



International Debt Management Conference

14th session

Programme (Provisional)

17–19 March 2025, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CET)

Room XIX, Level 3 of E-Building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Innovative and resilient debt management: managing risks and navigating crises

Monday, 17 March

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Opening plenary

Opening remarks Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Keynote addresses

- H.E. Ms. Mia Amor Mottley, S.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Barbados
- H.E. Mr. Christian David Duarte Chavez, Secretary of State, Office of Finance, Honduras
- H.E. Mr. Thirong Pen, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia
- H.E. Ms. Rindra Hasimbelo Rabarinirinarison, Minister of Economy and Finance, Madagascar

Panel 1 Searching for Solutions: Breaking out of the Debt Morass?

In the context of massive financing gaps to achieve the SDGs and debt servicing costs draining resources available for development there are several UN processes underway to address the debt and development crisis. The UNSG recently appointed an Expert group to provide practical solutions to break out of the development morass and galvanize support for action on debt. This Panel will provide insights from current international initiatives working for solutions including, the G20, the Pact for the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development.

Moderator: Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Panellists:

Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, the United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Former European Commissioner for Economy

Mr. Xolisa Mabhongo, Ambassador, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) of South Africa; South Africa G20 Sous-Sherpa

Mr. Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Brazil to UNCTAD, WTO and other economic international organizations in Geneva

3 –6 p.m. Plenary

Panel 2 Liquidity vs Solvency: Debates Around Debt Sustainability and Development

3 –4:30 p.m.

Since the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework of the COVID-19 period, there has been much debate as to whether developing countries are experiencing liquidity or solvency problems, and how the solutions can be best framed to ensure that development is not compromised by privileging costly debt servicing. This panel considers aspects of this debate and ongoing changes in diagnostics including debt sustainability analyses.

Moderator: Mr. Luiz Vieira, Coordinator, Bretton Woods Project

Panellists:

Mr. Patrick Njoroge, Former Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya

Ms. Allison Holland, Assistant Director for Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Ms. Shanti Bobin, Vice-Chairperson, Paris Club

Mr. Patrick Ndzana Olomo, Head of Division for Economic Policy and Sustainable Development, African Union Commission



Panel 3 4:30 –6 p.m.	<p>Legal Tools: Consensus Building and Rulemaking in a Fragmented Debt Landscape</p> <p>Rule-making initiatives, whether soft or hard law, are crucial to building consensus tackling unsustainable debt. Soft law instruments such as the UNCTAD Principles on Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing identify overarching rules in response to the problems in sovereign debt practices. While not legally binding, they are critical in fostering country consensus on guiding norms. Contractual innovations and domestic legislation can assist where international norms are absent. This panel will discuss legislative efforts, contractual tools, and soft law.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Yuefen Li, Senior Adviser on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance, South Center</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Ms. Penelope Hawkins, Officer in Charge, Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD</p> <p>Mr. Eric LeCompte, Executive Director, Jubilee USA Network</p> <p>Ms. Anna Gelpern, Professor of Law and International Finance, Georgetown University</p> <p>Mr. Daniel Reichert-Facilides, Senior Counsel, Chatham Partners</p>
Cocktail 6 – 7:30 p.m.	<p>Venue: Serpent bar, Level 1 of E Building, Palais des Nations</p>

Tuesday, 18 March

Side Event 9 –10 a.m.	<p>Roundtable on Currency Risk and Debt Sustainability</p> <p>Organized by The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX)</p> <p>Room XXVI, Level 1 of E building, Palais des Nations</p>
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	<p>Plenary</p>
Panel 4 10 –11:30 a.m.	<p>Governance, Accountability and Transparency in a World of Fiscal Constraints</p> <p>Public debt accountability is vital during both prosperous and challenging times. Regular and transparent debt data dissemination, along with robust parliamentary oversight and comprehensive audits, are essential components of good governance in debt management. Accountability in the fiscal realm is key to ensure effective management of public finances as well as long term debt sustainability. This panel will explore how governments have adopted measures to strengthen public debt governance and accountability through transparent reporting, parliamentary oversight, comprehensive audits, and well-designed fiscal rules.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Jayant Sinha, Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General, Supreme Audit Institution of India, representing the Chair of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>H.E. Abubaker Hussein Omar Al-Saggaf, President, Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA), Yemen</p>



Mr. Peter Schwendener, Deputy Director, Federal Finance Administration, Switzerland

Mr. David Rebelo Athayde, Undersecretary for Fiscal Policy Strategic Planning, Ministry of Finance, Brazil

Mr. Niranjana Sarangi, Acting Cluster Leader, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Panel 5

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Debt-climate Nexus: Innovative Debt Instruments to Manage Fiscal Risk

Developing countries with high debt and climate vulnerabilities face a vicious cycle where disaster recovery and climate-resilient structural transformation require investment, leading to costly borrowing increase and deteriorated debt sustainability, perpetuating underinvestment in climate actions. Novel financial instruments are needed to enhance flexibility and resilience in public debt management amid shifting economic challenges. This panel will delve into innovative debt instruments that can equip policymakers and practitioners to effectively navigate complex debt landscapes and break out the debt-climate vicious cycle.

Moderator: Ms. Celine Tan, Professor of International Economic Law, University of Warwick

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. João Augusto Ribeiro Nardes, Minister, Federal Court of Accounts, Brazil

Ms. Sharon Almanza, Treasurer of the Philippines, Department of Finance of the Philippines

Ms. Natalia Turdyeva, Head of Branch, Research and Forecasting Department, Bank of Russia

Ms. Jill Dauchy, Founder and Chief Executive, Potomac Group

Ms. Nicole Kearse, Head of Sovereign Finance, African Legal Support Facility, African Development Bank Group

Side Event

1–3 p.m.

A U.N. Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt – a solution to FFD4?

Organized by African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung African Union Cooperation (FES-AU)

Room XXVI, E-building, Palais des Nations

3–6 p.m.

Plenary

Panel 6

3–4:30 p.m.

Elevating Debt Transparency: Rethinking Reporting and Ensuring Quality Standards

In today's interconnected financial landscape, the accuracy and reliability of debt data are essential for fostering trust and facilitating sound policymaking. This session explores the significance of robust debt statistics and data quality, highlighting the best practices and international standards that drive transparency and ensure effective debt management. It explores methodologies for collecting, compiling, disseminating, and interpreting debt statistics, covering the evolving global requirements aimed at fostering transparency in debt reporting.

Moderator: Mr. Taichi Sakano, Senior Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



Panellists:

Mr. Joao Silva, Senior Economist, Development Data Group, World Bank

Mr. Bruno Rocha, Senior Economist, Government Finance Division,
Statistics Department, IMF

Ms. Tina Leboussi, Deputy Director General of Debt, Ministry of Finance,
Gabon

Mr. John Pasipanodya Maketo, Executive Director, Zimbabwe Coalition
on Debt & Development

Panel 7
4:30–6 p.m.

**Strategies for Managing Institutional Challenges for a Sustainable
Debt Management Office**

A skilled and sustainable debt management office is essential to producing quality debt data and statistics. Addressing capacity-building needs and managing staff turnover are key priorities in achieving this. The specialized and technical nature of debt management results in the difficulties to recruit and retain staff. High staff turnover creates substantial disruptions, compounded by factors such as unplanned reassignments, low incentives, and private sector competition for human resources. This panel explores strategies for managing institutional challenges for sustainable debt management offices.

Moderator: Mr. Hauke Maas, Head of component, Global Policy, German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ)

Panellists:

Mr. Jacob, Mkandawire, Director of the Debt Management Programme,
Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and
Southern Africa (MEFMI)

Mr. Hakan Yavuz, Senior Debt Specialist, World Bank

Ms. Maly Dwarkasing, Administrator General, Suriname Debt
Management Office

Ms. Judith Nabaasa, Director General of Debt Management, Ministry of
Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda

Wednesday, 19 March

10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Plenary

Panel 8
10 –11:30 a.m.

Making Connections: Public Debt and IFMIS Challenges

Integrating public debt management with other core components of public financial management — such as treasury, budgeting and accounting — enhances financial oversight, reduces risk and supports better fiscal governance. But how does a government connect the distinctive features of a debt management system to other components of a public financial management system? What are the factors to consider? What are the challenges? And what is best practice? This panel will include country case studies as well as Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) experts.

Moderator: Mr. Marcelo Tricarico, Independent Debt/IFMIS Expert

Panellists:

Mr. David Colmenares Paramo, Auditor General, Mexico

Ms. Lucia Marlene Correa Godoy, Head of the External Public Debt



Records Department, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Paraguay
Ms. Patricia Farah, Coordinator of the Federal Fiscal Committee,
Argentina
Ms. Delphine Moretti, Lead, Working Party on Public Financial
Management and Reporting, the Organization for Economic Cooperation
and Development (OECD)

Panel 9

11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

**New Requirements for Debt Management Systems: How Are They
Measuring up?**

Debt trends and advancements in information technology are evolving rapidly, adding new layers of complexity to effective debt management. This growing complexity necessitates updated requirements for debt management systems. This panel explores these emerging requirements and examines the current and planned support from the international community aimed at assisting governments to strengthen their debt management capacities in a sustainable way. It delves into areas such as system enhancements, capacity development, and technical assistance, while also identifying additional measures needed to address future challenges effectively.

Moderator: Mr. Malack Luhanga, Assistant Director, Debt Data Management, Ministry of Finance and National Planning of Zambia

Panellists:

Mr. Vikas Pandey, Business Analyst, Debt Management Unit,
Commonwealth Secretariat

Ms. Lilia Razlog, Senior Debt Specialist, Macroeconomics and Fiscal
Management Global Practice of the World Bank

Ms. Carina Sugden, Lead Governance Officer, AfDB

Mr. Otavio Medeiros, Chief, Debt Management and Financial Analysis
System (DMFAS) Programme, UNCTAD

12:30 – 1 p.m.

Closing remarks of the 14th Debt Management Conference

Ms. Penelope Hawkins, Officer in Charge, Debt and Development Finance
Branch, UNCTAD

**The conference will be immediately followed by
a demonstration of DMFAS Version 7 for interested participants.**

