Co-hosts:

AMBITION AND MOMENTUM – FINANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

Civil Society Recommendations for FfD4

The 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) will take place in Sevilla, Spain from June 30 to July 3, 2025. FfD4 is expected to catalyse the urgently needed policy change to mobilize the necessary funds for sustainable development and climate action. Therefore, it is expected to also set milestones in terms of reforming the international financial architecture.

From a civil society perspective, fundamental reforms of the international financing system are imperative for reaching sustainable development and ending global poverty and hunger. A successful FfD4 outcome must at least include ambitious agreements to systematically overhaul the international debt architecture, to advance a fair international tax system and to make multilateral financial institutions more inclusive and effective for countries of the Global South.

At our international civil society conference, we will provide in-depth insights into key issues surrounding the financing of sustainable development. The program will include workshops on the link between development finance and human rights, proposals for the taxation of high-net worth individuals and for overcoming the global debt crisis. We will also discuss ideas on how to better regulate international financial markets and on how to socially and ecologically safeguard private investments.

You will find the conference programme on the landing page. Please register here. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Nadine Mezger (n.mezger@venro.org).

We are very much looking forward to your participation!

WHEN AND WHERE?
19 February 2025, 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm (CET)

REGISTRATION
Registration Website

CONTACT
Dr Sonja Grigat
s.grigat@venro.org

PROGRAMME

12:30 **What FfD4 needs to deliver!**
Video Messages of the Conference Organizers and Conference Co-hosts

12:35 **Welcome Addresses of the Conference Organizers**

Åsa Månsson
Managing Director
Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO)

Nigussu Legesse, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA)

Dr Pallavi Rekhi
Lead- Programmes
Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

Henrique Frota
Executive Director
Association of Brazilian NGOs (Abong)

12:50 **Moderated Interview: How to Overcome the Structural Obstacles of the International System to Finance Sustainable Development?**

Prof Dr José Antonio Ocampo
Co-Director of the Economic and Political Development Concentration in the School of International and Public Affairs / Chair of the Group of Experts for the Fourth UN Conference on Financing for Development

María José Romero
Policy and Advocacy Manger for Development Finance
European Network of Debt and Development (Eurodad)

Moderation:
Dr Sonja Grigat
Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO)

13:50 **Short Break – Transition to Workshop Sessions**

14:00 **WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

Financing Rights – The Right to Finance?

This workshop explores the bi-directional relationship between development finance and the realization of economic, social, and cultural (ESC) rights. What can FfD4 provide for their progressive realization? What does it need to learn from a systematic human rights approach? Anchored in commitments like Article 2 of the International Covenant on ESC Rights, we will critically examine the financing for development agenda. Join experts to discuss pathways for a rights-driven outcome of FfD4 and discuss: How can human rights principles shape the global agenda for financing sustainable development?

Moderation:
Wolfgang Obenland, Forum Environment and Development

Inputs:
Maria Ron Balsera, Ph.D., Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)

Michael Windfuhr, German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR)

Bridging Climate and Development Finance: From Baku to Sevilla

In this workshop we will explore the intersections between climate and development finance in the aftermath of the UN Climate Change Conference in Baku (COP29) and its decision on the new finance target. What are the climate finance needs and what is the role of the polluter pays principle as a mechanism? What were the outcomes of COP29, in particular with regard to the Baku-Belém Roadmap? We will also analyze the decisions that need to be taken in Sevilla to ensure that FfD4 becomes the necessary step forward for both climate and development finance.

Moderation:
Sophie Knabner, Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO)

Inputs:
Martha Bekele, Development Transformations (DevTransform)

Julius Mbatia, Action by Churches Together (ACT Alliance)

Building a New Debt Architecture for Economic Justice: Opportunities and Obstacles in the FfD Process

How can we prevent countries from falling into recurring debt crises? Civil society actors are calling for the establishment of an inclusive and binding UN-led process which sets rules for the entire debt cycle, aiming to prevent and resolve debt crises in a human rights-centered manner. What is the essence of this proposal and how promising are the negotiations within the FfD process so far? Which countries are supportive and who is blocking? In this workshop, we will explore current dynamics, discuss future perspectives and identify action points for the months ahead.

Moderation:
Sarah Ribbert, Heinrich Böll Foundation

Inputs:
Patricia Miranda, Latin American Network for Economic and Social Justice (Latindadd)

Malina Stutz, Jubilee Germany (erlassjahr.de)

15:00 **Coffee Break – Transition to Workshop Sessions**

15:30 **WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

How Taxing Global Billionaires Can Contribute to Reduce Global Inequality?

The international tax landscape has changed dramatically since the FfD conference in Addis Ababa in 2015. Who would have imagined that by 2025 several countries would be implementing a global minimum tax on profits of multinational companies? And that a UN tax convention would be in the making? And most remarkable, that the G20 would call for an international cooperation agenda for the effective taxation of high-net-worth-individuals? In this workshop we will discuss how a global billionaires tax could contribute to filling the gaps in global tax justice and which role it should play in the discussion around sustainable development financing.

Moderation:
Sarah Ganter, Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Christoph Trautvetter, Tax Justice Network Germany

Inputs:
María Fernanda Valdés, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Rove Maria Ryding, European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)

How to Reform the International Financial Architecture for Fairer and More Equal Financing Costs?

High borrowing costs have driven debt burdens of developing countries to unprecedented levels. Two aspects contribute to the high borrowing costs: country ratings by private credit rating agencies and country risk premiums. In this workshop we will look into how both severely limit the fiscal space for poverty reduction and sustainable development of countries in the Global South. We will present proposals for their reform in order to make the international financial architecture more resilient and fairer and to make lending more affordable.

Moderation:
Verena Kroess, World Ecology and Economic Development (WEED)

Bodo Ellmer, Global Policy Forum (GPF)

Inputs:
Dr Oliver R Pahnecke, Cobden Centre

Dr Daniel Cash, Aston University

Catherine Mithia, African Forum and network on Debt and Development (Afrodad)

Make Private Finance Work for Sustainable Development – Progressive Policy Outcomes or FfD4

Private investment is seen as playing an important role in filling the huge SDG financing gap of over 4 trillion Euros per year. However, it is controversial in which sectors private investment can stimulate sustainable development and which policy frameworks need to be set. With a binding agreement on business and human rights ("UN Treaty"), private investments could be better bound to mandatory human rights due diligence obligations and environmental standards. At the same time sustainability taxonomies can help to increase transparency in financial markets and redirect capital flows to sustainable investments. We will
discuss which policy innovations within FfD4 can support the transformation of the real economy towards greater sustainability.

Moderation:
Ulrike Lohr, Suedwind Foundation
Dr Klaus Schilder, MISEREOR

Inputs:
Mará José Romero, European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)
Dr Kathrin Berensmann, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

16:30	**End of the Conference**

We thank VENRO members for their valuable contributions

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