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Africa Regional Consultation on Operationalization of the Sevilla Commitment on Financing for Development

1-2 July 2026
UN Conference Center (Conference Room 2)
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Background

Africa faces persistent and intersecting development challenges, including rising climate vulnerability, rapid urbanization, constrained fiscal space, high debt burdens and limited access to affordable, long-term financing.

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) held from 30 June to 3 July 2025 concluded with a declaration of outcomes—also known as the Sevilla Commitments—representing a renewed global effort to reform the international financing architecture, scale climate finance, and support inclusive and sustainable development.

Africa faces a persistent development financing gap due to weak domestic revenues, high borrowing costs and debt, limited and fragmented aid, underdeveloped financial systems and risks that deter investment. Therefore, there is growing emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, including tax reforms and improved revenue collection, alongside increased use of sovereign bonds and other market-based instruments, although often at higher costs. Private sector participation and blended finance mechanisms have expanded, leveraging public funds to attract private investment, particularly for infrastructure and energy projects.

Furthermore, Africa's development finance landscape is becoming more diversified, with less reliance on traditional aid and greater use of domestic revenues, private investment, and market-based financing such as bonds. New partners like China have grown in importance, while tools such as blended finance and climate-related funding are expanding. However, rising debt and global shocks are pushing countries to adopt more innovative financing and restructuring approaches.

Africa's development financing is increasingly shaped by geopolitical competition, with global powers offering diverse funding that expands options but introduces risks around debt, governance and strategic alignment. Geopolitics plays a growing role in Africa's development financing, as major global and emerging powers compete for influence through investment, loans and infrastructure partnerships. Traditional donors such as Western countries and multilateral institutions are now joined by actors like China, the Gulf states and others, each offering financing with different conditions, priorities and strategic interests. This competition can expand funding options for African countries but also creates risks related to debt sustainability, governance standards and alignment with national development goals. At the same time, global issues such as climate change, energy transitions, and shifting trade relations are shaping where and how financing flows, making development finance in Africa increasingly intertwined with broader geopolitical dynamics.

Concept Note

For African countries, the central challenge is not only mobilizing additional resources, but also to ensure coherence between global commitments and delivery at country and regional levels. This requires stronger coordination among African Member States, the African Union (AU), the United Nations system, African Development Bank (AfDB) and other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and development partners.

Building on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a framework adopted during the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, and the African Position—an outcome of the Africa Regional Consultation held in Addis Ababa in November 2024 in preparation for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sevilla commitments emphasize, *inter alia*:

- Expanding sustainable fiscal space through stronger, fairer, and more efficient domestic resource mobilization
- Mobilizing private investment at scale for sustainable development by lowering risk and aligning incentives.
- Making international public finance more predictable, concessional, coordinated and aligned with country priorities.
- Preventing and resolving debt crises in a timely, fair and development-oriented manner.
- Leveraging trade as a driver of structural transformation and inclusive growth.
- Aligning financing for development with climate action, environmental sustainability and resilience.
- Harnessing innovation and digital transformation as enablers of financing efficiency and productive development.
- Strengthening accountability, evidence-based policymaking and implementation capacity.
- Stronger coordination across development, climate, nature and debt frameworks.

For Africa, the central challenge is no longer alignment with global objectives, but operationalization—how to translate the Sevilla Commitments into measurable financing outcomes at sub-national, national and regional levels, and how **to ensure that reforms deliver scale, speed and impact in support of climate resilience and sustainable development.**

Operationalizing the Sevilla Commitments is essential to closing Africa's climate and development financing gaps and advancing the shared objectives of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. Through focused dialogue and coordinated action, the Africa Regional Consultation aims **to contribute to a shift from commitments to delivery, from fragmentation to coordination, and from pilots to system-wide impact.**

Therefore, the Africa Regional Consultation will provide a platform to advance shared understanding, identify concrete pathways for implementation and strengthen coordination among African countries and institutions, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and development partners. This should lead to the identification and implementation of scalable instruments, platforms, or pilot initiatives with significant resources for Africa's climate resilience and sustainable development.

Objectives of the Africa Regional Consultation

The Africa Regional Consultation aims to:

- **Identify practical pathways** for operationalizing the Sevilla Commitments within the African context.
- **Bridge global commitments and country-level delivery,** with a focus on climate resilience and inclusive sustainable development.
- **Strengthen coordination and coherence** across African member States and institutions, UN entities, multilateral development Banks (MDBs), climate funds and development partners.
- **Generate action-oriented recommendations** and inputs for follow-up through various fora such as ECOSOC, the Financing for Development Forum, the High-Level Political Forum and African Union mechanisms.

Scope and Thematic Focus

Discussions will focus on the following interlinked themes:

- What African countries can do better together to expand fiscal space, including: regional cooperation on tax and IFFs; peer learning on digital tax and customs reforms; regional support to development banks; embedding Sevilla priorities in INFFs.
- Lowering Africa's cost of capital through regional solutions, including: regional risk-sharing mechanisms; African capital market integration; regional project preparation pipelines; and MSME and diaspora finance platforms.
- Africa's collective engagement with the international financing system, including: common African asks on MDB reform; SDR rechanneling through African institutions; reducing fragmentation of development cooperation; strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Systemic debt solutions, not case-by-case negotiations, particularly: African coordination on debt transparency; Common African Position on Debt, regional technical and legal support; debt instruments aligned with resilience; collective engagement on credit ratings.
- Financing AfCFTA implementation as a development strategy, considering: financing trade-related infrastructure; trade finance at regional scale; regional value chains; and policy coherence.
- Africa's collective climate finance constraints covering: improving access to climate finance; scaling adaptation and resilience finance; regional disaster risk financing; and Linking climate and debt solutions.
- Regional digital and innovation public goods covering, inter alia: digital public infrastructure at regional scale; regional innovation ecosystems; technology transfer and skills; and governance of digital and AI technologies.
- Ensuring Sevilla moves from commitment to delivery, including: Common Operationalization Framework; INFFs as the delivery mechanism, regional monitoring and peer review, and Africa's engagement in global FfD follow-up.

Expected Outcomes

The Consultation is expected to deliver:

- A shared understanding of **priority operational actions** under the Sevilla Commitments for Africa.
- Identification of **scalable instruments, platforms, or pilot initiatives.**
- A set of **policy-relevant recommendations** for governments, Pan-African Institutions, UN entities, MDBs, private sector, CSOs and partners.
- **Clear messages and inputs** to global and regional follow-up processes.

Participants

The Consultation will bring together:

- Ministries of Finance, Planning, Environment, and Development from African countries.
- International development partners led by African Union Commission, AfDB and UN entities including UN Regional Offices and RCOs.
- Climate funds and blended finance platforms.
- Civil society, philanthropic organizations, academia and private sector representatives.

Format and Structure

- **Format:** This will be an in-person consultation with hybrid participation
- **Duration:** It will last over two days in Addis Ababa
- **Approach:** Thematic plenary and parallel sessions with interactive discussions focused on practical solutions
- **Working Language:** English with French interpretation

7. Follow-Up and Linkages

The outcomes of the Consultation will inform:

- African member States strategic resource mobilization strategies, plans and reporting frameworks.
- ECOSOC deliberations and follow-up on financing for development.
- The Financing for Development Forum and the High-Level Political Forum.
- Relevant African Union policy processes.
- Continued dialogue among partners on operationalizing global financing reforms in Africa.

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