



**CIVIL SOCIETY
FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
Mechanism

ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD4)

NY, 20-24 April, 2026

Luiz Viera, Bretton Woods Project, on behalf of the CS FfD Mechanism.

Intervention delivered at the Special High-Level meeting with the Bretton Woods Institutions, Topic 3: Investment.

We believe that the private sector and private finance can play a key role in promoting sustainable development.

That said, we are frustrated that the discussions on the topic seem to disregard decades of academic research and the experiences of many States represented here today.

While we welcome the recent launch of the World Bank's report on industrial policy, after the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings, we left extremely concerned about the focus of the meetings on deregulation as a means for states to create a business enabling environment.

it does not seem an exaggeration to conclude that basic approach to Private Capital Mobilisation by the Global North shareholders of the IMF and the World Bank can be summarised as: We will continue to reduce ODA while increasing our military spending, are unwilling to consider debt relief or engage in the negotiation of an UN debt convention or move forward with the new issuances of or developmental use of SDRs. We therefore wish you luck with "taking charge of your own development" by 'creating an enabling environment for the private sector' – which incidentally often benefits own companies.

That is, private capital mobilisation is the only available option, regardless of its potential negative impacts.

As this forum focuses on private capital mobilisation and FDI as a panacea to address lack of action on key reforms of the international financial

architecture and global safety net, it seems appropriate to highlight a 2024 study that found that, “Between 2005 and 2020, transnational corporations repatriated an annual average of one trillion USD, corresponding each year to 4.2% of the global FDI stock.” “TNCs repatriate nearly two-thirds of the profits generated abroad through FDI, i.e. almost twice as much as they reinvest there.”

The regulatory role of the state is key to ensure that private finance plays a meaningful role in ensuring states can meet their economic transformation aspirations and human rights obligations. Discussions in Washington however deepened our scepticism that the World Bank and IMF, with their deeply undemocratic governance structures, are well placed to truly support States to pursue their National Development Plans, as was done by each of the high-income states sitting here and who continue to hold the key shareholding power at the BWIs.