

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

## Second session

7–9 November 2018  
Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

### PROVISIONAL MEETING PROGRAMME

| Wednesday, 7 November 2018 |  |
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| 10–11.30 a.m.              | <p><b>Opening remarks:</b> H.E. Mr. Salim Baddoura, President of the Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD</p> <p><b>Item 1</b> – Election of officers</p> <p><b>Item 2</b> – Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p> <p><b>Item 3</b> – Financing for development: Debt and debt sustainability, and interrelated systemic issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés</b>, President, United Nations General Assembly (video)</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Inga Rhonda King</b>, President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (video)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Isabelle Durant</b>, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>Presentation of the issues note by the UNCTAD secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright</b>, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>General statements (floor)</p>  |
| 11.30 am–<br>1 p.m.        | <p><b>Item 3 (continued)</b></p> <p><b>Session 1: New debt vulnerabilities in developing countries – the current landscape</b></p> <p>The deterioration of external debt sustainability across developing countries has been a matter of growing concern for policymakers and analysts over recent years. In addition to rising debt burdens, the increasing complexity of debt compositions, emergence of new lenders and new debt instruments and blurring of boundaries between domestic and external debt, as well as rising levels of corporate indebtedness, have profoundly changed the landscape of developing country debt and associated vulnerabilities. New and rising debt vulnerabilities in the developing world are of particular concern in the context of ambitious investment requirements for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This session will set the stage by analysing the main drivers of emerging debt crises and considering the core challenges developing countries, and the international community face, to mitigate these.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> H.E. Mr. Jorge Valero, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Jomo K. Sundaram</b>, Professor, Tun Hussein Onn Chair of International Studies, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Daniela Gabor</b>, Associate Professor in Economics, University of West England, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Gary Dymski</b>, Chair in Applied Economics, Leeds University Business School, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</li> </ul> <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p> |

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| 1–3 p.m.    | <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>  |
| 3–5 p.m.    | <p><b>Item 3 (continued)</b><br/> <b>Session 2: Systemic risk and the global drivers of developing country financial vulnerabilities: Reform needs and policy options</b></p> <p>There is widespread agreement that the high volatility of private capital flows is a core cause of rising incidences of developing country financial and debt distress. The current international monetary and financial system seems to provide little, if any, protection against exogenous financial shocks to economies in the process of structural transformation. If anything, the volatility and instability of international capital flows has increased rather than declined in the decade since the global financial crisis. What reforms of the international monetary system could facilitate a more development-friendly global macroeconomic and financial environment? Which priorities should the international policy agenda for development finance set to ensure that developing country debt sustainability remains compatible with the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources to meet the Sustainable Development Goals?</p> <p><b>Moderator: H.E. Mr Carlos Morales</b>, , Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Jan Kregel</b>, Professor, Director of Research, Levy Economics Institute, Bard College, United States of America</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jan Toporowski</b>, Professor of Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies, United Kingdom</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jochen Schanz</b>, Senior Economist, Monetary and Economic Department, Emerging Markets, Bank for International Settlements, Switzerland</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Martin Guzman</b>, Associate Research Scholar, Columbia University Graduate School of Business, United States, and Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Buenos Aires</li> </ul> <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p> |
| 5–6 p.m.    | <b>Negotiations: Draft agreed policy recommendations</b>  |
| 6–7.30 p.m. | <b>COCKTAIL RECEPTION</b><br>[HOSTED BY FRIEDRICH-EBERT FOUNDATION]   |

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| <b>Thursday, 8 November 2018</b> |  |
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| 10–10.15 a.m.                    | <b>Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development:</b><br>Summary of day 1   |
| 10.15 a.m.–<br>12 p.m.           | <p><b>Item 3 (continued)</b><br/> <b>Session 3: The middle income trap, environmental vulnerability and sovereign debt sustainability: Experiences and policy responses</b></p> <p>As the Addis Ababa Action Agenda explicitly recognizes that middle-income developing countries “still face significant challenges to achieve sustainable development” (para. 71). Widespread structural stagnation in these economies is compounded not only by protracted sluggish growth in the global economy, but also by some of the steepest increases in debt burdens, leverage and maturity mismatches in a context of non-eligibility to concessional international finance and rapid integration into international financial markets. Many small island developing States that are mostly also middle-income countries face additional constraints arising from their environmental vulnerability and their increasingly regular exposure to natural disasters. This session will discuss the specific</p> |

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|           | <p>challenges faced by this group of developing countries and the policy responses required to adequately meet those challenges.</p> <p><b>Moderator: H.E Mr. Chad Blackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray</b>, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, New York</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Cristina Lopes Da Silva Duarte</b>, former Minister of Finance and Planning, Cabo Verde</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Dillion Alleyne</b>, Deputy Director, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jürgen Kaiser</b>, Coordinator, Jubilee-Germany</li> </ul> <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p>   |
| 12–1 p.m. | <b>Negotiations: Draft agreed policy recommendations</b>   |
| 1–2 p.m.  | <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>   |
| 2–3 p.m.  | <b>Negotiations: Draft agreed policy recommendations</b>   |
| 3–5 p.m.  | <p><b>Item 3 (continued)</b><br/> <b>Session 4: Debt vulnerabilities in least developed economies: Domestic and multilateral policy priorities and options</b></p> <p>While rising debt and financial vulnerabilities are generic to all developing economies, least developed economies are particularly hard hit, not only since their levels of resilience are generally lower, but also because their shallow domestic financial systems are the least well equipped to withstand exogenous financial shocks. In addition, debt data quality is often still poor. Much of the current policy debate in international forums has therefore focused on how the international community can support improvements in downstream debt management in these economies and, more generally, help to increase debt transparency. This panel reviews and discusses both domestic and international policy options to address specific aspects of debt distress in least developed economies. As these economies in particular are also subject to debt sustainability assessments by international organizations, an important related policy question concerns the determinants of debt sustainability. More precisely, what makes a debt sustainable or unsustainable in any given economic context?</p> <p><b>Moderator: H.E Mr. Modest Mero</b>, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations in New York</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Kako Nubukpo</b>, Professor of Economics, University of Lomé, Togo</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Boris Gamarra</b>, Deputy Practice Manager, Global Macro and Debt Analytics, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment, World Bank Group</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Gerry Teeling</b>, Chief, Debt Management and Financial Analysis System, UNCTAD</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Rosa Maria Lastra</b>, Professor of International Financial and Monetary Law, Queen Mary College London, United Kingdom</li> </ul> <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p> |
| 5–6 p.m.  | <b>Negotiations: Draft agreed policy recommendations</b>   |

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| <b>Friday, 9 November 2018</b> |  |
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| 10–10.15 a.m.                  | <b>Chair/Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development:</b> Summary of day 2   |
| 10.15 a.m.–<br>12.30 p.m.      | <p><b>Item 3 (continued)</b><br/> <b>Session 5: Resolving unsustainable debt burdens: Beyond business as usual?</b></p> <p>One of the main concerns about current developing country debt vulnerabilities is the existence of large contingent liabilities of various forms and therefore heightened risks of sovereign debt crisis. Once a sovereign debt becomes clearly unsustainable, the effective, transparent and fair resolution of debt restructurings is essential to contain immediate economic crises as well as negative developmental impacts in the longer run. While there is general consensus that the current system to resolve sovereign debt restructurings is highly fragmented and costly, there is less agreement on whether alternatives should be primarily market-based or more strongly institutionally anchored, including in the form of a multilateral treaty. This session reviews core problems and challenges affecting current sovereign debt restructurings and looks at a range of avenues towards substantive improvements of the status quo.</p> <p><b>Moderator: H.E. Mr. Sergio Toro</b>, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Yuefen Li</b>, Senior Adviser on South–South Cooperation and Development Finance, South Centre, Switzerland</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mark Flanagan</b>, Assistant Director, Strategy Policy and Review Department, International Monetary Fund</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Odette Lienau</b>, Professor of Law, Cornell University, United States</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Eric LeCompte</b>, Executive Director, Jubilee Network-USA, United States</li> </ul> <p>First response: <b>Mr. Bodo Ellmers</b>, Head of Policy, Eurodad</p> <p>Followed by interactive discussion</p> |
| 12.30–<br>1 p.m.               | <p><b>Special report: Debt and human rights issues</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky</b>, Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights</p>   |
| 1–2 p.m.                       | <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>   |
| 2–3 p.m.                       | <b>Negotiations: Draft agreed policy recommendations</b>   |
| 3–6 p.m.                       | <p><b>Closing plenary session</b></p> <p><b>Item 3</b> – Draft agreed policy recommendations: final discussion<br/> <b>Item 4</b> – Provisional agenda for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics and guiding questions for the third session</li> </ul> <p><b>Item 5</b> – Adoption of the report of the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed policy recommendations</li> <li>• Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development</li> </ul>   |
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