

# **Programme**

1 – 3 December 2025, 10 a.m to 6 p.m. (CET) Room XVI, Building A, Palais des Nations, Geneva

### Monday, 1 December

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### **Opening plenary**

**Chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session** of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development:

 H.E. Mr. Elvis Toolouta Shiweda, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations Office in Geneva

### Item 1

### **Election of officers**

### Co-Chairs:

- H.E. Ms. Sofia Boza Martinez, Ambassador of Chile to the WTO, UNCTAD, WIPO and ITC
- H.E. Mr. Ioannis Ghikas, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva

## Opening remarks

Address by Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (TD/B/EFD/9/1)

Item 3 Advancing the Sevilla Commitment towards a shared framework: enhancing responsibility, capacity and scalability (TD/B/EFD/9/2)

Keynote addresses

- Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- H.E. Mr. Carlos Cuerpo, Minister of Economy, Trade and Enterprise, Spain

Presentation of

Ms. Penelope Hawkins, Acting Head, Debt and Development Background note: Finance Branch, Division on Globalisation and Development Strategies

Followed by

Statements by regional groups and Member States

1-3 p.m. Lunch break

3-6 p.m. Session 1

> Item 3 Advancing the Sevilla Commitment towards a shared framework: enhancing responsibility, capacity and scalability (cont'd)

Session1

Requirements to create effective, replicable and scalable blended finance structures and instruments, based on different country contexts, lessons learned, best practices and existing efforts towards harmonization, as appropriate

Scaling up development finance is essential for enabling developing countries to achieve sustainable development amid increased constraints on international development cooperation. This has renewed attention on blended finance, which typically entails the use of public or philanthropic development funds to reduce the risk for private investors, and thereby leverage more financing for sustainable development. Persistent inequalities in global investment highlight both the urgency of deploying blended finance and its limitations when it is not effectively targeted toward underserved economies and sectors. This session will discuss what is required to create effective, replicable and scalable blended finance structures and instruments.

Moderated by

H.E. Ms. Fancy Chepkemai Too, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Kenya

Presented by

- Mr. Yuichiro Akita, President, Berne Union
- Mr. David Kuijper, General Manager, European Development Finance Institutions
- Ms. Ellen Joyce L. Suficiencia, Director, Strategy, Innovation and Sustainability Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- Mr. Gary Dymski, Professor and Chair in Applied Economics, Leeds University Business School

Followed by an interactive discussion

## Tuesday, 2 December

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### Session 2

Item 3

Advancing the Sevilla Commitment towards a shared framework: enhancing responsibility, capacity and scalability (cont'd)

Session 2

Next steps to be taken to support the development of trade related physical and digital infrastructure, statistical systems and connectivity to ease trade bottlenecks and support trade facilitation and connectivity, in particular for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Trade remains a key driver of economic growth and a vital source of finance for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries. However, persistent trade and transport barriers continue to raise costs and hinder integration into global value chains. Addressing these challenges requires removing trade bottlenecks and strengthening trade facilitation measures, supported by robust physical and digital infrastructure, effective statistical systems, and reliable connectivity. The Sevilla Commitment reaffirms the importance of advancing these priorities to foster more inclusive and sustainable participation in global trade. This session discusses the next steps to be taken to support the development of trade-related physical and digital infrastructure, statistical systems and connectivity to ease trade bottlenecks and support trade facilitation and connectivity, particularly for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Moderated by

H.E. Mr. Colin Murdoch, Permanent Observer of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to the United Nations office at

Presentation by

- Mr. Mustapha Benmaamar, Programme Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP), World Bank
- Mr. Ibrah Wahabou, Head of Infrastructure and Connectivity, African Union Development Agency
- Mr. Ronald Jackson, Head, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience Crisis bureau, United Nations **Development Programme**
- Ms. Ursula Hermelink, Officer in Charge, Business-driven Trade and Investment Facilitation section, International Trade Center

### Followed by an interactive discussion

1–3 p.m. Lunch Break

3-6 p.m.

Session 3

Item 3

Advancing the Sevilla Commitment towards a shared framework: enhancing responsibility, capacity and scalability (cont'd)

Session 3

Necessary capacities for developing countries, particularly in Africa, to engage more effectively with financial market actors, including credit rating agencies

Elevated borrowing costs are not merely a temporary challenge but a structural impediment to sustainable development in developing countries. They constrain fiscal space, limit governments' capacity to invest in Sustainable Development Goals and heighten vulnerabilities to external shocks. This challenge is particularly acute in Africa, where countries consistently face higher borrowing costs than peers in other regions with comparable credit ratings or macroeconomic fundamentals. The Sevilla Commitment underscores that, unless this systemic imbalance is addressed, the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063 will remain out of reach. This panel will explore the capacities that developing countries—especially in Africa—need to strengthen to engage more effectively with financial market actors, including credit rating agencies.



Moderated by	Ms. Sabrina Khanniche, Senior Economist, Pictet Asset Management
Presentation by	<ul> <li>Ms. Raquel Lima Pereira de Araujo Leite, Manager, Institutional Investors Relation, National Treasury of Brazil</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mr. Benjamin Young, Managing Director, EMEA Sovereign Ratings, S&amp;P Global</li> </ul>

- Ms. Sonja Gibbs, Managing Director, Head of Sustainable Finance, Institute of International Finance
- Ms. Mukelabai Luwabelwa, Principal Debt Management Officer, Market Development and Communication, Ministry of Finance and National Planning of Zambia

Followed by an interactive discussion

## Wednesday, 3 December

10 a.m12 p.m.	Session 4
Item 3	Advancing the Sevilla Commitment towards a shared framework: enhancing responsibility, capacity and scalability (cont'd)
Session 4	Roundtable on Advancing the Sevilla Commitment in the United Nations
Moderated by	Ms. Penelope Hawkins, Acting Head, Debt and Development Finance Branch UNCTAD
With Participation of	<ul> <li>Mr. Oliver Schwank, Chief of Policy Analysis and Development, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</li> <li>Mr. Raul Torres, Focal point on Financing for Development, World Trade Organization</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Ms. Luz Ma de La Mora, Director Trade and Commodities Division, UNCTAD</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Ms. Nan Li, Director Division of Investment and Enterprises, UNCTAD</li> </ul>
12-1 p.m.	Co-Chair Presentation and discussion of Expert Recommendations
1-3 p.m.	Lunch break

4–6 p.m.	Closing plenary meeting
Item 3	Advancing the Sevilla Commitment towards a shared framework: enhancing responsibility, capacity and scalability (cont'd)
Closing plenary meeting	Co-Chair led final presentation of Expert recommendations
Item 4	Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the IGE on Financing for Development
Item 5	Adoption of the report of the ninth IGE on Financing for Development