

# 4th Financing for Development Conference

Media Kit

#FfD4People

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# Overview

The daily struggles of peoples around the world — for food, housing, healthcare, employment — are completely tied to the rules that govern the global economy. And if we want to confront deep injustices and asymmetries, global systemic solutions are urgently needed. This is why the Financing for Development (FfD) process is a key space where global economic and financial rules are debated and shaped. The FfD process is unique, as it is the only truly democratic space where global economic governance is addressed, while having the issues of climate change, inequalities and human rights at its core. FfD seeks to ensure that countries, especially in the Global South, also known as “developing countries”, have the resources and policy space they need to fund their own development and respond to today’s global crises.

It’s also where civil society and governments alike push for reforms to remove systemic barriers to economic justice, ensure fairer financial systems, and reclaim the UN’s leadership in global economic governance, shifting power away from a small group of dominant financial institutions led by the Global North, “developed countries.”

This kit offers essential background, key issues, and media-ready messages to help journalists report on the gaps, challenges, and opportunities around FfD4 and ongoing reforms.



# Why It Matters

Nearly **half of humanity (3.3 billion people)** live in countries spending more on debt repayments than health or education.

Global North-led financial institutions (IMF, World Bank, OECD) dominate governance, marginalizing the Global South's voice.

Current global trade and digital policies risk deepening inequality, economic dependency, and sovereignty loss.

Unregulated expansion of digital technologies and AI risks exacerbating inequities without democratic oversight.

The FfD process itself faces a democratic deficit, with technocratic inter-agency bodies dominating decision-making over intergovernmental processes.

# Key Issues & Angles

## 1. Debt Crisis and the Need for Reform

- Debt servicing crowds out essential spending on health, education, and climate resilience.
- Debt is used as a colonial tool for economic and political control.
- Calls for a UN Convention on Sovereign Debt to establish fair, transparent, and binding debt restructuring rules are ongoing, specially from G77 group and Civil Society groups.
- Growing urgency for debt cancellation mechanisms to protect countries from shocks.

## 2. International Development Cooperation & ODA Challenges

- Official Development Assistance (ODA) is shrinking and fragmented. Countries are investing more in military spending than in development assistance.
- Current governance frameworks exclude many developing countries and non-state actors.
- Civil society demands a UN-led, inclusive process to reform international development cooperation.

## 3. Trade & Digital Economy Governance

- Trade rules often undermine developing countries through unilateral trade measures and investor protections.
- Digital sovereignty and equitable access to digital technology benefits remain unmet.
- The need to protect developing countries' policy space and promote special treatment in trade negotiations.

## 4. Global Financial Governance & IFI Reform

- IMF, World Bank, and MDBs operate with limited accountability, excluding democratic oversight.
- Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) exacerbate borrowing costs for developing countries due to bias.
- Calls for bringing IFIs fully under UN governance, regulating CRAs, and protecting monetary sovereignty.

## Key Issues & Angles

### 5. Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)

- STI governance lacks democratic oversight at the global level.
- AI, data, and digital technologies are shaped by a few powerful actors, risking inequity.
- Advocacy for a UN Global Technology Assessment Mechanism to ensure inclusive, participatory tech governance.

### 6. “Compromiso de Sevilla” Political Context & Narrative Setting

- The outcome of negotiations has been deeply frustrating and disappointing. Despite widespread calls for ambition and justice, Global North actors –including the EU, UK, US, Canada, Japan, and others– worked to dilute and block real progress.
- We must resist the oversimplified narrative that portrays the U.S. as the lone spoiler while painting others as saviors of multilateralism. This is not the full story: many Global North governments actively gutted ambition behind closed doors.
- As civil society, we have a responsibility to reclaim the narrative, challenge spin, and tell the truth about who is obstructing systemic change.

### 7. Civil Society Response & Next Steps

- Even if the outcome is disappointing, the fight continues. Civil society remains strong and determined to:
  - Call out the coordinated blockage by Global North countries.
  - Highlight procedural failings, especially the lack of transparency and accountability in FfD negotiations.
  - Keep momentum alive for genuine, democratic, and justice-driven reform of the global financial architecture.
- We are not powerless. Through collective action, street mobilization, narrative resistance, and advocacy, we continue to fight for:
  - Global tax justice under the UN: #UNTaxConvention
  - Debt cancellation and reparations through a #UNDebtConvention
  - Public financing over privatization
  - Democratic multilateralism and governance reform—not elite capture

# Suggested Interview Questions

Why is the current global debt system considered unjust and unsustainable?

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How would a UN Framework Convention on Debt address these issues?

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How do the IMF and World Bank governance structures impact developing countries' ability to shape economic policies?

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What role does Official Development Assistance (ODA) play in sustainable development, and why is reform necessary?

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How do digital technologies like AI pose risks without global democratic governance?

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What are the main limitations of the current FfD process, and how can it be made more democratic and inclusive?

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How can journalists help amplify the voices of civil society and developing countries on these issues?

# Social Media Soundbites

Nearly half the world pays more on debt than on health & education. Time for a #UNDebtConvention that protects people first. #FfD4People #FfD4

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Global Economic governance must be reformed to include Global South voices — democracy, not dominance. #FfD4People #FfD4

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AI & digital tech must be governed transparently to protect rights & development globally. We need a UN mechanism now. #FfD4People #FfD4

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ODA cuts and fractured development cooperation threaten progress. It's time for a UN-led, inclusive reform process. #ReformIDC #FfD4People

# Resources for Further Research

## **Introductory Guide to Financing for Development**

[Find here](#)

## **What should be achieved in FfD4? Civil Society Checklist**

[Graphics and Toolkit here](#)

## **Infographic: We need a UN Convention on Sovereign Debt**

[Find here](#)

## **Two-pager: Debt and debt sustainability: UN Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt**

[Find here](#)

## **Two-pager: Time for a new global governance on international development cooperation**

[Find here](#)

## **Latest issue of the #FfDChronicle**

[Find here](#)

## **Q&A: Towards the 4th Financing for Development Conference**

[Find here](#)

## **Thematic and Regional Position Briefs**

[Find here](#)

## **10 Common Myths around Climate finance**

[Find here](#)

# How to Engage

- Reach out to civil society groups for interviews or expert commentary.
- Follow the hashtag #FfD4People for updates and civil society perspectives.
- Use this media kit to highlight gaps and demands in reporting on global development finance.
- Follow our social media channels:

**X:** [https://x.com/cs\\_ffd](https://x.com/cs_ffd)

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/csffdmechanism/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CSforFFDMechanism>

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cs-ffd-mechanism>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@civilsocietyfinancing4dev>

# Who is the Civil Society Financing for Development (CS FfD) Mechanism?

## The Civil Society Financing for Development (FfD)

Mechanism is an open, inclusive platform that brings together civil society organizations (CSOs) committed to public benefit and active engagement in the Financing for Development process and its related fields.

## Key Facts

- **Open and Inclusive:** Membership is open to any public-benefit civil society organization interested in Financing for Development (FfD).
- **Longstanding Engagement:** The Mechanism's roots trace back to the lead-up to the first FfD conference in Monterrey (2002), continuing through the Doha (2008) and Addis Ababa (2015) conferences. It has operated actively in its current form (as the Global Social Economy Group – GSEG) since 2008.
- **Official UN Recognition:** The Mechanism is officially recognized by the UN Financing for Development Office

as the primary channel for civil society participation in the FfD process, referenced on the UN FfD website and enshrined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (para 132).

- **Diverse Participation:** Members include networks, federations, and coalitions representing a wide range of constituencies: NGOs, women's groups, youth, trade unions, people with disabilities, and many more, across regions and thematic areas.
- **Thematic Workstreams:** Organizations can actively engage in focused areas such as tax justice, debt, private finance, trade, systemic issues, international development cooperation, technology, and climate/environment finance.
- **Collective Action and Advocacy:** The Mechanism facilitates unified civil society voices by coordinating joint advocacy, developing position papers, issuing statements, representing civil society at official UN sessions, analyzing documents, and conducting media outreach.



# Why Journalists Should Engage

The CS FfD Mechanism provides journalists with direct access to a broad, diverse coalition of civil society voices that critically analyze and influence global economic governance. Their expertise, grassroots insights, and coordinated advocacy enrich reporting on Financing for Development, global trade, debt, and sustainability, offering perspectives often missing in official narratives.

## Coverage Opportunities

### CS FfD Forum



June 28–29, 2025



Hotel Melia, Sevilla, Spain



[Full programme and details to follow online here](#)

### Street Mobilization



[June 29, 2025](#)



Meeting point: Jardines de Cristina



7:30 PM

### 4th FfD Conference



June 30 – July 3, 2025



FIBES Conference Center, Sevilla

## Media Contact & Interview Requests

For media inquiries, interview requests, or more information about the civil society response to the FfD4 Outcome and broader Financing for Development issues, please contact:

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The Mechanism is made up of a range of experienced civil society spokespeople available for comment and interviews, representing:

- All global regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America & the Caribbean, Europe, MENA)
- Key constituencies including women, youth, workers, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, climate justice activists, and development finance experts.

**Languages available:** English, Spanish, French, Arabic, and more (upon request).

Let us know your outlet, deadline, and preferred interview format, and we'll connect you promptly.



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