



University for Peace



EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE
RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Concept Note

Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development Third Preparatory Committee Session, February 10 – 14, 2025

Side Event

A Right to Development approach to a renewed global financing framework – “Climate & ODA”

Organizers: The Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN in New York; the UN University for Peace, and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development.

Date and time: 13 February, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm NY time (5.30 pm to 7:00 pm Geneva)

Venue: Zoom (Virtual).

Link to register: https://forms.office.com/e/anB1dXJ5Aq_

Objectives: The side event aims to discuss the FfD4 aspects of climate finance, Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the reform of the global financing framework from a right to development approach. The session shall deliberate relevant themes addressed in the FfD4 Elements Paper¹ and the Zero Draft² of the FfD4 Outcome Document to identify which right to development principles can be integrated into the future of development and climate financing agendas to make them fairer, more effective and accountable.

More specifically, the side event will:

- Underline the importance of increasing climate financing in a manner that is consistent with the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
- Exchange views on actionable strategies that promote commitments to climate finance while ensuring innovative strategies to not compromise socio-economic development financing.
- Discuss States’ duty to cooperate to ensure an enabling environment for development and the need for international cooperation practices, including ODA, to respect national development policies, eliminate existing obstacles to development, and ensure that no new obstacles are created.
- Identify entry points in the outcome document of the FfD4 to address compliance of financing mechanisms with human rights obligations, to among others, prevent any unintended negative consequences of development and/or climate finance.³

¹ https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/FfD4%20Elements%20paper_Nov%202022.pdf

² <https://financing.desa.un.org/ffd4/outcome>

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/development/emd/session10/Statement-item5-Marc-Bichler.pdf>



Moderator: Ms. Shyami Puvimanasinghe, OHCHR

- Panelists:**
- **H.E. Mr. Marc Bichler**, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations in Geneva
 - **Ms. Marjolein Schaap** Professor of International Law, University for Peace
 - **Mr. Bonny Ibahwoh**, member of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
 - **Mr. Surya Deva**, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development (vide-message)
 - **Ms. Emilia Reyes**, programme director of policies and budgets for equality and sustainable development, Equidad de Género
 - **Permanent Representative** of a relevant Member State (TBC)

Format: The panel discussion is scheduled for a duration of 90 minutes. The session will commence with a series of presentations from the panel, followed by a moderated discussion, during which participants are invited to pose questions and offer comments. The speakers will then respond. The event seeks to foster open dialogue among stakeholders, encouraging speakers and participants to share constructive and meaningful insights. The event shall be conducted in English only.

- Guiding questions:**
- How can the FfD4 benefit from using the right to development principles? Can operationalizing the right to development catalyze development and climate finance efficacy?
 - How can the right to development framework contribute to climate financing's consistency with the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities?
 - Which actionable strategies can promote commitments to climate finance while ensuring innovative strategies to not compromise socio-economic development financing.
 - In which ways could fulfilling the right to development address the challenges that countries and the international community face in maximizing ODA and its impacts? Can ODA respect national development policies, eliminate existing obstacles to development, and ensure that no new obstacles are created?
 - Now that the exceeded 1.5-degrees is hampering development, is it still reasonable to distinguish and delimit international cooperation funding from climate financing?
 - How could the FfD outcome document address the challenge of ensuring that the same funding is not simultaneously labeled as ODA, climate finance, or aid for trade with more transparency and accountability in resource allocation?
 - Has the outcome document of FfD4 addressed the need for financing mechanisms to facilitate compliance with human rights obligations and the importance to prevent unintended negative consequences of development and/or climate finance?



Background: ODA reached US\$223.7 billion in 2023, but at 0.37% of donor-country Gross National Income (GNI), it remains far below the 0.7% target. Climate finance and funding for biodiversity, including ocean preservation, are not keeping pace with growing needs. While MDBs have increased lending, financing as a share of global investment has declined due to capital constraints. Rising demands and shifts in development cooperation require a re-evaluation and reform of both global, regional and national cooperation frameworks. In this context, the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) will take place in Seville, Spain from 30 June to 3 July 2025. FfD4 will assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action agenda.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Agenda) for example, emphasizes the importance of aligning financing flows with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing the diverse needs of countries, particularly those in special situations, such as those with higher climate risk. This requires tailored climate financing methods and an increase in ODA, while ensuring fair and equal benefits for all. The Right to Development (RTD) framework provides a critical lens through which to assess and enhance international development cooperation, ensuring that development processes are participatory, inclusive, just and equitable, and respect human rights. The incorporation and implementation of the RTD principles and framework to address critical issues such as development and climate financing has become more crucial now than ever, with a view to fulfil global goals and commitments on climate and sustainable development made through universal agendas such as the Addis Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Operationalizing the RTD enables a conscious effort at “humanizing” cooperation by framing its objective, that is, development, as a right of all human beings and peoples, and by framing development cooperation as a duty of States towards realizing the right to development.⁴

Background documents:

<https://www.effectivecooperation.org/effectiveness-messages-ffd4>

https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/202411/FfD4%20Elements%20paper_Nov%202022.pdf

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/development/emd/session10/A-HRC-EMRTD-10-CRP-1.pdf>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/ongoing-studies/climate-finance-vulnerability-and-responsibility-thematic-study-expert>

<https://www.effectivecooperation.org/outcomes-publications>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/development/international-cooperation-and-solidarity>

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/development/emd/session10/A-HRC-EMRTD-10-CRP-1.pdf>