



Concept Note

Breakfast briefing and Interactive Discussion on the Road to the 2020 ECOSOC Forum on FfD Follow-Up

Organizer: NGO Committee on Financing for Development, a substantive committee of CoNGO

Location: 10th Floor Church Center, 777 UN Plaza

Date: November 19, 2019, Tuesday

Time: 8:30 am - 10 am

Background:

The title of the UN press release following the General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development on September 26, 2019 was “Declining levels of official development assistance (ODA) and rising levels of debt are impeding the world’s ability to pay for the Sustainable Development Goals and address the negative impacts of climate change, particularly in Africa and among small island developing States.” It speaks of the urgency for re-focused, targeted and strengthened efforts to meet the SDGs.

“SDG Costing & Financing for Low-Income Developing Countries”, a recent paper from the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, warned that SDG success will be undermined not only by inadequate international SDG financing, but also by insufficient progress in domestic resource mobilization, levels of corruption that are not lowered, and unbalanced macroeconomic policy that impedes rapid economic growth in low-income developing countries.

Many of the members of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development and of the larger NGO Community directly provide services, especially to people living in poverty in poorly integrated and often isolated communities. People living in poverty need providers to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and the financial resources go where they are most needed to make the impact necessary to achieve the SDGs. They need recognition of their rights as individuals including the right to development and the freedom to exercise those rights. Our members thus call for Universal social protection, including floors and for access to financial instruments that can help people living in poverty especially women generate income.

We are also deeply concerned about the climate emergency, which demands stepping up action and prioritizing climate finance. Pledges to the annual \$100 billion Green Climate Fund have not been delivered fully. The imbalance in allocating resources toward mitigation over adaptation must be corrected to reflect alignment to the Paris Agreement. Nature based solutions such as forest conservation and reforestation are the most effective ecological/planet and people friendly

approach to absorb and store greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while enhancing global biodiversity, stabilizing climate, water and land, providing regenerative/sustainable livelihoods to millions of vulnerable populations, especially rural and indigenous peoples.

The recently released IMF strategy on engaging in social spending, as well as the policy asks in the draft resolution on Illicit Financial Flows put forward by Group of 77 (G77) and China under the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) (A/C.2/74/L.24) are steps in the right direction to address rising inequalities and to strengthen domestic resource mobilization.

The following questions might guide the interactive discussion:

1. How will the rising debt and rising inequality coupled with the need to support vulnerable groups inform the discussions at the upcoming Financing for Development Forum?
2. Where and how can civil society be more effective partners of governments and international development organizations, especially at the grassroots level, to help meet the agenda?
3. The private sector is a crucial partner to achieve the SDGs, but is not automatically pointed in that direction. What greater accountability and safeguarding mechanisms might channel for-profit investments to those areas that do not promise attractive private returns such as Water Sanitation and Hygiene sector, Peace and Justice and rising homelessness across the globe, especially among the youth? Or are these areas best left to the public sector?
4. Governments continue to subsidize fossil fuels, instead of sufficiently encouraging renewable and nature based solutions. How can civil society and Member States move together to stop fossil fuel subsidies, but also protect the most vulnerable from the necessarily higher cost of fuel?
5. Gaps in global data coverage and lack of disaggregated data, especially gender disaggregated data, make it difficult to show that investments meet targets. How can civil society organizations that work on the ground effectively contribute to the data needs based on their operations?
6. The IATF report will devote its thematic chapter to technological developments. How can the people living in extreme poverty in rural villages have access to these innovations? Will they help us achieve universal financial inclusion?

Program

8:15 am- 8:30 am	Breakfast and arrival of participants
8:30 am	Welcome- Ms. Anita Thomas, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development
8:35 am	Briefing on the overall substantive issues, Financing for Sustainable Development Report and expectation from the 2020 ECOSOC Forum Financing for Development Follow-up Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office
8:45 am	Question and answer session
9:00 am	Updates on contributions to the Inter Agency Taskforce Report on Financing for Development and areas for strengthened advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Chantal Line Carpenter, Chief, New York Office of the Secretary-General, UNCTAD • Ms. Amber Barth, Senior Program Officer, ILO
9:15am	Comments: Member States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Perks M. Ligoya Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the UN • H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN • H.E. Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the UN • H.E. Ambassador Carlos Amorín Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN
9:30 am	Interactive discussion
9:55 am	Wrap-up and closing

Updated: 11-18-19