



To the kind attention of:

Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for FfD4
Permanent Representatives and Observers to the United Nations in New York

Cc:

Ms. Shari Spiegel, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office

January 21st, 2025

RE: Modalities for civil society engagement and FfD4 outcome negotiations

Your Excellencies,

We, the [Civil Society Financing for Development \(FfD\) Mechanism](#) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Mechanism’) representing several hundreds of organizations, federations and networks from diverse regions and constituencies around the world, would like to share with you some key ideas to uphold the spirit of Monterrey, reaffirm the pivotal importance of civil society participation in the lead-up to the Fourth Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and ensure effective civic accountability in the upcoming FfD4 negotiations. We are therefore reaching out to share three critical sets of concerns in preparation for the Third Preparatory Committee and the next steps of the process:

1. Upholding transparent, inclusive and accountable intergovernmental negotiations

- Recent UN negotiations, including those for intergovernmentally-agreed FfD Forum outcome documents, exposed significant lack of transparency. These negotiations were based on Co-Facilitators driven processes with revision drafts prepared with no clear attributions of the concrete proposals that led to the revisions. Most of the negotiations also took place behind closed doors, with limited, if any, attendance by civil society and absence of public scrutiny and accountability.
- It was our understanding that the agreed FfD4 modalities restored the centrality of a Member States-driven process with transparent line-by-line text-on-screen negotiations. Hence the election of Co-Chairs and Bureau. We are now concerned that the process seems to be sliding back to a co-facilitated process. The (limited) information we received on the upcoming Third Preparatory Committee Session suggest that there will be another sequence of Member States general comments to be further elaborated by the Co-Facilitators. We are equally concerned by informal indications that the next steps of the negotiations will take place in closed-door informals.
- We therefore call on Member States to reaffirm the agreed FfD4 modalities, starting with the upcoming Third Preparatory Committee, and ensure that negotiations take place in accordance with well-established text-on-screen, line-by-line negotiations with attributed revisions. We understand this is already the [position of the G77 & China](#) and we expect Global North countries to also support this call for transparent, line by line negotiations, in accordance with the continued claim for their democratic traditions.
- All additional negotiation sessions, including informals, should continue to uphold transparency

and ensure inclusion of civil society. Civil society representatives have always been in the room in the FfD negotiations, including in informal sessions of the FfD3 Addis Ababa preparatory process, until the very last crunch-time smaller meetings.

- We would also like to express our concern with the initial plans for multistakeholder roundtables at the actual Conference in Sevilla, indicating the inclination for a 'business as usual' format. We should rather strengthen the opportunity for high-level intergovernmental negotiating sessions to unlock pending key issues that need to be resolved at that final stage. This would raise the profile and ambition of the Conference and the entire negotiation process.

2. Reaffirming and strengthening Monterrey modalities for civil society engagement

It is essential that the process towards FfD4 builds further on well-established practices and strengthens the FfD modalities further in view of the continued recognition of the critical importance of civil society engagement and participation. **We are now sharing the attached short brief that documents well-established past modalities with annexes from the FfD3 preparatory process and our expectations for the roadmap towards FfD4.**

3. Raising the ambition of the FfD4 Outcome Document

We are deeply concerned with the lack of ambition of the FfD4 Outcome Zero Draft. As Civil Society FfD Mechanism, we are currently undertaking our collective assessment and will soon be sharing our substantive response. Once again, the participation of civil society is critical to ensure the FfD4 Outcome Document responds to the urgent imperatives of our communities.

We therefore urge UN Member States not only to reaffirm but also to strengthen the modalities to uphold transparent, intergovernmental negotiations as well as ensure inclusive engagement of civil society in the FfD4 process. An ambitious FFD4 outcome document can only be achieved through a transparent and accountable negotiation process.

We remain at your disposal for any necessary clarifications on these concerns and proposals and look forward to constructively engaging in the upcoming sessions of the FfD4 intergovernmental preparatory process and other instances of the FfD Follow up process.

Sincerely yours,

Coordination Group of the Civil Society Financing for Development Mechanism (www.csforfffd.org)

The governance system and working procedures of the Mechanism are available on the website along with the full list of the members of the Coordination Group, exposing its scope, extent and diversity.