Roundtable on financing for development: Preparing for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development

11 December 2024, 13:15-14:30
Room XXVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Background

In line with the UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/78/231), "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development", the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) will take place in Sevilla, Spain from 30 June to 3 July 2025. The Conference will assess the progress made in the implementation of the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2008 Doha Declaration and the 2002 Monterrey Consensus. In preparation of the FfD4, the co-facilitators released an Elements Paper on 22 November 2024.

Amidst 84 percent off-track SDG targets, the ballooning debt burden of developing countries and multiple crises of conflicts, climate change and cost of living, the Conference provides a timely opportunity for the world community to identify concrete pathways to overcome obstacles encountered in mobilising financial resources necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Paris Pact for People and the Planet (4P) forged at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in June 2023 established four main principles for an international financing system to support the most vulnerable countries in addressing crises and climate transition challenges. In the recently adopted Pact for the Future, States agreed to take bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, place the eradication of poverty at the centre of efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and close the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap in developing countries.

Against this background, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development and the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights are co-organising a roundtable with representatives of States, relevant UN agencies, UN Special Procedures and civil society organisations to brainstorm about key principles and considerations that should inform the FfD4. The Roundtable is co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of France.

Discussion questions

The Roundtable will focus on questions such as the following:

- How to ensure that the process leading to the 4FfD conference is inclusive and participatory and that positions of LDCs and SIDS as well as civil society actors and the social and solidarity economy are reflected in the outcome document?
- Which priorities could the SR on the right to development and the SR on extreme poverty and human rights put forward, either to strengthen existing sources of financing for development (e.g., raising tax-to-GDP ratios, South-South and triangular development cooperation) or to advance new potential financing tools (e.g., taxing the super-rich or debt swaps for social protection and climate action)?
- What are the main obstacles and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda? What are the most urgent actions that could be taken to overcome these constraints?
- How to ensure the resource mobilisation for development does not exacerbate the existing debt burden of developing countries?
- What are the most urgent steps that need to be taken for a meaningful reform of the international financial architecture?

Structure of the Roundtable

Considering the "brainstorming" nature of the Roundtable, there will be no panel presentations. After brief opening remarks by the discussion facilitators, interventions from participants will be invited. To ensure wider engagement, each intervention will be no longer than 3 minutes.

Discussion facilitators

Mr Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
Mr Surya Deva, Special Rapporteur on the right to development

Contacts

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