



ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD4)

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Intervention delivered at the session 'Key trends and updates across the Sevilla Commitment', Special focus on Debt and Debt Sustainability; International Development Cooperation and Development Effectiveness; and Domestic Public Resources.

Much has been said about the latest OECD data that shows that in 2025, only USD 14.3 billion or 0.26% of the total GNI of donor countries have been committed. Let that simmer.

Notwithstanding the efforts of IDC actors and institutions following Compromiso, how we respond starting today should be revisited given the current context.

First, the push for private capital, blended finance, and other financing mechanisms through IFIs to close the financing gap shifts the narrative of aid from an obligation to an investment scheme, which risks aid being utilized to generate profits and advance private sector interests instead.

Second, donor countries' own interests are becoming clearer by the day. Slashing aid budgets to ramp up military budgets, for instance, is increasing. Moreover, the post-war reconstruction, while must be supported, should not be the reason for eating up life-saving budgets for LDCs, particularly for Sub-Saharan Africa.

This huge financing imbalance should be addressed, ensuring that all recipient countries receive a fair amount of ODA that is grounded on solidarity and transparency. It is the obligation of donor countries to meet their ODA commitments, and not for recipient countries to compete for an inconsiderable and unmet amount of aid.

Aid is still a necessary and relevant form of financing to help nations and communities toward their own sustainable development, especially in the middle of today's global crises that show the importance of having national industries.

In this regard, we put forward specific recommendations:

1. For donor countries to uphold the 0.7% GNI ODA commitment as stated in para 36B of the Compromiso, as well as development effectiveness principles;
2. Redirect military and defense budgets and increase public financing to basic and life-saving social services such as education, health, and agriculture, and gender-transformative programs;
3. And lastly, provide necessary support to social and community enterprises and national programs for economic self-determination toward national industrialization and sovereignty of the Global South.

Thank you.