

#### ... to facilitate an SDG investment push

In 2024–25, UN DESA supported Member States and other stakeholders to overcome SDG financing challenges. In a challenging global context, the Department's role was instrumental in catalysing efforts to reshape the SDG financing landscape by driving inclusive negotiations, mobilizing diverse actors, and laying the groundwork for transformative reforms. This culminated in the landmark Sevilla Commitment at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4).

#### **UN DESA...**

Coordinated a dynamic and participatory preparatory process for FFD4, engaging thousands of stakeholders in the preparatory committee, 2025 FFD Forum, and dedicated tracks for academia, and civil society, alongside hundreds of side events.

- Supported Member State negotiations for the FFD4 outcome document, shepherding a broad-based, inclusive process that resulted in an ambitious outcome document.
- Facilitated the contributions of knowledge and evidence from the international system through a series of policy briefs by members of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development.
- Strengthened private sector engagement with FFD4 by establishing a Business Steering Committee, which led the organization of the International Business Forum.
- Enabled historic progress on inclusive global tax governance by supporting the adoption of the Terms of Reference for a UN Framework Convention on International Tax

- Cooperation and establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.
- Supported the milestone 30th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, marking two decades of shaping global tax norms and policies.
- Supported the biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum, addressing reforms in international development cooperation to confront climate emergencies, debt burdens, and shrinking ODA.
- Strengthened SIDS' resource mobilization capacity through its FINS initiative, enabling access to climate finance and other funding aligned with national priorities and the SDGs.

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## **ENSURING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING**

With five years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDG financing gap has surged to over \$4 trillion per year. This gap has widened even further due to declining aid, rising trade barriers, and a deteriorating economic outlook. In this challenging environment, UN DESA has played a central role in preparing the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), a milestone moment in global efforts to reshape the financing landscape for sustainable development.



UN DESA led the coordination of the UN system support to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), held from 30 June to 3 July in Sevilla, Spain, which culminated in the adoption by consensus of the historic Sevilla Commitment (*Compromiso de Sevilla*). This was a once-in-a-decade opportunity to fulfil the promise of the SDGs and chart a path to a fairer future—reaffirming the vital role of global cooperation. The Conference hosted more than 15,000 participants, including nearly 50 Heads of State and Government and over 200 ministers. The ambitious outcome document outlines concrete steps to scale up sustainable development investment, address the growing debt crisis, and amplify the voice of developing countries in shaping global financial governance.

In a strong display of unity and resolve, coalitions of Member States, international institutions, and

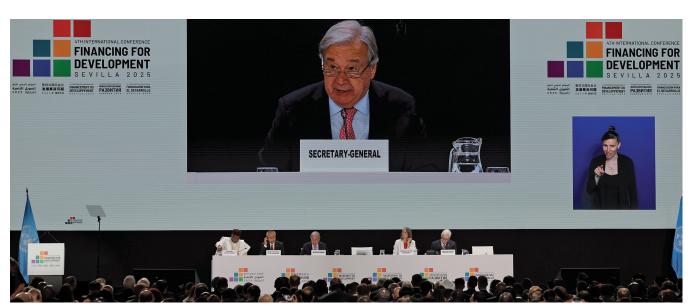
stakeholders launched 130 high-impact initiatives through the Sevilla Platform for Action to drive implementation of the Sevilla Commitment. These initiatives will help turn commitments into reality by mobilizing public and private finance, strengthening tax systems, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization. FFD4

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The Fourth International
Conference on Financing for
Development opens the door for
world leaders to adopt ambitious
reforms to deliver affordable
long-term financing at scale—and
deliver the SDG Stimulus.

**António Guterres** UN Secretary-General

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UN Secretary-General António Guterres (third from left at podium and on screen) addresses the plenary meeting of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4). | UN PHOTO/MARISCAL



Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua (centre right), Mr. Rémy Rioux, CEO of the French Development Agency and Chairman of Finance in Common (centre left), Mr. Serge Ekué, President, Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement and Chair of the IDFC (left) and Ms. Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value, University College London (right) gather at the FFD4 special event "Mobilizing development banks to uplift SDG financing" | UN DESA

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UN Secretary-General António Guterres speaks at the opening of the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum Follow-up, April 2025 | UN DESA

was further energized by diverse voices and inclusive participation. The Civil Society Forum, Feminist Forum, Youth Forum, International Business Forum and SDG Investment Fair took place in parallel to the Conference, reflecting a whole-of-society approach to financing sustainable development. Over 470 side events and special events enriched the programme—generating momentum, forging partnerships, and inspiring new solutions.

UN DESA played a pivotal role in shaping the Sevilla Commitment and securing a broad consensus around an ambitious global financing framework. As the Secretariat of FFD4, the Department supported Member States' negotiations in the lead-up to the Conference through its support to the Preparatory Committee sessions, which were attended by thousands of stakeholders, including ministers and senior government officials from capitals and representatives of international organizations. This inclusive and participatory approach

helped shape a forward-looking outcome document that reflects shared priorities, actionable commitments, and a renewed global pledge to drive global momentum for financing sustainable development.

### Reinforcing global dialogue to advance financing solutions

UN DESA supported the milestone 10th edition of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up in April 2025, reaffirming the Forum's critical role to advance SDG financing solutions. The 2025 Forum brought together around 30 Ministers from developing and developed countries, along with senior officials and representatives from capitals and international organizations to explore concrete and practical solutions to pressing challenges, including lowering debt costs, strengthening development cooperation, enhancing trade and technology access, mobilizing



Panelists at the FFD4 International Business Forum | UN PHOTO/MANUEL ELÍAS

private investment, and improving data for informed policymaking. A special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO, and UNCTAD featured a dynamic exchange between ambassadors and the Executive Directors of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, with a shared focus on shaping and advancing the FFD4 outcomes.

## Unlocking private finance and investment for sustainable development

UN DESA promoted private sector engagement at FFD4 to explore concrete actions that can enhance private capital mobilization and align the investment ecosystem with sustainable development, through the International Business Forum. Held in parallel with the Conference,

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If we want to close
the development financing gap,
we need practical solutions
that work on the ground.
The Business Sector Communiqué
lays out concrete steps
the private sector can
take—now—to unlock investment
where it's needed most.

#### **Shinta Kamdani**

CEO of Sintesa Group, Co-Chair of the Business Steering Committee and Co-Chair of the GISD Alliance.

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the Forum gathered Heads of State and Government, ministers, leaders of multilateral development banks and standard-setting bodies, alongside top private sector leaders. Developing countries also utilized the platform provided by the SDG Investment Fair to pitch investment opportunities and projects worth over \$5 billion to investors and development finance actors.

UN DESA also established the FFD4 Business Steering Committee and coordinated its work, bringing together leaders across the private sector. The Committee launched the Business Sector Communiqué at the International Business Forum, laying out priority areas to mobilize additional private investment for sustainable development. Co-chaired by the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance and the International Chamber of Commerce, the Committee brought together all major relevant business organizations, as well as UN system-related initiatives for the first time. During the FFD4 preparatory process, the Business Steering Committee shared recommendations for scaling private investment for sustainable development, many of which were incorporated into the Sevilla Commitment.



## Bridging research and policy to unlock innovative financing solutions

UN DESA ensured unprecedented international organization and academic engagement in the financing for development process. Our efforts included setting up a dedicated Academic Track, creating a powerful bridge between evidence and policy. The centrepiece of this effort was the "Financing for Development Dialogues: From Evidence to Action," held alongside the second session of the FFD4 preparatory committee in December 2024. Modelled on academic conferences but designed to foster direct engagement between scholars and policymakers, the event featured 19 expert-led panels. More than 400 registered participants generated fresh insights and practical recommendations on key issues, including debt sustainability, international tax cooperation, climate finance, and gender-responsive fiscal policy. Special efforts were made to ensure the participation of scholars from the Global South, enriching the discussions with diverse perspectives and highlighting region-specific challenges. In addition, through



UN Tax Committee at its 30th Session, March 2025, New York | UN DESA/PEDRAG VASIĆ

the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, UN DESA facilitated the presentations of data and analysis from the international system through an extensive series of policy briefs prepared for Member State delegates negotiating the FFD4 outcome.

## Advancing a holistic shift toward inclusive global tax cooperation

UN DESA supported Member States in achieving a breakthrough in international tax cooperation and advancing toward a more inclusive and equitable global tax system. In December 2024, the General Assembly adopted the Terms of Reference for a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to draft the Convention and two early protocols. The Convention aims to strengthen international tax cooperation by addressing issues such as tax avoidance, evasion, illicit financial flows, and the need for greater transparency and fairness in global tax governance. At a time when closing the financing gap and addressing systemic challenges is more urgent than ever, the Department's expert analysis, policy guidance, and coordination in this area underscores its critical role in strengthening international cooperation and shaping a fairer global tax architecture.

### Celebrating two decades of shaping fair and inclusive international tax norms

The 30th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters marked its 20th anniversary in shaping fair, effective, and inclusive international tax rules, especially for developing countries. Supported by UN DESA, the Committee has delivered practical guidance and policy tools that help countries strengthen their tax systems and mobilize resources to achieve the SDGs. Over the past two decades, the Committee has evolved to address emerging issues, including transfer pricing, environmental taxation, wealth and indirect taxes. Its most recent membership (2021–2025) advanced an ambitious agenda,

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The two Sessions [29th and 30th] are a testament to the collegiality, results focus, practical approaches, and developing country awareness which this Committee always seeks, to fulfil the mandate given to us by ECOSOC. The UN capacity development work on tax has relied heavily on Committee guidance products and the lessons from that work have also fed back to improve our guidance. ... | am extremely proud of the tremendous work that the Committee has achieved, and | especially want to thank the UN DESA secretariat support without which this work would have been very, very difficult.

Excerpts from Statement by Co-Chair of the Committee, Liselott Kana, on behalf of the Co-Chairs ECOSOC Management Segment meeting, 10 June 2025.

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including an innovative proposal to allow taxation of cross-border digital business activities.

Thanks to financial support from partners such as Norway, Denmark, Sweden, the European Union, and India, UN DESA has expanded its work in support of the Committee, its multi-stakeholder subcommittees, related capacity building activities, as well as fostered the participation of developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS in international tax fora. The Department's tax experts help translate the Committee's guidance into real-world impact, connecting global policy with country-level implementation and ensuring that the needs of developing countries shape the agenda. A

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At the opening of the Development Cooperation Forum, UN Under-Secretary-General Cristina Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa to the Secretary-General, called for bold action, stressing that "the time for incremental fixes is over" and "urging a reimagining of global governance centred on people, not profits." | UN DESA

new membership for 2025–2029 was appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2025, setting the stage for the Committee's continued leadership in building a more equitable global tax system.

## Transforming international development cooperation through action and impact

UN DESA organized the biennial high-level ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) in March 2025, which brought together representatives from governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to chart a new course for international development cooperation in the face of converging global crises. In the lead-up to FFD4, the DCF delivered concrete, action-oriented recommendations to improve the quality and impact of all forms of development cooperation—traditional and South-South, bilateral and multilateral, financial and non-financial—focusing on transformation and long-term resilience. UN

DESA also launched the 2025 DCF Survey Study during FFD4, achieving the highest response rate since inception with inputs from 75 countries, and providing deep

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International cooperation
must rise to meet the moment.
The Development Cooperation
Forum is a vital space for
ensuring that global
commitments translate
into real impact for
developing countries.

Iraq on behalf of G77 and China

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High-level representatives from the Government of the Dominican Republic and UN DESA convene during a Financing for Small Island Developing States (FINS) workshop. | UN DESA.

insights on realigning international development cooperation with developing countries' needs and priorities.



UN DESA, with support from Italy and Denmark, is helping small island developing States (SIDS) unlock more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable financing pathways through the innovative Financing for SIDS (FINS)

initiative. As a key channel to deliver tailored assistance, FINS builds on the integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) to provide hands-on, country-specific support. It integrates financing advisors into national planning teams, working directly with governments to design and implement financing strategies aligned with national development plans and the SDGs. FINS has been actively supporting the Dominican Republic, Seychelles, Fiji, and Vanuatu, contributing to a wide range of efforts, from SDG budget tagging and financing strategy development to post-disaster recovery planning and capacity-building.

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