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

Advancing Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives at country level

From Fiscal Choices to Results: Delivering a Triple Health Dividend through Sustainable Country Systems

Date and time	Day 2 - 28 October 2026, 16:15–17:15 (CET)
Location	Las Palmas I, Level 2, Meliá Avenida América, Madrid, Spain
Organizers	United Nations Development Program (UNDP) & World Health Organization (WHO)

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

Countries face persistent tension between protecting and expanding health outcomes and the fiscal constraints created by shrinking external financing for health, limited fiscal space and rising debt pressures. This brings into sharp focus a wider Financing for Development challenge: how countries move from fragmented combinations of domestic resources and externally financed programmes toward sustainably financing priority health outcomes through national systems.

Mobilizing additional revenue, including through health taxes, is only the beginning. Translating revenue and overall financing into results requires credible allocation and budget execution, stronger public finance systems, better alignment — and where appropriate integration — of external financing into national systems, and clear accountability for results.

This requires greater fiscal policy coherence: ensuring revenue, expenditure and debt decisions are aligned with each other and with development goals. It also means looking across fiscal choices in other sectors, including tax expenditures, subsidies and public investment decisions related to energy, transport, food systems and the environment, that can affect health determinants and outcomes. Stronger co-financing policies and transition planning are also needed so that domestic financing, changes in external support and the progressive integration of priority functions into national systems are managed together. The session will also consider how debt-related instruments, including debt swaps for health, can contribute to fiscal space where they are well designed, country-owned and aligned with national systems.

This session will explore how health can serve as a concrete entry point for accelerating Sevilla Platform for Action implementation at country level. It will examine how coherent fiscal choices, stronger public finance systems and effective institutional arrangements can translate revenue, expenditure, debt and external financing decisions into a triple health dividend: better health outcomes, better mobilization and management of domestic and external financing, and stronger human capital and economic resilience.

It will draw on the WHO-led 3 by 35 Initiative[1] (Accelerating Health Taxes), endorsed by UNDP as part of the Sevilla Platform for Action (SPA), and on UNDP's engagement with global health funds on sustainability, transition, co-financing and public financial management. While health taxes provide an important entry point, the session will also consider how a health lens can inform wider fiscal choices, including tax and expenditure policies that shape health determinants such as air pollution, clean cooking, transport and environmental risk.

Distinct from the Dialogue's broader sessions on tax, public finance, debt and governance, this session brings these agendas together through health, showing how fiscal choices can be translated into sustained development outcomes through stronger country systems and identifying practical actions to accelerate relevant Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives at country level.

[1] Led by WHO, the 3 by 35 Initiative aims to increase the real prices of tobacco, alcohol and sugary drinks by at least 50 percent by 2035 through tax increases, mobilizing an estimated US$1 trillion in additional public revenue globally over the next decade.

Positioning within the Dialogue

Thematic area / sector	Sustainable health financing; Tax & domestic resource mobilization; public financial management; sustainability and transition; country systems
Related SPA initiative(s)	"Accelerating Health Taxes: The 3 by 35 Initiative" (WHO-led, UNDP-endorsed); Public Finance for SDGs Collaborative; and relevant Sevilla follow-up on debt-for-development swaps, including the Global Hub on Debt for Development Swaps; Towards A Renewed Global Health Ecosystem: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities for Financing Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems (Spain-led, Gavi, The Global Fund, WHO)

Objectives

The primary objectives of this session include:

- **Translate Sevilla commitments into a health financing implementation agenda**, showing how fiscal choices across revenue, expenditure, debt and external financing can be aligned with country priorities, public finance systems and health outcomes.
- **Identify country-level bottlenecks and technical support needs for moving from financing commitments to results**, drawing on country experience to understand what prevents health taxes, broader health-oriented fiscal reforms, budget allocation and execution, external financing and transition planning from translating into sustained health outcomes through country systems.
- **Define a practical partnership agenda for follow-up**, clarifying how Ministries of Finance and Health, Parliamentarians, oversight institutions, civil society, global health financiers and technical partners can work differently to strengthen country systems and sustain priority health functions and accelerate relevant Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives.

Guiding Questions

- **What does it take to translate Sevilla financing commitments into health outcomes at country level?** What fiscal policy, planning, budgeting and public finance bottlenecks prevent revenue, expenditure and external financing decisions from translating into better health outcomes through national systems?
- **What technical assistance, institutional readiness, and financing modalities are needed for transition from external support to be successful and sustainable?** How can countries ensure that financing, institutional capacity, and policy and regulatory frameworks are strong enough to maintain priority health services and results over time?
- **How should global health financing evolve to support country systems and sustainable transition?** What needs to change in the way governments and financing partners align roles, incentives and accountability around national budgets, PFM, co-financing and transition planning, so that external and domestic financing reinforce fiscal policy coherence?
- **What partnership agenda should be taken forward to accelerate relevant Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives?** How can Ministries of Finance and Health,

Parliamentarians, oversight institutions, civil society, global health financiers and technical partners work differently to move from commitments to implementation?
- **How can broader financing instruments under the Sevilla agenda help protect and expand fiscal space for health?** What role could debt swaps, guarantees or other innovative financing approaches play alongside domestic resources and external grants, while preserving sustainability, country ownership and alignment with national systems?

Proposed Agenda

Total duration: 60 minutes

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
5 mins	**Welcome, introduction and framing** *From Fiscal Choices to Sustainable Results: What financing and institutional architecture is needed to achieve a triple health dividend?*	Moderator: **Ms. Orria Goni**, Head of Public Finance for SDGs, Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP
5 mins	**Presentation: Sevilla Platform for Action and health** WHO: Overview of the health-related SPA agenda, including **3 by 35**, and the technical support and partnerships needed for country-level implementation.	**Mr. Mark Goodchild**, Economist, WHO
25 mins	**Moderated country / ministerial panel** *From Sevilla commitments to country systems: fiscal choices, health financing and results* Country representatives — including Ministries of Finance and Health, Parliamentarians, oversight actors and civil society — will discuss what it takes to translate Sevilla Platform for Action commitments into country-level implementation. The panel will focus on concrete fiscal and institutional choices, including revenue mobilization, budget execution, domestic and external financing alignment, transition readiness and accountability through stronger country systems.	• **M. Anthony G. Myers**, Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs, Liberia • **M. Phanomphone Keovongvichith**, Deputy Director-General, Economic and Fiscal Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, Lao PDR • **Ms. Constance Mutunhu**, Board member (ZIMRA), Zimbabwe • **M. Brahim Hassnaoui**, Head of the Information Division, Directorate of Studies and Financial Forecasts, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco
5 mins	**Perspectives from the Global Fund:** *Financing modalities, technical assistance and partnerships to accelerate SPA implementation*	• **M. Matthew MacGregor**, Head of Health Finance, The Global Fund

	The Global Fund will present their current financing modalities, technical assistance, evidence and partnership offers and discuss how these can be aligned with country priorities to protect essential services, strengthen national systems and support sustainable transition.	
15 mins	**Moderated open discussion and audience exchange** *What should be taken forward to accelerate SPA implementation?* Participants will identify practical recommendations, technical support needs and partnership opportunities to accelerate relevant Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives at country level, including on health taxes, public finance systems, co-financing, transition planning, debt swaps for health and accountability.	Moderator + all speakers
5 mins	**Closing remarks / synthesis** UNDP will synthesise key takeaways and practical actions to accelerate relevant Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives, with a focus on country-level bottlenecks, technical support needs, partnership opportunities and the financing arrangements required to move from fiscal choices to sustained health outcomes through stronger *country* systems.	UNDP + WHO

Format

The session opens with brief framing presentations from UNDP and WHO. WHO will situate the discussion within the health-related Sevilla Platform for Action agenda, including the **Accelerating Health Taxes: 3 by 35 Initiative**.

This is followed by a moderated country panel and institutional partner perspectives, structured around the guiding questions above. Speakers will be invited to draw on concrete country and institutional experience to identify bottlenecks, technical support needs and partnership opportunities for accelerating relevant Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives.

The session will close with an open discussion and short synthesis of practical recommendations for Sevilla Platform for Action implementation, including how to move from financing commitments to sustained health outcomes through stronger country systems.

Participants (audience)

- Governments: Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Health from countries engaged in Public Finance for SDGs reform, health taxes and donor transition
- Oversight and accountability institutions: Parliaments, Supreme Audit Institutions and relevant regional SAI networks, including AFROSAI, CREFIAF and INTOSAI.

- Global health-financing partners: the Global Fund, WHO, World Bank/IMF, Gavi, the Pandemic Fund
- Financial Institutions and development partners engaged in domestic resource mobilization, sustainable development financing, debt swaps and broader fiscal instruments
- UN entities, including WHO, UNIATF members, UNICEF, UNFPA and other UN system partners
- Civil society and advocacy organizations working on health taxes and sustainable health financing
- Spain actors engaged in the session
- Academic and technical partners working on health taxes, PFM, sustainable health financing *3 by 35 Initiative partners/champions : Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Center for Global Development (CGDev), Economics for Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Movendi International, NCD Alliance, OECD, SEATCA – Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance, Vital Strategies, Coefficient Giving, GiveWell*