



Financing the SDGs Dialogue 2026: Advancing Country-Led Approaches to Financing Sustainable Development

Advancing Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives at country level

Building Integrated Public Finance Systems at Country Level

Date and time	Day 2 Wednesday 28 Oct, 11:00–12:10 CET
Location	Las Palmas I, Level 2, Meliá Avenida América, Madrid, Spain
Organisers	IBP, UNDP

Background

Financing the SDGs Dialogue 2026: Advancing Country-Led Approaches to Financing Sustainable Development will take place 27-29 October 2026 in Madrid, Spain, hosted by the UNDP together with the Government of Spain.

Since the adoption of the Sevilla Commitment and launch of the Sevilla Platform for Action, global and concerted efforts have been advancing to help countries develop and deliver solutions. At the same time, countries have expressed a clear demand for a structured, technical space where practitioners leading financing reforms can exchange experiences, solve problems together, and connect their work with relevant global SPA initiatives and other supporting partnerships. Thus, the Dialogue will also bring together SPA initiatives working on relevant aspects of the Sevilla Commitment, enabling them to explore complementarities, strengthen collaboration, and enhance their collective impact in response to country needs and priorities.

The target participants include national decision-makers—Ministries of Finance, Planning, Environment, Economy, as well as Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Development, and local governments—alongside public development banks, private sector and financial institutions, and IFIs, financial institutions and investors, FfD4-related platforms, UN entities, academia, development partners and civil society.

Session Overview

Domestic public finance is the most sustainable and flexible source of financing for development. However, despite important advances in public finance reforms, overall progress has not advanced at the speed and scale necessary. Countries are facing a convergence of public finance challenges, including stagnation in domestic revenue mobilization (DRM), spending that is inefficient and not sufficiently aligned to development goals, and unsustainable levels of debt.

Further, public finance is constrained not only by limited fiscal space, but by fragmented and inconsistent fiscal decision-making. This fiscal policy incoherence carries a measurable cost. When revenue, expenditure, and debt decisions work at cross purposes, public resources are diverted away from stated development priorities. Preliminary findings from UNDP's fiscal policy coherence (FPC) approach suggest fiscal incoherence can cost a country more than 5 percent of GDP in resources lost or misallocated.

This context demands a strengthened approach to public finance – one that incorporates development outcomes into integrated fiscal operations across revenue, expenditure, and debt. A coherent fiscal policy approach makes trade-offs explicit, reduces policy fragmentation, and ensures that fiscal decisions taken across institutions and over time pull in the same direction toward development outcomes. Countries and their development partners are responding.

Countries, including Bhutan, Ecuador, Kenya, Liberia, and Zimbabwe, are moving beyond fragmented reforms and adopting integrated fiscal policies that connect revenue, expenditure and debt decisions towards national priorities and development outcomes, such as climate, equity, health, gender, governance, and resilience.

At the same time, partners have made strides in adapting how they are providing support to national and local governments to strengthen public finance systems. This includes the IMF's Global Public Finance Partnership, the World Bank's Reimagining Public Finance initiative, UNDP's FPC approach, the Platform for Collaboration on Tax and the joint OECD/UNDP Tax Inspectors Without Borders initiative. The Public Finance for SDGs Collaborative aims to build on these existing efforts to strengthen outcome-focused public finance reforms and strengthen the impact of these initiatives at country level.

In this context, this session examines what integrated public finance systems look like in the countries building them, what the shift has delivered, and what has to change in how partners engage for these arrangements to hold.

Positioning within the Dialogue

Thematic area / sector	Public finance, fiscal policy coherence
Related SPA initiative(s)	Public Finance for SDGs Collaborative
Key Messages (internal)	• Fragmentation has a price, and coherence pays it back. When revenue, expenditure and debt decisions work at cross purposes, resources are diverted from stated priorities. Preliminary findings from UNDP's fiscal policy coherence (FPC) approach suggest fiscal incoherence can cost a country more than 5 percent of GDP in resources lost or misallocated. • A coherent fiscal policy approach makes trade-offs explicit, reduces policy fragmentation, and ensures that fiscal decisions taken across institutions and over time pull in the same direction toward development outcomes. Countries, including Bhutan, Ecuador, Kenya, Liberia and Zimbabwe and their development partners are adopting this approach, integrating fiscal policies that connect revenue, expenditure and debt decisions towards

national priorities and development outcomes, such as climate, equity, health, gender, governance, and resilience.

- Partner support has to reinforce a government-led fiscal architecture, not add to the fragmentation. Diagnostics, technical assistance and financing should strengthen one national system rather than run alongside it, which is what the Public Finance for SDGs Collaborative exists to take forward.
- Coherent public finance is also the basis of investor confidence. Predictable revenue, spending and debt decisions lower the risk that lenders and investors attach to a country, helping mobilize private capital behind national priorities.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this session include:

- Make the case for coherence tangible. Draw on country experience and on diagnostic evidence, including cost of fiscal incoherence estimates, to establish what fragmentation costs and what integration returns.
- Establish what integration means in institutional terms. Move beyond the principle of coherence to the arrangements that produce it, examining how countries are connecting revenue, expenditure, and debt decisions in practice, at what point in the fiscal cycle, and with what authority to resolve competing positions across ministries.
- Determine what has to change in how partners support integrated systems. Identify how diagnostics, technical assistance and financing can reinforce a government-led fiscal architecture rather than fragment it further, building on the shift already underway across institutions and taking next steps forward through the Public Finance for SDGs Collaborative.

Guiding Questions

- Please see detailed questions in the agenda section.

Proposed Agenda

Total duration: 70 minutes

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
5 mins 11:00- 11:05	Welcome and framing: fiscal policy coherence – from fragmented reforms to integrated public finance systems, and donor support as one coherent offer.	Moderator: Mr. Peter Henriksen Ringstad , Senior Advisor, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
40 mins	Round 1 – Targeted questions	Panelists (5 minutes per panelist):

11:05-11:45	- To Liberia: Liberia is working on its Integrated National Financing Framework, with fiscal policy coherence being used as a tool to ensure that revenue, expenditure and debt decisions reinforce each other rather than being taken in silos. As the Ministry prepares the 2027 budget, where do you see the biggest gains from a coherence approach in delivering the ambitions of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development? - To Turkmenistan: Turkmenistan is now beginning its fiscal policy coherence work, with education and gender equality at the centre of its human capital agenda. How do you see this approach helping budget and tax decisions deliver on those priorities. , and what would be most useful from partners at this early stage? - To Thailand: Dr. Sutthi, you have been instrumental in leading the work bringing a climate lens into public budget audit. From that experience and from your perspective as Chair of INTOSAI WGEA what has that actually revealed? Has it changed what auditors examine, at what point in the budget cycle, or does it change what finance ministries then do? - To Kenya: Kenya has already built strong fiscal evidence, such as its climate plan costing and its Tax Expenditure Report. From an independent think tank's perspective, how can civil society help make sure this evidence shapes budget decisions? - To IBP: Coherence is easy to claim and hard to verify. From the perspective of budget transparency, what information should governments publish so that others can see whether revenue, spending and debt decisions are pulling in the same direction? - To ICTD: Your research looks at tax from the taxpayer's side – what people actually pay, to whom, and what they expect in return. What does a coherent fiscal system look like from the citizen's side, and what happens to tax compliance and trust when revenue and spending decisions visibly don't connect?	- Hon. Mr. Anthony G. Myers, Deputy Minister of Fiscal Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia (remote) - Mr. Perhat Yagshiyev, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, Turkmenistan (remote) - Dr. Sutthi Suntharanurak, Deputy Auditor General, Office of the Auditor General, Thailand (remote) - Mr. John Mutua, Programmes Coordinator and Head of Public Finance, Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya - Ms. Sally Torbert, Global Lead, Policy and Research, International Budget Partnership - Ms. Vanessa van den Boogaard, Senior Research Fellow, International Centre for Tax and Development -
15 mins 11:45-12:00	Round 2 – One question to all panelist How can Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives strengthen one coherent government-led fiscal system rather than add to fragmentation?	Panelists (2 minutes per panelist): - Same as the above
8 mins 12:00-12:08	Questions and comments from the floor	

2 mins 12:08- 12:10	Wrap-up: key takeaways and next steps	Moderator
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Format

The session will open with a short framing by the moderator, followed by a moderated panel in two rounds: targeted questions to each panelist, then one question to all. After a short Q&A with participants, moderator will close with key takeaways.

Participants (audience)

- Governments: Ministries of Finance (budget, tax policy, debt management and fiscal policy units), Ministries of Planning and Economy, line ministries, subnational governments and revenue authorities
- Oversight institutions: parliamentary committees, and supreme audit institutions
- International and regional organizations, development partners and development banks
- Civil society, think tanks, foundations
- Spanish actors: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, Spanish Tax Agency, Basque Agency for Cooperation and Solidarity (eLankidetza), subnational governments, and others