



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

Advancing Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives at country level

Domestic Resource Mobilization for Sustainable Development: Tax Reforms that Deliver

Date and time	Day 2 Wednesday 28 Oct, 12:10 -13:15 CET (expecting to start at 12:15 to allow for the transition from the preceding session)
Location	Toledo III & IV, Level 3, Meliá Avenida América, Madrid, Spain
Organisers	CIAT, 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

At a time of constrained fiscal space, declining ODA, and rising debt servicing costs, the imperative to strengthen domestic resource mobilization (DRM) has become more urgent. DRM sits at the center of discussions on public resources, determining what a government is able to spend and invest. But beyond this, tax policies and systems play a key role in building trust and

credibility with citizens, partners, and the private sector, thereby strengthening the social contract and de-risking investment.

While the importance of DRM is well recognized, many contexts face challenges in implementing revenue reforms that deliver both volume and development impact. In this context, this session will focus on success stories – showcasing what countries have already done, looking across contexts that vary considerably in terms of fiscal space, administrative capacity, and political economy.

For example, Angola increased tobacco excise taxes and earmarked a substantial share of them for essential medicines and sanitation. In Gabon, a review identified 218 tax expenditure measures valued at 3.2 percent of GDP, leading to the suspension of exemptions and the launch of an audit process. Kenya has enhanced its approach to taxing high-net-worth individuals through improved identification methodologies. Nigeria Tax Act 2025 introduced more progressive and gender-responsive measures. Beyond Africa, Armenia's Digital Forensic Lab helped identify more than US\$180 million in shadow-economy activity. Bhutan introduced digital tools for property taxation to improve local revenue mobilization and administrative efficiency. Colombia used tax policy analysis to inform its 2024 Medium-Term Fiscal Framework and strengthen fiscal progressivity and gender responsiveness.

Two priorities run through these experiences. The first is progressive taxation: making sure those with greater capacity contribute their fair share, through better taxation of high-net-worth individuals, property and wealth, and through attention to who carries the burden of each reform, including its gender impact. The second is tax expenditure reform: exemptions and incentives, which are often invisible, cost countries significant revenue, often without delivering the results they were meant to achieve, and reviewing them is one of the fastest ways to recover resources without raising rates. The Coalition on Tax Expenditure Reform (COATE), launched under the Sevilla Platform for Action, supports countries taking this work forward.

While the reforms differ in ambition, design and context, they reflect country-led efforts to strengthen DRM and align it with national priorities. In many cases, these reforms are being advanced through broader financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), which help governments connect financing decisions to development outcomes.

Yet successful tax reform is rarely determined by technical design alone. Reforms gain traction when they are grounded in credible evidence, linked to tangible public benefits and supported by institutions and leaders capable of sustaining momentum through implementation challenges. INFFs and broader financing strategies can help create that alignment by situating tax measures within a coherent reform agenda, clarifying their objectives and demonstrating how additional revenues will contribute to national development priorities.

This session will examine what specific tax reforms delivered, how they were carried through politically, and what countries will take next, and to connect those next steps with concrete support available through the SPA initiatives.

Positioning within the Dialogue

Thematic area / sector	Domestic resource mobilization, public finance, progressive taxation, tax expenditure
Related SPA initiative(s)	• Public Finance for SDGs Collaborative • Coalition on Tax Expenditure Reform • Effective Taxation of High-Net-Worth Individuals

Objectives

The primary objectives of this session include:

- Facilitate peer exchange on country-led tax reforms that have strengthened revenue performance, improved equity, enhanced compliance, and supported national development priorities.
- Examine the political, institutional and technical factors that enable tax reforms to move from design to implementation, including how governments build support, manage resistance and sustain reform momentum over time.
- Identify avenues for country support and collaboration, including through the SPA initiatives: Public Finance for SDGs Collaborative, the Coalition on Tax Expenditure Reform (COATE), and initiatives supporting the effective taxation of high-net-worth individuals.

Guiding Questions

- What tax reforms have delivered both revenue and development results in your country, and what made them possible?
- How can governments make tax systems more progressive while sustaining compliance and investment?
- What has the review of tax expenditures revealed, and what does it take to move from evidence to reform?
- How can the SPA initiatives – the Public Finance for SDGs Collaborative, COATE and the work on high-net-worth individuals – best support countries' next steps?

Proposed Agenda

Total duration: 60 minutes

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
5 mins	Welcome and framing of the session	Moderator: Ms. Orria Goñi , Head of Public Finance for SDGs, UNDP
40 mins	Round 1 – Targeted questions	Panelists (4-5 mins per panelist)

	- To Finland: Setting the scene of the session: experience from Finland on tax reforms that deliver for people and planet – Finland’s expertise and scaling up of support - To Egypt: Egypt has been pursuing reforms to strengthen domestic resource mobilization while creating a more supportive environment for investment and private sector development. How does this fit within Egypt’s broader approach to financing sustainable development, and what lessons from Egypt’s experience could be relevant to other countries seeking to balance revenue mobilization with growth and equity? - To Brazil: Ms. Rodrigues, Brazil co-leads the Sevilla initiative on the taxation of high-net-worth individuals. Current legislation exempted monthly incomes up to BRL (reais) 5,000 and introduced a minimum effective income tax on high incomes. In parallel, the Ministry of Finance built a Tax Expenditure Characterization Dashboard that links each tax expenditure to social, productive and environmental indicators. What made it possible to carry the minimum tax on high incomes through approval, and how is the dashboard changing the way tax incentives are evaluated and decided? - To Gabon: Your review of tax expenditures revealed significant revenue losses and led to reform decisions. What has the review of tax expenditures revealed, and what does it take to move from evidence to reform? - To Zimbabwe: What tax reforms have delivered both revenue and development results in your country, and what made them possible? - To Tonga: For a small island state relying heavily on Consumption Tax, how can governments use tax administration reforms such as digitalization, simplified compliance, or tax incentives to formalize, thereby broadening the domestic tax base without placing a heavier burden on low-income households?	- Ms. Soili Mäkeläinen-Buhanist, Ambassador for Financing for Sustainable Development, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland - Dr. Hania Sholkamy, Advisor to the Minister of Finance for Economic Justice Policies, Egypt - Ms. Nuria Rodrigues, Advisor to the Secretary of Economic Policy, Ministry of Finance, Brazil - Mr. Paul Il Abessolo Eosso'o Minto'o, Service Inspector, Directorate General of Taxes, Ministry of the Economy, Finance, Debt and Investments, responsible for the Fight against the High Cost of Living, Gabon - Mr. Mathias Chinanayi, Head of Technical Services, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority - Mr. Alexander James Latu, Principal Accountant, Treasury Division, Ministry of Finance, Tonga - Mr. Santiago Díaz de Sarralde, Tax Studies and Research Director Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations - Ms. Hazel Granger, Senior Research Fellow, ODI Global, and Centre for Tax Analysis in Developing Countries
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	- To CIAT: What are the emerging priorities for tax reform across Latin America and the Caribbean, and how can new technologies and digital innovations help advance these reforms and strengthen their impact on sustainable development? - To ODI Global: Tax expenditures cost countries an estimated 4 percent of global GDP, yet most are never evaluated. Drawing on experiences like Gabon's and your own advisory work, what does it take to move from reviewing tax expenditures to reforming them – and how can COATE help more countries do so?	
10 mins	Round 2 – one question for all panelists As Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives move from commitments to country implementation, what is the single most important factor that turns a tax reform idea into one that is actually implemented and delivers results?	Panelists (1 min per panelist) - Same as the above, in reverse order (8 → 1)
3 mins	If time allows, invite one question/comment from the floor	
2 mins	Wrap-up: key takeaways and next steps	Moderator

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. The moderator will close with key takeaways.

Participants (audience)

- Governments: Ministries of Finance (tax policy and revenue administration units), Ministries of Planning and Economy, revenue and customs authorities, INFF or financing strategy coordination units, parliamentary committees and supreme audit institutions
- International and regional organizations, development partners and development banks, including regional tax organizations
- Civil society, think tanks and academia working on tax and financing for development
- 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