



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

Advancing Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives at country level

Strengthening Trust in Public Institutions, Grounded in Sound Governance

Date and time	Day 2 - 28 October 2026, 16:15–17:15 (CET)
Location	Room Toledo III & IV, Level 3, Meliá Avenida América, Madrid, Spain
Organizers	UNDP Sustainable Finance Hub (SFH) and Global Policy Center for Governance (GPCG)

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 (SPA), 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.

Public trust is a cornerstone of effective governance and sustainable development. Yet governments face growing expectations for transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the collection and use of public resources. Strengthening fiscal governance is therefore not only a technical imperative but also a critical means of reinforcing the relationship between states and citizens. Trust is built through delivering results for the populations coupled with effective

oversight, meaningful taxpayer and citizen engagement, accessible feedback mechanisms, and greater transparency in how public resources are mobilized and spent.

This session will examine how oversight institutions, digital innovation and citizen participation can contribute to more transparent, responsive, and accountable public institutions. It will also explore how sound public finance strengthens institutional credibility, builds trust, and fosters investor confidence. In line with the Sevilla Commitment, credible public finance represents the first layer of de-risking, enabling countries to mobilize private and blended finance in support of national development priorities.

Bringing together actors from across government and oversight bodies, the session will explore how stronger collaboration can improve public sector performance and contribute to a more predictable environment for sustainable development and investment. This perspective aligns with the Public Finance for SDGs (PF4SDGs) Collaborative, led by UNDP under the Sevilla Platform for Action, which seeks to strengthen coordination and coherence in support of country-led public finance reforms.

Examples will be drawn from:

- The **"FFD4 and the Future of Data: Strengthening Systems for Sustainable Financing"** SPA initiative, which positions data and statistical systems as a force multiplier for development finance, helping governments raise revenue, manage debt, curb illicit financial flows and attract investment through stronger coordination across ministries of finance, planning and statistics.
- The **"Bridging Data Systems for Financing for Development"** SPA initiative which fosters interoperability between reporting systems on development support, reducing reporting burdens and improving data quality so that financing data is more usable, transparent and accountable, not just available.
- Regional initiatives such as Pro PALOP-TL SAI and the Climate Finance Network, as well as from emerging international good practices on audit and oversight of climate and sustainable development finance.

Positioning within the Dialogue

Thematic area / sector	Public financial management; governance and anti-corruption; data systems
Related SPA initiative(s)	Public Finance for SDGs (PF4SDGs) Collaborative; FFD4 and the Future of Data; Bridging Data Systems for Financing for Development.

Objectives

The primary objective of this session is to develop a shared understanding of how countries can strengthen accountability, integrity and oversight across public finance systems in ways that build public trust, enhance fiscal legitimacy, and support sustainable development financing.

The session will also:

- Explore fiscal governance as an interconnected “fiscal ecosystem”, clarifying the distinct and complementary roles of finance ministries, parliaments, Supreme Audit Institutions, independent accountability bodies, civil society and media in translating fiscal decisions into public trust.
- Showcase country experiences in strengthening fiscal governance and public financial management systems, including reforms to budget transparency, digital fiscal governance, and audit and parliamentary oversight capacity.
- Take stock of progress in implementing the Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives most relevant to fiscal governance, including **FFD4 and the Future of Data** and **Bridging Data Systems for Financing for Development** while identifying country-level bottlenecks, technical assistance needs, partnership opportunities and financing arrangements needed to accelerate implementation.
- Identify concrete entry points for strengthening collaboration across the fiscal ecosystem – building capacity, applying standards, auditing policy coherence and closing the accountability loop, in order to sustain public trust and support the effective mobilization and use of public resources for the SDGs.

Guiding Questions

- **Accountability and integrity:** what institutional weaknesses undermine effective public finance, and what reforms are helping address them?
- **Data and transparency:** How can better data sharing and digital systems enable oversight, detect risks and strengthen accountability?
- **Trust and results:** How can countries ensure that stronger public finance systems translate into better outcomes and greater public confidence?

Proposed Agenda

Total duration: 60 minutes

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
5 min	Welcome & opening remarks <i>Building accountability and integrity across the public finance ecosystem</i> The opening frames fiscal governance as an ecosystem rather than the responsibility of any single institution and considers which governance reforms most influence investment decisions and business confidence. The remarks will also set out how countries can move towards whole-of-government approaches that embed transparency, oversight and enforcement from revenue mobilization through to spending and audit, supported by data and statistical	Moderator: Ms. Toril-Iren Pedersen, Director of UNDP Global Policy Center for Governance

	systems, as promoted by the Sevilla Platform for Action initiative on FFD4 and the Future of Data.	
25 min	Moderated country panel <i>From Sevilla commitments to country systems</i> This panel brings together government officials, tax administrations, supreme audit institutions and parliamentarians to show how Sevilla commitments are being translated into national accountability systems.	Panelists: • Honourable Taolo B. Lucas, Member of Parliament, Botswana • Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Jaleel, Director General, Auditor General's Office, Maldives - virtual • Mr. Gualter Bandeira, Secretary General of the Court of Auditors, Sao Tomé and Príncipe • Ms. Perla Noemi Soto Veloz, Head of the Department of Strategic Analysis and Foresight, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Dominican Republic • M. Godo Eloi Gouro, Deputy Director for Public Policy Monitoring, Ministry of Planning and Development, Côte d'Ivoire
15 min	Perspectives from institutional partners: <i>Financing modalities, technical assistance and partnerships to accelerate SPA implementation</i> Institutional partners will present their current financing modalities, technical assistance, evidence and partnership offers and discuss how these can be aligned with country priorities.	Panelists: • Ms. Yemesrach A. Workie, IATI Executive Director • Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, Inter-Parliamentary Union • M. Adriano Maertins Juras, Manager Professional & Relevant SAIs, INTOSAI Development Initiative • M. Tim Williamson, World Bank - virtual
10 min	Moderated open discussion and audience exchange <i>What should be taken forward to accelerate SPA implementation?</i> Participants will identify practical recommendations, technical support needs and partnership opportunities to accelerate relevant Sevilla Platform for Action initiatives at country level.	Moderator + all speakers
5 min	Closing remarks / synthesis	Toril-Iren Pedersen , Director of UNDP Global Policy Center for Governance

	UNDP will synthesize 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 improve the governance and accountability of the fiscal ecosystem.	
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Format

The session opens with a brief welcome and opening remarks from UNDP's Global Policy Center on Governance on the distinct roles within the fiscal ecosystem and how countries are moving toward whole-of-government approaches that embed transparency, oversight and enforcement throughout public financial management.

A moderated panel then brings together different perspectives – Ministry of finance and planning, Supreme Audit Institution, Parliament, institutional partners, data standard-setters... – structured around the session's guiding questions.

The panel is followed by open questions and comments from the audience, and the session closes with brief concluding remarks summarizing key takeaways.

Participants (audience)

- Governments: Ministries of Finance and Planning; national Parliaments and Public Accounts Committees; Supreme Audit Institutions
- Bilateral development partners: European Union (funder of Pro PALOP-TL SAI), United Kingdom and Sweden (funders of the Climate Finance Network)
- Development Institutions: INTOSAI / IDI, World Bank, IMF, OECD, and other development partners
- Financial Institutions: private sector and institutional investors
- Civil society organizations: independent media and civil society accountability actors
- Other: academia and think tanks working on public financial management and governance