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## **Integrated National Financing Frameworks & Open Budgets for Sustainable Development in Africa**

27-30 September 2022 – Abuja, Nigeria

### **Background**

Throughout 2020 and 2021, as the Covid-19 pandemic dealt shocks to both the sustainable development outlook and the means for financing recovery and medium- to long-term progress, interest in integrated national financing grew. The African continent has been leading in the number of countries volunteering to join the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) initiative. Currently, more than 40 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are now using the approach.

Integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) were first introduced by UN Member States in the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a country-led approach for strengthening public and private financing for sustainable development. INFFs offer a framework for bringing together the policies used to mobilise and govern public and private financing. They help governments align and strengthen the contribution of financing policies toward implementation of national development plans. They deepen the connections across financing policy areas and help build greater collaboration between public and private actors.

National processes to tailor and operationalise INFFs through national institutions are advancing. A growing number of countries is reaching the defining stage of articulating an INFF Roadmap. By the end of this year, 22 countries will have developed a Financing Strategy that identifies reforms associated with budgeting, taxation, public debt, investment, development cooperation, private sector development, diaspora investment, remittances, etc.

One of the strategic pillars of the INFF process is linked with monitoring and oversight of financing<sup>1</sup>, with a particular focus on promoting transparency throughout the budget cycle. Budget openness in SSA has seen significant progress over the last decade. The recently launched [Open Budget Survey 2021](#) reported that the average transparency score received by countries in the region was at its highest level since the survey was founded in 2006. For the 16 countries assessed in every round between 2008 and 2021, the average transparency score increased by 16 points (or a jump of about 70%), making SSA one of the best regional

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<sup>1</sup> This includes linked with Building Block 3 (monitoring and review) and 4 (governance and coordination) of INFF



improvers in the world over that period. These improvements have been achieved from a low base, however, and much work remains as confirmed through the different INFF-related roadmaps.

A growing body of evidence shows that countries that have more open budgeting systems have stronger democracies, greater equity and better development outcomes.<sup>2</sup> Higher levels of transparency are also associated with lower debt levels and improved debt management, more accurate revenue projections and better credit ratings, which, in turn, can help attract investment and reduce sovereign borrowing costs. Increased public participation in budgeting can also lead to more efficient and effective expenditures of public resources towards SDG-aligned priorities. It is clear that improving progress on human capital and sustainable development requires improving budget transparency, mechanisms for the public to contribute to budgeting processes, and Parliamentary and audit oversight.

Decisions regarding expenditures directed to national recovery affect whether and how governments build back more equitable economies and societies that are also resilient to climate change and deliver on the SDGs. In Africa, as elsewhere in the world, efforts to promote open budgeting practices—through systems that are transparent, open to public engagement and scrutiny, and that receive strong oversight from independent institutions—have contributed to more efficient spending and improved outcomes in human capital.

In this context, beginning on Day 3 of the workshop, government officials will be joined by the Open Budget Survey civil society researchers from their countries. Together, they will take stock of countries' investments in human capital and the openness of their budgets. They will also develop draft country-level action plans to improve budget openness and to increase support for social sectors and efforts to combat climate change.

Two and a half years from the initial commitments made by INFF pioneers to operationalise the INFF approach, and at a time when many countries will launch their financing strategies and introduce specific public or private related financing reforms, it is important to gather again, reflect and plan forward. The proposed four-day regional workshop, conducted within the framework of the INFF Facility and the regional budget transparency initiative, will bring the African INFF community of practice together with other senior decision makers to share ongoing experiences in drafting Financing Strategies, setting up SDG Financing Dialogues and implementing open budget reforms. The event will also discuss emerging topics – disaster risk management and the green/climate agenda, fiscal decentralization, fostering a human-centred and green recovery amidst multiple shocks (the pandemic, climate events, conflict, macroeconomic volatility, fiscal austerity), etc.

### Workshop goals

1. Strengthen the INFF capacities of government officials, UN staff and other stakeholders with special focus on setting up SDG Financing Dialogues, developing Financing Strategies and promoting budget openness.<sup>3</sup>
2. Promote knowledge-sharing among countries, including brainstorming around lessons learned and the dos and the don'ts.
3. Generate a regional dialogue around emerging trends and issues that affect the rollout of INFFs and open budget reforms.

### Methodology and evaluation

The workshop will be held over four days in a hybrid format. Participants will be provided with access to a virtual learning environment prior to the workshop, and Zoom video conferencing details will be shared in due course.

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<sup>2</sup> IBP (2022) [Open Budget Survey 2021](#).

<sup>3</sup> As per the Building Block 2, Building Block 3 and Building Block 4 of the INFF Methodology respectively.



Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French and Portuguese. All recordings, modules and materials will be made available online to participants at the end of the workshop.

Assessments will be conducted at the beginning and end to ascertain the specialized knowledge acquired by participants. Participants will also be invited to provide feedback on the sessions at the end of the workshop.

### Target audience

The workshop has been designed primarily for senior officials and INFF focal points from governments in SSA, including those working at ministries of finance, planning and economic development. Researchers from academic institutions, other regional stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, IFIs and EU and representatives of civil society will also benefit from the workshop. Invitations to nominate government participants will be sent via Resident Coordinator Offices while invitations to regional partners and CSOs will be sent via ECA, UNDP, UNICEF and International Budget Partnership (IBP) focal points.

For further information, please contact Ms. Orria Goni (email: [orria.goni@undp.org](mailto:orria.goni@undp.org)), Ms. Farzana Sharmin (email: [sharmin@un.org](mailto:sharmin@un.org)), Mr. Matthew Cummins ([mcummins@unicef.org](mailto:mcummins@unicef.org)) and Mr. David Robins ([drobins@internationalbudget.org](mailto:drobins@internationalbudget.org)).



## Programme\*

### The continental workshop on Integrated National Financing Frameworks & Open Budgets for Sustainable Development in Africa

Day 1 – Tuesday, 27 September 2022	
8:30–9:00	Signature and registration of participants Connection check/logging on to platform for remote participants
9:00–10:30	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Matthias Schmale UN RC Nigeria</li> <li>• Mr. Ayodele Odusola, Africa Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP</li> <li>• Regional UNICEF Representative (tbc)</li> <li>• Mr. Adam Elhiraika, Director Macroeconomics and Governance Division, UNECA</li> <li>• Ms. Sharon Spiegel, Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UNDESA</li> <li>• Representative from INFF Facility (tbc)</li> <li>• Representative from IMF or another IFI</li> </ul> <p>Welcome Remarks by Host Government. HE Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed. Minister of Finance of the Republic of Nigeria.</p> <p>Review of the Agenda with participants <i>Moderated by Bob Muchabaiwa (UNICEF)</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
11:00–12:30	An overview of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing Outlook in Africa by Gamal Ibrahim, Chief, Economic Governance and Public Finance Division, UNECA</li> <li>• The INFF landscape in Africa (from INFF roadmaps) by Orria Goni, UNDP</li> <li>• The INFF Facility (its scope, process, partnerships) by Tim Strawson, UNDP</li> </ul> <p>Discussion in small groups – Q&amp;A and feedback from the participants <i>Moderated by Yanis Burgsdorff (UN DESA)</i></p>
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 –15:00	Sharing of country experiences in the <b>Inception Phase &amp; INFF Roadmaps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Burkina Faso TBC</li> <li>- Guinee TBC</li> <li>- Botswana TBC</li> <li>- Algeria – the Pilot case for Risk Management into INFF BBs (TBC)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session - Group activity <i>Moderated by Farzana Sharmin (UNECA)</i></p>
15:00 -15:15	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
15:15 -16:30	SDG Financing Strategies – its methodology – recap and the checklist by Natalia Aristizabal Mora, UNDESA - TBC) Sharing of country experiences in the Drafting of the <b>Financing Strategies</b> <b>Overall INFF Financing Strategies Methodology (Recap session)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comoros TBC</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nigeria TBC</li> <li>- Malawi TBC</li> <li>- Tanzania TBC</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session - Group activity <i>Moderated by Tom Beloe (UNDP)</i></p>
16:30 – 17:30	<p><b>Preparation of the Country INFF “Market Place”</b></p> <p>Work at country level to prepare their “stand” to showcase their INFF process – proposing what can be shared and what they would like to learn from other countries (indicating countries and thematic areas)</p>
17:30 – 17:45	<p>Wrap up – and preparation for next day <i>By INFF Global team lead – Tim Strawson (UNDP)</i></p>
	DINNER EVENT FOR NETWORKING
<b>Day 2 – Wednesday, 28 September 2022</b>	
9:00 – 10:30	<p><b>INFF Market Place</b></p> <p>Each country has a stand where they present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- their key steps and milestones achieved (plans, policies, including ongoing reforms)</li> <li>- offer their proposed expertise on 1 area for further south-south exchange (and ask for expertise on another area).</li> </ul> <p>There will be one person in the Stand and the rest will rotate and discover what other countries can offer</p>
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE OR TEA BREAK
11:00 – 12:00	<p>In-Depth Thematic Discussions: <b>Integrating Climate into the INFF process</b></p> <p>Presentation from Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “INFF and Climate Change Deep-dive Report” (UN DESA)</li> <li>- Climate Promise – COP 27 – Africa Climate Week key take aways from Gabon as host</li> <li>- The NDC Financing Strategies as part of the INFF Financing Strategies (ECA to propose country – Mauritania/Nigeria)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session - Group activity <i>Moderated by Joanne Manda (UNDP)</i></p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>In Depth Thematic Discussion: Unlocking Private Capital as part of the Financing Strategies and INFF process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rwanda Case Study (G20 Paper)</li> <li>- Investors Mapping – how IOA should be reflected in the Financing Strategies (case of Nigeria/Malawi)</li> <li>- SDGs Investment Fairs – successful case of Ghana</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session - Group activity <i>Moderated by SIDA - TBC</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:00	<p>In Depth Thematic Discussion: <b>Debt Management and Debt Instruments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- External Debt Restructuring – the case of Zambia and IMF</li> <li>- Green and Diaspora Bonds, Nigeria</li> <li>- Debt Swap Mechanisms – the case of Cabo Verde</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session - Group activity <i>Moderated by IMF - TBC</i></p>
15:00 – 15:30	COFFEE OR TEA BREAK
15:30 – 16:30	In-Depth Thematic Discussions: DRM/Tax related Reforms as part of INFF process



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MTRS and INFF Deep-Dive (DESA) – the case of Rwanda (TBC)</li> <li>- Ongoing work through the Tax for SDGs – The case of Tanzania</li> <li>- D11 ECA/UNCTAD – Evidence based DRM reforms building on qualitative and quantitative research BY Farzana Sharmin (UNECA)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session - Group activity  <i>Moderated by Matthew Cummins Social Policy Regional Adviser, UNICEF</i></p>
16:30 – 17:30	<p>In-Depth Thematic Discussions: <b>Local Finance and Decentralization</b>. Presentation from Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building SDG Ambassadors at district level in Sierra Leone</li> <li>- The Devolution Project in Kenya TBC</li> <li>- What partners can bring on board - FMDV</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session - Group activity  <i>Moderated by Orria Goni (UNDP)</i></p>
17:30-18:30	<p><b>Global Perspective:</b> What’s happening across the world? How will this relate to African contexts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin (TBC), discussing Budgets for Climate, Sustainability and Inclusiveness</li> <li>• Representative from the IMF (TBC), on work to advance SDG Budgeting, INFFs, and transparency</li> <li>• Mr. Marcos Neto / Mr. Tom Beloe (TBC), outlining the work of the INFF Facility and Global Finance Flagship</li> <li>• Ms. Natalia Winder-Rossi (TBC), Director, Social Policy and Social Protection, UNICEF HQ, outlining UNICEF’s work on PFM for SDGs and the Global Finance Flagship</li> <li>• Representative of IBP (TBC) Role of Open Budgets in delivering SDGs</li> </ul>
18:30 – 18:45	Wrap up – and preparation for next day
	DINNER EVENT
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Thursday, 29 September 2022</b>
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p><b>Open Budgets to Deliver the SDGs.</b> Rationale for Reforms and Impacts on Human Capital and a Green Recovery:  Benefits for improving fiscal transparency, accountability and participation practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most improved: The Gambia</li> <li>• UNICEF ongoing regional work and perspectives</li> <li>• UNDP ongoing country level work on SDG Budgeting in the INFF context</li> <li>• Mary Afan, SWOFON</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A from the floor  <i>Moderated by Tim Strawson (TBC), Transparency and Building Blocks 3 and 4 of the INFFs and IBP</i></p>
10:00 – 10:30	GROUP PHOTO & COFFEE OR TEA BREAK
10:30 – 12:30	<p><b>Open Budget Survey (OBS)</b> Presentation by International Budget Partnership (IBP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review the OBS research process</li> <li>- Present the regional trends</li> <li>- Explore country-specific results</li> </ul>



	Q&A from the floor <i>Moderated by Paul Quarles Van Ufford, Social Policy Regional Adviser, UNICEF</i>
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30 – 15:30	<p>What Works? Reforms and Innovations to Improve <b>Budget Openness for Sustainable Development</b>. Country success stories and lessons, including on legislative frameworks, administrative and institutional reforms, and budget templates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The link between PFM and SDGs – PSAM or Social Justice</li> <li>- Open Budget Process for SDGs in Benin (Direction Générale du Budget and Social Watch Benin)</li> <li>- How to sustain open budget practices via civil society and government collaboration – Uganda</li> <li>- Improving budget credibility for SDGs (aligning COA for tracking SDGs expenditure): The case of Ghana</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session - Group activity <i>Moderated by Nohman Ishtiaq, Global SDG Budgeting Advisor, UNDP</i></p>
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE OR TEA BREAK
16:00 – 17:00	<p><b>Open Budget Reform Strategies:</b> Identify potential challenges and opportunities for PFM and public participation reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perspectives of Host Government – Nigeria DG Budget</li> <li>- Zimbabwe – using the Open Budget Survey as a tool to drive reform including Programme-Based Budgeting</li> <li>- South Africa – The National Treasury’s new pre-budget consultations</li> <li>- Perspectives from civil society – BudgIT Nigeria</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderated by Tim Strawson, UNDP</i></p>
	DINNER (no event planned)
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Friday, 30 September 2022</b>
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of Previous days and Introduction to the Working Group Sessions of the day <i>Moderated by Natalia Aristizabal (UNDESA)</i>
9:15 – 12:00	<p>Strategies to Enhance Budget Openness and Investment in Human Capital and a Green Recovery: Action Planning (working tea/coffee break). <i>Work in small/country Groups to Develop an action plan to improve and sustain budget openness and the impact of spending on social and green sectors</i></p> <p>Facilitators: Michael Castro, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF, and IBP</p>
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 14:00	Sharing of strategies and how countries can be supported in reform efforts
14:00 – 15:00	Looking ahead: Key Milestones <i>Moderated by Tom Beloe (UNDP) and IBP</i>
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-workshop assessment and feedback poll (15 mins)</li> <li>• Closing remarks by partner organizations (15 mins) -UNDP, UNICEF, IBP, ECA, DESA</li> </ul>

\*All times given are from the Location of the workshop

