



**CIVIL SOCIETY
FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
Mechanism

The FfD Chronicle

The CS FfD Mechanism is an open civil society platform including several hundreds of organizations and networks from diverse regions and constituencies around the world. CS FfD Mechanism's core principle is ensuring that civil society can speak with one collective voice.

WHILE WE NEGOTIATE, THE WORLD BURNS

If you are sitting here today feeling uncomfortable about negotiating technicalities of the global financial architecture in today's context – you are not alone.

How can we discuss the details of the Compromiso de Sevilla when we know that state sovereignty is no longer respected, and we fear that our Presidents may be kidnapped as they are in Latin America? How can we speak about the specifics of Special Drawing Rights or country platforms when developing states in SWANA face land invasions and the rest of the Global South wonders: are we next?



Adapted from Gado @gadocartoons

How can we, Your Excellencies, discuss the details of debt-swaps when at any moment an illegal war could be launched that makes energy and food unaffordable to our people and plunges our countries into debt distress?

It feels dishonest, and disingenuous to speak of global risk, elevated premiums, or the cost of living without speaking about addressing the source: imperial, extractivist, and neo-colonial impulses of global hegemony, indeed, impulses to accumulate at all costs.

Our discussion here must be honest about the fact that these impulses are increasingly justified with patriarchal, and racist ideologies. As the UN faces a struggle for its own existence, we must all remind ourselves of the kind of world the UN was built to shape...

**SIDE EVENT | Our Future is At Stake:
Civil Society Reflects on Present and Future
of Financing for Development**

When: Wed 22 April 2026 | 4:45-6:00 pm
Venue: CR-8, UN HQ

A world in which we meet our financing commitments to each other as a community of nations, where sovereignty is respected as the foundation for respectful collaboration. A world of international law that does not reward the perverse logic of the military industrial complex where oil companies and financiers profit from projects of environmental and human destruction. We must confront a global economy tied to militarisation and extraction.

As civil society, and as members of the global community, we call for three urgent shifts.

First, to defend and rebuild democratic multilateralism - because without it, there is no foundation for financing development.

Second, to reaffirm international law and sovereignty as non-negotiable principles of cooperation.

Third, to confront the structural drivers of inequality – like the absence of UN Conventions on Debt and Tax – by filling these normative gaps in international law.

Without these three shifts, this forum risks becoming another space of procedural dialogue while decisions are made elsewhere. Solutions to global crises have always come from solidarity and collective action, and so the Civil Society Mechanism stands with you to defend multilateralism, and rebuild solidarity.

Unprecedented times require unprecedented solutions

This year, we are attending the FfD Forum under immense uncertainty about the state of multilateralism and, even worse, of humankind and the planet. The FfD Chronicle is mindful that a nuclear threat has been continuously made by those who believe they can get their way through extermination. In parallel, we are here in the hallways of the UN to discuss Financing for Development, while knowing that the most recent war strategy waged in the SWANA region, based on financial imperialism, is called ‘Economic Fury’.

The FfD Chronicle wants to remind the delegates in the room that Unilateral Coercive Measures are illegal, and yet these are now the core policy for an imperial multilateralism based on ‘might makes right’.

In 2025, all the signs were there that we were entering a war economy before Sevilla: development finance shifted to “defense” across the world. Now a full economic recession, if not depression, is unfolding. The FfD Chronicle still believes in a rights-based multilateralism that is exercised under the principle of Universality. For that, we insist on coming back to defend and reform the UN. The intentional financial and political erosion by Member States is in itself a crime. Citizens across the world expect much more from the UN and the Member States that have committed under the UN Charter to deliver a world that ensures dignity and integrity for all. The FfD Agenda is a key space for it since it is the door for the normative dimension that would provide structural solutions to the current mess.

These solutions cannot merely repeat the Sevilla language. We are facing unprecedented times. An emergency plan needs to be considered, while systemic agendas should be placed back at the table to respond to the needs of the population in the SWANA region and the countries impacted by economic shocks.

We always come to the FfD Forum to discuss ways in which the international economic and financial architecture can work for people and the planet. For the first time, it is clear we cannot continue pretending we will remain in silos hoping for the best. These are times for countries around the world to wake up and realize the interests of a few are pulling the world to the edge. If we don’t act now, we may be putting at risk everything that has been achieved in the past decades.

Delegates, we all are in your hands to bring serious discussions to the table, and to generate collective solutions that could address the biggest economic and financial challenges humanity and the planet are facing right now. Perhaps it is time to think beyond the FfD Forum and start coming up for continuity in our conversations.

NEW

Thematic Brief: International Financial Architecture

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