

2017 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up

Expert Round Table A

“Domestic and international public resources” (Action areas A and C)

Wednesday, 24 May 2017, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations, New York

Tentative programme

Moderator: **Ms. Pooja Rangaprasad**, Policy Coordinator, Financial Transparency Coalition

Panellists: **Mr. Darrell Bradley**, Mayor of Belize City

Ms. Elfrieda Steward Tamba, Commissioner General, Liberia Revenue Authority

Mr. Philippe Orliange, Director, Agence Française de Développement

Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate,
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Background note

Public finance is essential to providing public goods and services, increasing equity and supporting macroeconomic stability. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognizes the centrality of mobilizing and effectively using domestic resources to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and of complementing these efforts through scaled up and effective international public financial support, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

This round table will discuss public financing policies and tools at the local, national and international levels to increase the availability and effectiveness of public finance for sustainable development investments.

Sustainable development investments often take place at the subnational level. However, local authorities frequently lack adequate technical and technological capacity, financing and support to carry them out at the scale required. Political will and leadership are vital. For example, in Belize City, the city council has initiated a local economic development programme, spearheaded by the Mayor. The experience shows the importance of building relationships across the community to engage local people and the private sector. To finance local infrastructure investments, Belize City also established a domestic municipal bond program in 2012 and has since issued three separate bonds. The city government used the proceeds to build over 100 streets.

At the national level, tax administration and public financial management capacities have improved in many countries, but scope remains to increase revenue collection, through improved tax policies, enhanced capacity building and scaled up international tax cooperation. Liberia, which emerged out of conflict less than fifteen years ago, had to rebuild its state capacity to both tax and spend effectively. The Liberia Revenue Administration was made an independent agency in 2014 and its commissioner has set out to reform the tax administration, including developing highly rated dispute resolution and tax collection systems.

International public financing flows also increased in recent years. Official Development Assistance (ODA) rose in both 2015 and 2016, as did lending by multilateral development banks. However,

bilateral ODA to the least developed countries (LDCs) fell slightly in real terms in 2016, after increases in 2015. Available evidence suggests that South-South cooperation, a complement to North-South cooperation, also increased. The urgent needs associated with a number of large scale humanitarian crises, however, command an increasing share of international public finance, raising concerns that fewer resources may be available for long-term investments in sustainable development. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is working to establish clearer rules for using ODA to cover in-donor refugee costs and has established a Temporary Working Group on Refugees and Migration to help determine whether donors are targeting their assistance in the right way, in the right place, and at the right time.

Development banks and development finance institutions represent a source of long-term public finance. They have the ability to mobilize additional finance by borrowing from financial markets and can also mobilize private capital for specific projects, while ensuring that investments are aligned with sustainable development. The French Development Agency (AFD) has been working to develop better means of supporting local institutions and of thereby mobilizing local resources. This involves appropriate financial tools to address the complex variety of specific situations, such as soft finance, guarantees, equity investments, and lines of credit to strengthen the local financial sector, among other such instruments. AFD is also a leading member of the International Development Finance Club, a network of 23 national and regional development banks and development finance institutions. Such institutions are widespread and some have large capital bases; they have significant potential to provide financing and expertise for sustainable development investments.

Guiding questions

1. What are effective public financing policies and tools at the local, national and international levels, and how can they best complement each other?
2. What is the role of development banks in providing international public finance for sustainable development investments at the global level, including their providers' efforts to blend public with private finance? What is the recipient countries' experience with such instruments? What role can national development banks play in different country contexts and how do we ensure such banks operate efficiently and effectively to support national sustainable development strategies?
3. How can we ensure that ODA commitments toward long-term sustainable development in the most vulnerable countries are met in the face of urgent geopolitical challenges? How can the impact of ODA be maximized in support of sustainable development?
4. What concrete reforms have been successful in raising domestic resources? How can governments create and sustain the political will for domestic tax policy and administration reform, for example on broadening the tax base, creating trust with taxpayers, and cooperative compliance? What are country preferences on how to strengthen international tax cooperation in support of domestic efforts?

Further reading

Note by the Secretary-General on "Financing for development: progress and prospects" (E/DDFD/2017/2), paragraphs 25-34 and 44-51.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/DDFD/2017/2.

Financing for development: Progress and prospects, 2017 report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, chapters III.A and III.C, pgs. 29-45 and 63-76.

<http://developmentfinance.un.org/financing-development-progress-and-prospects-2017>.

Online annex of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, Domestic public resources, <http://developmentfinance.un.org/domestic-public-resources>.

Online annex of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, International development cooperation, <http://developmentfinance.un.org/international-development-cooperation>.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová was appointed Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in August 2016, and was elected ECOSOC Vice President for its 2017 cycle. Ms. Chatardová was previously Ambassador to France and Monaco, and Permanent Representative to the International Organization of la Francophonie and UNESCO. She is a career diplomat and has held several positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Chatardová holds a doctorate of law from Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.



Ms. Pooja Rangaprasad is based in Delhi, India and works as Policy Coordinator for the Financial Transparency Coalition - a global network of organisations and experts working to curtail illicit financial flows. She has a Masters in Social Policy and Development from the London School of Economics and is interested in issues of Financing Social Policy. She worked at an investment bank briefly before joining the development sector. For the past 5 years, she has been working on issues of tax, illicit financial flows and accountability in the global financial system.



Mr. Darrell Bradley was re-elected for a second consecutive term as Mayor of Belize City in March, 2015. As Mayor, he spear-headed the Open for Business Campaign to encourage economic activity in Belize City. He also launched the first municipal bond to raise funds for city infrastructure and worked actively for the passage of new trade license legislation and passed the Municipal Services Regulations to provide greater rights for municipal staff. He has also encouraged partnerships with the private sector and he has led a sustained program to promote greater accountability in municipal government. Mr. Bradley is also a partner at Bradley Ellis & Co. law firm and a lecturer at the University of the West Indies. Mr. Bradley was a former Vice President of the Bar Association of Belize and member of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Belize. He is currently President of the Belize Mayor's Association and member of the Board of Directors for the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. Mr. Bradley earned Bachelor's degrees in law, sociology and international studies and a Master's degree in public administration.



Ms. Elfrieda Steward Tamba presently heads the Liberia Revenue Authority as Commissioner General, where she continues to champion the transformation and modernization of revenue administration in Liberia with the aim of attaining international standards. She is also the Chair of the West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF), a Council Member of the African Tax Administration (ATAF) and a Co-Chair of the Addis Tax Initiative. Ms. Tamba joined the public sector in August 2006 as the Deputy minister of Finance for Revenue in Liberia where she relentlessly initiated and championed the modernization reforms in revenue administration. She holds a BSc in Business Administration and an MBA in Finance.



Mr. Philippe Orlange was appointed Executive Director, in charge of Strategy, Partnerships and Communication, at the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), in September 2014. He previously served as Director for Latin America and the Caribbean (2011-2014) and Deputy Director for the Mediterranean and Middle East (2006-2008). Mr. Orlange Philippe Orlange is a career diplomat, and has served at the French Foreign Ministry Headquarters (UN, Africa, and development cooperation departments) and abroad (French Mission to the UN, Congo, Kenya, Colombia, Vietnam, South Africa). He has also served as an advisor to the Minister for Development Cooperation, and taught at several universities, including Columbia University in New York, Universidad Externado in Bogota, Sciences Po in Paris and Catholic University in Lille.



Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva has been the Director of the Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD) at the OECD since November 2016. From 2013 to 2015, he was Portugal's Minister of Environment, Energy and Spatial Planning. Prior to this Ministerial position, Mr. Moreira da Silva served as Senior Environmental Financial Advisor at UNDP (2009-2012); Senior Advisor to the President of Portugal (2006-2009); Secretary of State for Science and Higher Education and Secretary of State for Environment and Spatial Planning (2003-2005); and Member of the European Parliament (1993-2003). Mr. Moreira da Silva graduated from the University of Porto with a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering and holds a postgraduate degree in Senior Management from the AESE-IESE Business School, Navarra University, Spain.