

From Sevilla to 2030: Financing the SDGs in a More Fragmented World

A UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue for the Classroom

Wednesday, 15 April 2026
10:00-11:15 a.m. EDT

Concept Note

The 2026 *Financing for Sustainable Development Report* (FSDR) comes at a decisive moment for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One year after the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in Sevilla, Spain, and the adoption of the [Sevilla Commitment](#), the international community faces the urgent task of translating renewed commitments into concrete action.

Against the backdrop of large unmet sustainable development spending needs and rising costs from environmental degradation and climate impacts, developing countries simultaneously face high costs of capital, fiscal pressures from high debt service burdens, structurally low tax revenue, declines in aid, and trade and investment disruptions. Early progress in implementation of the Sevilla Commitment will be critical.

The 2026 FSDR assesses progress made since FFD4 and identifies priority actions to catalyze investments to close the \$4 trillion SDG financing gap in developing countries, address the debt and sustainable development crisis, and reform the international financial and development cooperation architecture. Building on in-depth examinations of the private sector's sustainable investment, trade, the international financial architecture and other issues, the report provides a roadmap for implementing the Sevilla Commitment and helping countries get back on track toward achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To bring these critical ideas to a wider audience, UN DESA will hold a fully virtual Global Policy Dialogue for the Classroom in April 2026, designed specifically for college and university students and educators. This Classroom Dialogue will highlight key findings from the 2026 FSDR and provide participants with a unique opportunity to engage with a report author and a member of the UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs. Extended time will be allotted for audience questions.

The presentation video will be archived on the Global Policy Dialogues website for teachers and professors to use in future classes and for reference. The key messages of the report will be shared with participants during these events, and links to additional resources will be shared with teachers and students. Furthermore, the Department will partner with UN Academic Impact to build a university-based audience for this event.

The event is made possible through the support of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund and is free and open to all.

Format

This Policy Dialogue will be an 80-minute fully virtual event, comprising a presentation of the report, reflection, and extended Q&A with the audience.

Platform

The event will be held online via Zoom and streamed to UN DESA social media and UN WebTV. Questions from the audience will be collected in advance at registration and posted on the Slido platform for audience members to upvote the ones they like most. Participants can also pose questions using the Zoom Q&A feature and on Slido. The UNTV team in the Department of Global Communications will produce the virtual event.

Language

These events will be held in English, with automated captioning into 30 other languages via Zoom.

Draft programme

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| <p>1. Moderator introduction and interactive poll</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ariel Alexovich, Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA | <p>5 minutes</p> |
| <p>2. Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jayashri Wyatt, Chief of Education Outreach, UN Department of Global Communications, and head of UN Academic Impact (tbc) | <p>3 minutes</p> |
| <p>3. Presentation of the <i>Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2026</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peter Chowla, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN DESA ○ Cecilia Caio, Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN DESA | <p>30 minutes</p> |
| <p>4. Reflection from member of the UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stephany Griffith-Jones, former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, and Emeritus Professorial Fellow IDS, Sussex University (tbc) | <p>5-10 minutes</p> |
| <p>5. Audience Q&A</p> | <p>25-30 minutes</p> |

- Moderator poses the students' questions asked via Zoom Q&A feature or Slido to the report authors.

6. Wrap-up and next steps

2 minutes

- Moderator thanks speakers and audience members.
- Exit survey will launch upon end of Zoom.