.

Panel Participants

- **Emily Wilkinson** - Director, RESI and Principal Research Fellow, ODI, (Moderator)
- **Gail Hurley** - RESI Affiliate, Development Finance Expert
- **Jose Maria Gomes Lopes** - Researcher, ISCEE, Cabo Verde
- **Alicia Nicholls** - University of the West Indies
- **Matthew Bishop** - Co-Director, RESI, Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield

Towards a Coherent and Transformative Approach to Financing Sustainable Development, Climate, and Nature Goals

Description

The financing needs of developing countries are staggering. The estimates keep piling up, with an extra USD 3.9 to 4.3 trillion per year to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including USD 1 trillion in external finance by 2030 to address climate change, and USD 700 billion per year until 2030 to preserve global biodiversity. The reality is that separate pots of money to fund these goals do not exist, and without an integrated approach to development finance that encompasses climate and nature, we risk competing for resources.

We believe the Fourth Financing for Development Conference (FfD4) is a unique opportunity to convene the expert communities associated with the different financing frameworks to conduct a ‘sense-check’ of the estimates required to meet the SDGs. Not necessarily a check on the estimates themselves – although a review of how realistic they are would be useful – but rather a review of how the different frameworks approach achieving the financing required. These frameworks include the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the UNDP Integrated National Financing Framework (INFFs), the Climate Finance Framework announced at COP28, the strategy for biodiversity finance in the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and the proposed UN Convention on Tax. There is considerable work to do to bring these communities together to identify overlaps, gaps, and inconsistencies, and to inform a more coherent, mutually reinforcing approach to development, climate, and nature finance going forward.

IISD is uniquely placed to kickstart this conversation, leveraging our diverse research across tax, debt, subsidies, and private finance, and our specific focus climate and biodiversity. We will critically evaluate the different financing frameworks to understand how the challenges and opportunities for development finance have evolved and begin to unpack the interactions and possible tensions between the policy proposals. For example, the emphasis on narrower, climate-related debt measures versus broader debt relief as a precondition for sustainable development. We will also draw on lessons learned from country-platforms, and the recently launched Joint Domestic Resource Mobilization Initiative of the World Bank and IMF, to inform FfD4’s approach to the design of future multi-stakeholder coordination spaces, with the goal of fostering greater integration between development and climate finance communities.

Panel Participants

- **Lisa Sachs** - Director, Columbia Centre for Sustainable Investment, Columbia University (Moderator)
- **Ashlee Thomas** - Senior Policy and Program Advisor, International Climate Finance, Oxfam
- **Thomas Lassourd** - Lead, Tax and Extractives, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- **Julie McCarthy** - CEO, Nature Finance
- **Daniel Bradlow** - Professor/Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria

Outcomes of the Global Research Network (GRN) on Public Development Banks (PDBs)

Description

Development Banks (PDBs) are government-backed financial institutions dedicated to funding initiatives that drive economic and social development, promote environmental sustainability, and meet public policy goals across various regions and sectors. However, the existing body of research lacks a consistent framework and thorough analysis of PDBs. In response, the Finance in Common initiative has catalysed the formation of the Global Research Network (GRN) on PDBs, encouraging researchers and think tanks worldwide to collaborate on this vital area.

Over the past three years, the GRN has brought together 50 leading researchers and think tanks to generate knowledge and insights on critical issues facing PDBs. This roundtable will contribute to the FfD4 agenda by featuring expert academics and practitioners from the GRN. Their research spans four pivotal areas, each designed to produce meaningful studies and inform robust policy recommendations:

- 1) Global Financial Architecture – Defining and strengthening the role of PDBs in the international financial system.
- 2) PDB Analytics – Developing data, typologies, and performance benchmarks for PDBs and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs).
- 3) Sustainable and Inclusive Investments – Aligning PDB objectives with climate and social goals within the 2030 Agenda.
- 4) Private Sector Mobilization – Enhancing PDB strategies to attract private finance for sustainable development.

This panel will explore each research stream's contributions to promoting responsible and impactful PDB financing for a global transition, underscoring the effectiveness of these institutions in addressing today's complex development challenges.

Panel Participants

- **Régis Marodon** - Senior Advisor on Sustainable Finance, AFD
- **Valerie Laxton** - Senior Associate, Climate Ambition, WRI

- **Sarah Bendahou** - Research Fellow in Development Finance, I4CE
 - **Megan Davies** - Researcher and Lecturer, Centre for Sustainability Transitions, Stellenbosch University
 - **Thomas Marois** - Professor of Political Economy, Department of Political Science and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Public Banking, McMaster University
 - **Joshua Yindenaba Abor** - Financial Economist & Professor of Finance, University of Ghana Business School
 - **Matthieu Boussichas** - Program Manager, FERDI
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The Debt and Financing Conundrum: How Can Debt Sustainability Assessment Reform Help?

Description

The IMF-World Bank debt sustainability analyses (DSAs) guide decisions on how much countries can borrow without risk of debt distress. For countries already in debt distress, they influence decisions on whether they need debt relief and to what extent. DSAs are central to the global financial system and the characterization of debt crises. They are the barometer that measures when countries' debt burdens are excessive. For countries undergoing debt restructurings, DSAs impact decisions on whether debt relief goes deep enough to resume growth, meet development and climate goals and avoid extension or re-emergence of debt vulnerabilities in the near term. DSAs are consequential assessments that require judgment calls, often subjective ones, and affect multiple different interests: those of creditors, sovereign borrowers and their societies. It is thus not surprising that a rich literature voicing criticisms and alternative ways to carry them out has emerged over the years. FFD4 arrives at a time of growing debt crises and with developing countries facing large financing shortfalls. In this context, the conference will have to evaluate progress on different commitments on debt sustainability starting when the Monterrey Consensus drew a link between debt sustainability reviews and then-agreed development goals – the MDGs. This event seeks to offer ideas for the FFD process by discussing debt sustainability methodologies and proposals to improve them. The discussion will introduce lessons from implementation drawn by practitioners, placing particular emphasis on feasible and readily implementable reforms. The proposals look at the suitability of the DSAs framework and practice to address current challenges. Some of the questions that practitioners will address: How does and can the rising incidence of shocks and

growing costs of global challenges feature in debt sustainability analyses? Are there feasible approaches to factor in SDG and climate-related investments without making assessments unduly burdensome and complex? What role should civil private creditors and international financial institutions, as well as parliaments and civil society in debtor institutions, as well as parliaments and civil society in debtor countries, play? How can FFD4 start a process for systematic collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders on the debt sustainability outlooks we need?

Panel Participants

- **Anna Gelpern** - Professor, Georgetown Law; Nonresident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics (Moderator)
- **Matthew Martin** - Director, Development Finance International
- **Sherillyn Raga** - Research Fellow, ODI (To be confirmed)
- **Gail Hurley** - RESI Affiliate, Development Finance Expert
- **Mahmoud Mohieldin** - United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (Virtual)

How to Make Crisis Finance Work for Development: Crafting a Global Financial Safety Net Fit for Purpose for all

Description

In recent years, Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDE) have faced successive waves of external shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, interest rate hikes in developed countries, and commodity price fluctuations. These shocks have severely limited their ability to prioritize anticyclical spending while maintaining external stability. The Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN)—comprising institutions like the IMF and regional financial mechanisms as well as central bank currency swaps—provides short-term emergency finance to help countries navigate turbulent times with a size of about \$3.5 trillion. However, the GFSN has proven inadequate in addressing current challenges, primarily for EMDE. For instance, IMF lending is often disbursed slowly and burdened with conditionalities. Other sources of liquidity, such as swap lines, are unequally

accessible and influenced by the geopolitical and geoeconomic priorities of provider countries, while regional financial arrangements are not utilized to their full potential, especially when tied to IMF programs.

This panel will first present most recent empirical findings on the key flaws within the GFSN. Second, this panel will explore policy recommendations how these deficiencies can be effectively removed in order to make the GFSN fit for purpose for all, including particularly EMDE.

In a world of recurring shocks and open economies, having a fit-for-purpose GFSN for all is fundamental for a global financial architecture that can overcome global financial divisions. The GFSN is key to supporting the long-term development strategies of EMDE and to ensuring that external disturbances do not threaten the development prospects of millions. The international community should consider evidence-based analysis and concrete policies to improve the GFSN.

Panel Participants

- **Daniel Bradlow** – SARCHI Professor of International Development Law, University of Pretoria (Moderator)
- **Jayati Ghosh** - Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst (virtual)
- **Ilene Grabel** - Distinguished University Professor & Co-director, MA program in Global Economic Affairs Josef Korbel School of Int'l Studies, University of Denver (virtual)
- **Marina Zucker Marques** - Senior Academic Researcher, Global Economic Governance Initiative, Boston University
- **Laurissa Mühlich** - Associated Researcher of the Brazil Research Centre Freie Universität Berlin and Non-Resident Fellow, Global Economic Governance Initiative Boston University

Financing Energy Transition in Latin America: Domestic and Regional Considerations

Description

While there are several organizations that offer financial resources for fighting climate change and advancing energy transition, Latin American countries have rarely resorted to multilateral financing for such purposes. This might be due to understandable

resistance to further engage external debt, but also due to lacking institutional coordination at both national and regional levels. Moreover, in the Global South, economies vulnerable to external shocks face significant financial risks in climate change investments. While fiscal adjustments and reforms aim to ensure macroeconomic stability, they often overlook social and environmental needs. Consequently, rather than mitigating risks for investors, these policies may exacerbate them, particularly in smaller economies, by inadequately addressing the social and economic factors that affect investment sustainability and hinder the energy transition process.

This panel will discuss the costs of energy transition in Latin America and assess the limitations that Latin American governments currently face regarding financing renewable energy projects that include both generation and transmission. Special focus will be placed on the possibilities of accessing financing at regional or subregional scale, taking advantage of some of the existing regional cooperation schemes in the region, such as the Andean Community, Mercosur, and the Central American Integration System. Mechanisms established under the UNFCCC framework, such as the Green Climate Fund, and their pivotal role in facilitating access to climate finance in alignment with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, will also be discussed. Finally, attention will be paid to the role of China and its institutions for development financing, considering the opportunity cost of lacking a joint strategy for approaching the possibilities China offers, and for coping with the regulatory frameworks China has established in the Road and Belt Initiative.

Panel Participants

- **Germán C. Prieto** - Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia (Moderator)
- **Pablo Hidalgo-Romero** - Doctoral Candidate in International Studies, FLACSO, Ecuador
- **Camila Abbondanzieri** - Professor, Universidad Nacional de Rosario (UNR), Argentina, and Doctoral Fellow, National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Argentina
- **Xavier Cobeña** - Researcher and Doctoral Candidate, FLACSO, Ecuador
- **Camilo Defelipe** - Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia

Financing for the Future: A UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue

Description

The “Financing for the Future” dialogue will feature an interactive exchange among high-level experts on key financing for development issues, including reforming the international financial architecture and building an inclusive and effective international tax system. The dialogue will engage members of the UN High-level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Economic and Social Affairs, many of whom are renowned experts in the field of financing for development. The HLAB will bring into the conversation some of the key findings and recommendations based on their research, as well as those that emerged during the most recent HLAB meeting in November.

Panel Participants

- **Ibrahim Elbadawi**, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum for the Arab World, Iran & Turkey
- **Diane Coyle**, Inaugural Bennett Professor of Public Policy, University of Cambridge (Virtual)
- **Marcel Fratzscher**, President of DIW Berlin (Virtual)
- **Jayati Ghosh**, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts (Virtual)
- **Mariana Mazzucato**, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value, University College London (Virtual)
- **LI Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- **Navid Hanif**, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN DESA
- **Shari Spiegel**, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO), UN DESA

International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development

Description

The Financing for Development (FfD) process has consistently aimed to bring together a diverse array of stakeholders, including UN Member States, major institutional actors such as the IMF, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Bank, and WTO, as well as civil society and the business sector. Past conferences in Monterrey, Doha, and Addis Ababa have demonstrated the value of an inspiring technical report prepared by a pluralistic group of experts. These reports have proven essential for identifying key issues, proposing innovative approaches, and suggesting actionable recommendations to guide discussions and outcomes.

In this spirit, the Spanish Government has established the International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development to prepare a comprehensive report designed to enrich the preparatory process for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (4FfD).

This session, moderated by Shari Spiegel, Head of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office, will feature José Antonio Ocampo, Chair of the Commission, alongside other distinguished members, presenting the initial ideas and conceptual framework for the report.

Panel Participants

- **Shari Spiegel** - Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN-DESA (Moderator)
- **José Antonio Ocampo** - Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
- **Jiajun Xu, PhD** - Tenured Associate Professor, Peking University, China (Virtual)
- **Stephany Griffith-Jones** - Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Chile and Professor at the University of Sussex (Virtual)
- **Jayati Ghosh** - Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Virtual)

Closing Remarks

- **Shari Spiegel** - Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN-DESA (Moderator)
- **H.E. Mrs. Alicia Guadalupe Buenrostro Massieu** - Ambassador Deputy Permanent Representative Mexico
- **H. E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa** - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Representative of Nepal