

Ministerial Round Table

6 October 2021, 2–3.30 p.m.



OVERVIEW

Scaling up financing for development



Description

Many developing countries were struggling to finance the investments required to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development even before the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis. Moreover, the debt obligations in developing countries, built up after the global financial crisis and coming to maturity over the next decade, have been further augmented by the economic recession, tightening the fiscal squeeze on many developing countries and threatening to derail the implementation of the 2030 Agenda altogether.

This situation is in part a consequence of the slow and uneven global recovery from the global financial crisis, but it also reflects decades of misguided adjustment programmes, premature capital account liberalization and insufficient levels of concessional multilateral finance that have hampered the mobilization of long-term development finance. In this environment, the rise in developing country total debt – public, private, domestic and external – to its highest level on record, at 193 per cent of combined developing country GDP in 2018, has largely been decoupled from productive investment and structural transformation in these economies.

Getting the Sustainable Development Goals back on track, most notably those requiring significant public investment, will depend on coordinated international support and policy responses to scale up reliable sources of public finance, including through debt instruments, and to ensure such financing is channelled into long-term developmental projects.

UNCTAD will bring together leading experts and policymakers for this event to exchange experiences, take stock of recent advancements and discuss further practical ways forward to boost long-term international finance and facilitate effective, transparent and fair sovereign debt restructurings, relief and crisis resolution as indispensable avenues to achieving the 2030 Agenda.



Key issues

- 1. Financing for development.** What is the current landscape regarding financing for development? What are the most pressing issues, including the debt situation of developing countries, in particular in small island developing States?
- 2. Sovereign debt.** What are the advantages and shortcomings of existing arrangements for debt financing and debt relief and for sovereign debt restructuring? Which are the different ways of mobilizing support for the establishment of a global, consensus-based and inclusive multilateral framework for debt treatment and restructuring?
- 3. Global economic architecture.** Can the existing institutions of global economic governance be reformed around the goals of shared responsibility and collective solutions or is a radical rethink needed? What are the missing institutions? What are the priorities for a reform of the international financial and debt architecture?

Participants

Introductory remarks:

Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Speakers:

Ms. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment, Barbados

Mr. Martín Guzmán, Minister of Economy, Argentina

Ms. Nadia Calviño Santamaría, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, Spain

Mr. Joseph Stiglitz, Professor, Columbia University, and Nobel Laureate

Moderator:

Mr. Jonathan Wheatley, *Financial Times*

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