



**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (FFD4),
SEVILLA, SPAIN JUNE 30-JULY 3, 2025**

July 3, 2025

**Flora Sonkin, Society for International Development on behalf of the CS FfD
Mechanism, Closing Plenary statement.**

Thank you. It is my pleasure to deliver this statement from both the Feminist Forum and the Civil Society Forum. We, over 1000 members of civil society organizations (CSOs), trade unions, movements and networks from around the world, actively engaging in and contributing to the Financing for Development (FfD) process since its inception, have convened both a Feminist Forum, and a CSO Forum ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). This declaration is therefore both a reaction to the FfD4 Outcome Document – “Compromiso de Sevilla” – and a political statement reflecting the shared recommendations we want to convey to UN Member States and the international community.

FfD4 is taking place at a time when the world is reeling with multiple crises: growing inequalities within and between countries, unsustainable debt burdens faced by Global South countries undermining the realization of human rights and the provision of public services, structural gender and racial inequalities, shrinking civic space, decent work deficit, continued illicit financial flows – including large-scale international tax abuse by corporations and wealthy individuals, rise in conflicts and militarism, cuts in official development assistance (ODA) and failure to uphold longstanding commitments while trillions are spent on wars and genocide. The worsening triple planetary crisis, widespread hunger and malnutrition, growing fractures in the multilateral trade system. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are also largely off-track, with 84 per cent of its targets showing limited progress and even reversals.

These massive challenges we currently face are systemic in nature. Despite their gravity, they are not unsurmountable. They are deeply entrenched in and reproduced by the inequitable design of the current international financial architecture and global economy. Overcoming these global challenges is a political choice that requires an unwavering commitment to justice, equity, democracy and to the overall well-being of people and the planet in a way we have continuously failed to see from decision-makers, particularly those in the Global North, who benefit from the status quo.

By adopting the “Compromiso de Sevilla” at the 3rd session of the 4th Preparatory Committee in New York on June 17th 2025, member states compromised on the ambition the outcome document should have delivered to reflect the urgency of our times. We are also deeply disappointed by the lack of

transparency and accountability of the process, which excluded civil society from access to the attributed text as well as from the last rounds of negotiations. This closure of civic space continued up to the Conference in Sevilla, where civil society participation has been sidelined and tokenistic. This must not set precedent for future processes.

Civil society remains deeply concerned by the lack of political will to embrace bold reforms and the blockage of any real progress shown in the negotiations — particularly by Global North countries, which continue to protect undemocratic institutions where they hold the decision-making power. We support Global South countries' proposals for actionable mandates for the reform of the international financial architecture, especially on debt and aid architectures, which were blocked throughout the negotiations, but are a precondition to redress the colonial legacies enshrined in the current financial architecture and offer real pathways to unlock much needed resources for countries in the Global South to finance their own development priorities.

The “Compromiso de Sevilla” stands as a compromise to the lives of millions of people in the Global South living under the subjugation of unsustainable debt, compounded by the hardest impacts of a climate and ecological crisis to which they contributed so little. As usual, women are forced to bear the largest burden in times of crisis, and to fill in from the gaps resulting in austerity. A feminist approach to financing for development demands that these cross-cutting issues remain central in all areas of global economic governance. Far from being a testament to the success of multilateralism, the compromise text reflects the outcome of a race to the bottom pushed by the Global North. Civil Society Forum participants also raised the alarm on how no real financial justice can be reached without an urgent end to escalating wars, territorial invasions, and genocides. We reject the militarization of aid and the diversion of development cooperation toward security objectives that perpetuate inequality and harm. And demand redirecting military spending toward financing public services, social infrastructure, and environmental resilience.

The time to act is now. If all member states are serious about their claims to support fair, democratic and sustainable development for all and to truly strengthen multilateralism, the FfD4 outcome should have reflected a genuine partnership between rights holders, member states and development partners, based on power sharing, transparency, and accountability, strengthening the integrity and ambition of the financing for development agenda. Despite the sidelining of civil society voices, while enabling the corporate capture of development, which unsurprisingly led to an outcome document that only reinforces the status quo, we refuse to accept this trajectory as inevitable.

We will accept nothing less than the commitment to follow-up from Sevilla ensuring meaningful progress in the reform of the international financial architecture. This includes the commitment towards legally binding framework Conventions on International Tax, Sovereign Debt and International Development Cooperation. A detailed version of both the statements of the Feminist and CSO Forum declarations with all our recommendations will be submitted. And in the meantime, as we have shown this morning with all the energy and the spirit of international solidarity that we brought to the CSO action that happened in the main hall, we look forward to staying engaged in this process and participating meaningfully towards a global financial architecture that works for people and planet. Thank you.