



**CIVIL SOCIETY
FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
Mechanism

To the kind attention of:

Co-Facilitators of the FfD4 Outcome Document (Permanent Representatives of Mexico, Norway, Zambia and Nepal)

Cc:

Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for FfD4
Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations in New York
United Nations Secretariat, Agencies and Programmes

2 June 2025

Re: Civil society urges FfD4 co-facilitators to uphold ambition in FfD4 Outcome text before silence procedure

Your Excellencies,

The Civil Society FfD Mechanism, an open platform of several hundreds of civil society organizations, networks and federations from around the world, have been consistently [engaged](#) throughout the FfD4 process calling for a truly transformational outcome document that re-designs global economic governance to promote democratic multilateralism under UN auspices.

We are therefore extremely concerned with the current low level of ambition in the negotiations that maintains status quo and the continued blockage, particularly by Global North countries, to ensuring meaningful, actionable, multilateral commitments. This has been further compounded by the decision of the co-facilitators to close this week's intersessional to observers and proceed with new text negotiations behind closed doors, without transparency or civil society participation. Ambition is never built behind closed doors, and we continue to oppose these worrying modalities.

It is in this context that **we are calling on the co-facilitators to ensure that the last shreds of ambition are not wiped out as they work on tabling the text to be placed under 'silence procedure'**. We expect that the concerns and demands of Global South countries – backed up by civil society [inputs](#) across the document are reflected in all decisions being made on the text.

In particular, we expect that paragraph 43.e) alt2 on establishing an intergovernmental process to agree a UN Convention on Sovereign Debt is retained. The worsening debt situation of countries in the Global South takes place under a system that is creditor driven, where debt is another colonial instrument that sustains economic power and decision-making in few hands. The long-overdue reform of the debt architecture, through a legally binding UN convention that ensures all countries are at the table on equal footing is therefore a non-negotiable for civil society. The negotiations have exposed the explicit call for a UN intergovernmental process to agree a UN Convention on Sovereign Debt by many Global South countries, including the [Alliance of Small Island States](#) (AOSIS) and the [Africa Group](#). **With such a wide base of support, the decision not to retain para 43.e) alt 2 would expose a clear and unacceptable bias in favour of Global North countries in protection of the status quo.**

In addition, we also expect the retention of paragraphs strengthening the ‘norm-setting’ mandate of United Nations on International Development Cooperation (IDC), initiate a multilateral process at the UN to agree on a shared understanding of ODA parameters and develop a new framework that ensures equity, effectiveness, and accountability. As we witness rich countries slash ODA budgets and retreat from their responsibilities with little recourse or accountability, while simultaneously increasing their defense spending, we believe it is high time for UN Member States to develop a new normative framework on IDC. This should be agreed in the UN through inclusive, transparent and open negotiations on a legally binding IDC convention, to shift the narrative which underpins ODA from a perspective of charity to one of reparations, recognizing and addressing historical injustices.

Closed-door negotiations that exclude observers and lack transparency are an unacceptable practice that risks tarnishing the legacy of the entire FfD process and must not be used as a means to strip the document of its remaining meaningful commitments. Choosing to table such a draft outcome under silence procedure would mean co-facilitators effectively cement the erasure of all ambition before the FfD4 conference even begins in Sevilla. We reiterate our call to all UN Member States to negotiate in good faith and register their support for these key proposals to ensure a bold FfD4 outcome which shows multilateralism is alive and kicking and that the international community is ready to face global challenges in a spirit of equity, solidarity and justice.

Sincerely yours,

Coordination Group of the Civil Society Financing for Development Mechanism (www.csoforffd.org)
The governance system and working procedures of the Mechanism are available on the website along with the full list of the members of the Coordination Group, exposing its scope, extent and diversity.