



Financing_{for} Development_{forum}

"Our joint ambition for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development"

ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development

28–29 April 2025

Monday, 28 April

10:00–10:45 Opening session: Our joint ambition for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development

Chair: H.E. Mr. Robert Rae, President of ECOSOC

Opening and welcome remarks

- *H.E. Mr. Robert Rae, President of ECOSOC*
- *H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations*
- *H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly*

Introductory remarks by the Co-chairs of the Preparatory Committee of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development

- *H.E. Mr. Zéphyrin Maniratanga Permanent Representative of Burundi*
- *H.E. Mr. Rui Vinhas Permanent Representative of Portugal*

10:45-11:55 Ministerial fireside chat 1¹: Lowering borrowing costs and advancing development-oriented debt solutions

In response to successive shocks, multilateral lenders have increased the provision of concessional resources and international financial institutions have advanced important institutional reforms. Yet, many developing countries continue to face high

¹ Fire side chats will include allotted time for interactive discussions featuring ministerial interventions from the floor of up to 5 minutes.

debt service burdens and borrowing costs, which severely constrain their fiscal space for critical investments in reducing poverty, promoting gender equality, and tackling climate change. Sovereign debt restructurings, when needed, are often slow and unpredictable.

This session will discuss the steps needed to lower borrowing costs for developing countries and bring about a development-oriented sovereign debt architecture.

Framing questions:

- How can international and national efforts strengthen efforts to support preventative debt measures, such as state contingent debt instruments, including climate resilient debt clauses?
- What mechanisms can lower borrowing costs for developing countries and enhance fiscal space for sustainable development investments?
- What steps are needed to ensure sovereign debt restructurings broadly support development priorities and are efficient, fair, predictable, coordinated, timely and orderly?

11:55-13:00 Ministerial fireside chat 2: Revitalizing development cooperation for impact and inclusion

In recent years, the international development cooperation landscape has evolved significantly, with the emergence of new actors, modalities and financing instruments, offering both new opportunities and challenges. Multilateral development banks (MDBs) have taken significant steps to expand their financial capacity and enhance their development impact. However, development cooperation has not kept pace with the growing and shifting needs of developing countries. At this pivotal moment, there is an opportunity to refocus development cooperation – enhancing its catalytic role, fostering innovative partnerships, and ensuring that development efforts are more effective, inclusive, and resilient.

This session will explore how international development cooperation can be strengthened and modernized to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and address pressing global challenges.

Framing questions:

- What steps can be taken to strengthen the effectiveness of development cooperation in all its forms, including reducing fragmentation and enhancing impact?
- What additional steps can MDBs take to further expand their financial capacity and better support development efforts?
- How can financing for global public goods be expanded while ensuring additionality and effectiveness?

15:00–16:00 Ministerial fireside chat 3: Mobilizing private investment to drive impact

Domestic and international private business and finance are major drivers of economic growth and job creation. Yet, despite increased emphasis on innovative financing instruments and the adoption of sustainable finance and business legislation, private investment has yet to reach its full promise in financing sustainable development. Unlocking greater private investment requires stronger enabling environments, targeted policy and regulatory reforms at both national and global levels, and enhanced risk-sharing instruments to incentivize investments that prioritize sustainable development impact.

This session will explore the key barriers to private investment in sustainable development and the policies, partnerships, and financial instruments needed to unlock greater capital flows.

Framing questions:

- What key policy frameworks are needed at the national and global levels to attract and scale up private investment in sustainable development?
- What steps need to be taken to make blended finance more effective in attracting private capital that maximizes sustainable development impact?
- What actions or incentives can countries take to align investment with the SDGs, accelerate sustainable development investment strategies and deploy innovative financing instruments to mobilize resources for the SDGs?

16:00–17:00 Ministerial fireside chat 4: Harnessing trade and technology for sustainable development

International trade remains an engine for development, contributing to economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction. Digital technologies are creating new trading opportunities for countries with the infrastructure and capabilities to harness them. At the same time, tariffs and trade restrictions are on the rise and multilateral negotiations are stalling. Many developing countries with limited productive capacities and trade infrastructure continue to face difficulties in integrating into value chains. To fully realize the benefits of trade and technology, coordinated national and international efforts are essential to bridge digital divides and promote financial inclusion and financial health.

This session will explore how trade and technology can be better harnessed together to drive inclusive and sustainable development amid emerging challenges and opportunities.

Framing questions:

- How can international trade policies and multilateral cooperation be reinvigorated to ensure that trade remains an engine of sustainable development?
- How can global and national efforts mitigate the risks associated with rising trade restrictions and technological fragmentation?
- What role should multilateral institutions play in ensuring that trade and technology policies work together to drive inclusive growth?

17:00–18:00 Ministerial fireside chat 5: Investing in data to accelerate development

Investment in data pays off, with an estimated average return of \$32 for every \$1 invested in strengthening data systems in developing countries. Countries have made significant strides in improving their national statistical systems and political momentum is growing for measuring and monitoring progress in sustainable development using metrics that go beyond GDP. However, investment remains insufficient, resulting in gaps in the availability and use of high quality and disaggregated data and statistics. Major gaps and a lack of progress are notable in key priority areas such as gender, climate change and governance.

This session will explore what is needed to enhance disaggregated data, accessibility and innovative data sources to inform evidence-based decision making for sustainable development.

Framing questions:

- What approaches can accelerate progress in priority areas where sustainable development data gaps remain significant, such as gender, climate change, and governance?
- What are the most effective strategies for integrating non-traditional data sources, citizen-generated data and remote sensing, into national statistical systems?
- What governance frameworks are needed to ensure data quality, transparency, and ethical use?

Tuesday, 29 April

10:00-10:30 Dialogue with Senior Representatives of the WBG and IMF

10:30–12:45 Special High-level Meeting with Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD

12:45–13:00 Closing of the Forum