

# 2025 INFF Facility Partner Meeting

SESSION SIX

## Development Cooperation and Sovereign Financing Priorities

**Date and time:** 17:00-18:00, Jan 22, 2025

**Session focal point:** yali.wang@undp.org

### Background

Development cooperation is a critical enabler in achieving the SDGs by 2030. However, since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, progress toward high-quality and impactful international development cooperation has been uneven. In recent years, focus has shifted away from effectiveness principles, contributing to stagnation in the share of ODA reaching partner countries. While untying aid has advanced, limited progress has been made in fostering country ownership, a cornerstone of effective development cooperation. At the same time, the growing diversity of bilateral, multilateral, and philanthropic finance providers has led to greater fragmentation and higher transaction costs, undermining the efficiency and impact of development efforts.<sup>1</sup>

This evolving landscape highlights the need for a renewed focus on development finance effectiveness, guided by principles of alignment, coherence, and accountability. Strengthening country ownership remains central to this agenda and begins with robust, nationally driven development plans and sovereign financing frameworks. Over the past decade, governments have made significant strides in integrating the 2030 Agenda into national strategies, with 90% of strategies approved since 2015 explicitly referencing the SDGs. However, the alignment of development partners with country-led priorities is declining. For instance, while 83% of projects approved in 2018 aligned their objectives with national priorities, only 59% used results indicators drawn from country-owned frameworks, highlighting persistent gaps in ensuring effective cooperation.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/IDC\\_Background%20Note.pdf](https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/IDC_Background%20Note.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://financing.desa.un.org/iatf/action-areas/international-development-cooperation/development-effectiveness>

The increasing complexity of the global financial landscape has also created a growing demand for targeted technical assistance to support countries in implementing financing reforms. According to the 2023 INFF Survey, over 70 countries identified priorities such as sustainable finance, tax reforms, public-private partnerships, and climate finance. Addressing these needs requires a brokering mechanism to connect countries with tailored technical expertise and foster collaboration among traditional and non-traditional development partners. Such mechanisms can play a critical role in reducing fragmentation, promoting alignment, and building long-term capacity.

The INFFs provides a country-led approach that can contribute toward a renewed emphasis on development finance effectiveness. The FfD 4 Outcome Zero Draft propose strengthening country-led plans and strategies, such as INFFs, as a basis for engaging with all development partners, and calls for inclusive country-led national platforms for improved coordination with development partners to be put in place to support these national plans and strategies. By providing a basis to align international support with national financing priorities, INFFs can help broker technical assistance, strengthen coordination, and enhance the impact of development finance efforts in line with national priorities.

Building on the recommendation from the FfD 4 Outcome Zero Draft, this session will bring together government representatives, development cooperation agencies, international financial institutes and civil society to discuss the alignment of development cooperation initiatives with country-led financing priorities as articulated through INFFs. The discussion will explore innovative approaches and opportunities to enhance coherence, effectiveness, and impact in development finance cooperation.

## Objectives

- **Explore country experiences** on how INFFs can enhance the alignment of development cooperation with country priorities, strengthening ownership and coherence in financing strategies.
- **Discuss evolving technical capacity needs** for navigating the complex global financing landscape and identify how development partners can respond effectively with tailored technical assistance and capacity-building (TACB) support.
- **Identify** commitments to be advanced through the FfD 4 outcome, focusing on improving the alignment of development finance programming with the INFFs and enhancing TACB support through the INFFs.

## Guiding questions

- How can INFFs help development partners, donors, and governments work together to improve coordination, coherence, and transparency in development cooperation,

ensuring that resources are used efficiently and align with national development priorities?

- What are the key technical capacity needs at the country level for navigating the complex financing landscape, and how can development partners respond effectively with tailored TACB support?
- What are the key factors required to ensure that development cooperation supports long-term resilience and sustainable outcomes while remaining agility to respond to evolving national priorities and challenges?

## Agenda

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
3 mins	<b>Introduction</b>	Moderator: <b>Nergis Gulasan</b> , SDG Finance and Innovative Finance Specialist, UNDP
30 mins	<b>Panel/roundtable/workshop discussion</b>  5-6 minutes per panellist	Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ernesto Soberón Guzmán</b>, Ambassador, Cuban Mission to the United Nations</li> <li>• <b>Nana Yaw Yankah</b>, Principal Economist, Ministry of Finance, Ghana</li> <li>• <b>Luca De Fraia</b>, Deputy Secretary General, Action Aid Italia and CSO FfD Mechanism</li> <li>• <b>Olivier Cattaneo</b>, Head, Policy Analysis and Strategy Unit, OECD DAC</li> <li>• <b>Blanca Yanez</b>, Head of the Department for Multilateral Cooperation, AECID</li> <li>• <b>Anderson Caputo</b>, Division Chief, Connectivity, Markets and Finance, Inter-American Development Bank</li> </ul>
22 mins	<b>Discussion</b>	
5 mins	<b>Key takeaways</b>	Moderator