



## **Regional Workshop on Integrated National Financing Frameworks 2024**

### **Public Finance for Sustainable Development in Africa**

12-13 June 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Venue:** Conference Room 4, UN Conference Center in Addis Ababa (UNCC-AA), UNECA

#### **Background**

Integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) were first introduced by UN Member States in the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a country-led approach for strengthening public and private financing for sustainable development. INFFs offer a framework for bringing together the policies used to mobilize and govern public and private financing. They help governments align and strengthen the contribution of financing policies toward the implementation of national development plans. They deepen the connections across financing policy areas and help build greater collaboration between public and private actors. The African continent continues to lead this initiative, with more than 40 governments now using the approach.

National processes to tailor and operationalize INFFs through national institutions are advancing. A growing number of governments are reaching the defining stage of articulating an INFF Roadmap. An increasing number of African countries have been developing Financing Strategies that define how to move forward with public and private financing reforms. Against the background of costly and inadequate multilateral and private financing, the importance of public finance to attain the SDGs is felt more than ever before. Most of these countries have prioritized public finance reforms to strengthen national and local revenue mobilization, develop SDG-aligned debt instruments, to tap into sovereign risk financing, as well as to ensure a public financial management (PFM) system that is transparent, inclusive, efficient and more importantly, better aligned to key African sustainable development priorities.

Public finance plays a pivotal role in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Tax systems, as the most critical element of public finance, have the potential to serve as powerful tools for advancing sustainable development, reinforcing social agreements, and directly impacting critical SDGs such as those related to health, climate, and good governance. At the same time, integrating sustainable development policies into PFM reform processes not only expedites SDG achievement but also enhances momentum for broader financial management reforms, fostering improved governance, transparency, and accountability.

Despite the critical role of taxation and domestic resource mobilization (DRM), various leakages and corrupt practices compromise the full potential of DRM for attaining SDGs. For



instance, using tax incentives without adequate analysis of their costs and benefits is a persistent challenge. This lack of scrutiny makes it difficult to determine the effectiveness of incentives in attracting investment and generating positive economic effects. Coordination challenges and governance issues further hinder the effectiveness of tax incentives.

Lack of transparency and corrupt practices add to the challenges of ever-increasing external debt accumulation, risking debt sustainability and economic stability. Public debt ratios in Africa have broadly stabilized at about 60% of GDP in 2023. However, significant debt vulnerabilities still exist in the region, with 19 out of 35 low-income countries either in debt distress or at high risk of distress as of end-2023. The 2019 Economic Report on Africa argued that low government revenues contributed to the debt problem. Consequently, it is recommended that domestic resource mobilization be increased to ensure debt sustainability.

Against this backdrop, African countries are using INFFs as avenues to shape and advance financing reforms in line with their development priorities, such as poverty reduction, climate change actions, and gender equality. Key to their strategies is reforming public finance systems, including budgeting, public investment, debt, tax administration, transparency, and accountability. Priorities also include tax policy improvements, bond issuance, debt swaps, public-private partnerships, and combating illicit financing. These reforms aim to boost spending efficiency, align revenues with SDGs, ensure fairness in tax and spending policies, and ensuring synergies across these changes.

As many more countries are making progress along their INFFs journey, it is important to regularly gather, reflect and plan forward. Based on the successful outcome of regional workshops in 2021 and 2022, countries can share experience to reflect on strategies that have worked well, areas of improvement and future strategies through peer learning and experience sharing in the regional workshop in 2024.

The 2024 regional workshop in Ethiopia will bring the African INFFs community of practice and key stakeholders together to share ongoing experiences and insights in developing robust public financing strategies for national development priorities and the SDGs and prepare for the future, particularly the opportunity of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4).

## Workshop goals

1. Strengthen the capacities of government officials and other stakeholders to develop effective financing strategies for sustainable and inclusive development.
2. Promote knowledge-sharing among countries, including brainstorming around lessons learned and the dos and don'ts.
3. Generate a regional dialogue around emerging trends and issues that affect the implementation of INFFs with a special focus on public finance and develop strategies for future implementation of INFFs, including through the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4).



## Methodology and evaluation

The workshop will be held over two days in a hybrid format. Participants will be provided with Zoom video conferencing details after registration. The participants from selected countries of each of the five sub-regions will join in-person to share their country experiences with the INFF community. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and French. All recordings and materials will be made available online to participants at the end of the workshop. A questionnaire will be shared with the participants at the end of the event to evaluate the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the workshop.

## Target audience

The workshop is designed primarily for officials and INFFs focal points from governments, including those working at ministries of finance, planning and economic development, and other relevant entities. Researchers from academic institutions, other regional stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, IFIs and AU, and representatives of civil society will also benefit from the workshop. Two participants per ECA Sub-region will join the event in person to maximize the peer learning experience. Invitations to nominate government participants will be sent in due course.

For further information, please contact Ms. Farzana Sharmin ([sharmin@un.org](mailto:sharmin@un.org)) and Mr. Ankun Liu ([ankun.liu@undp.org](mailto:ankun.liu@undp.org)).



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<b>Day 1 – 12 June 2024</b>	
8:30 – 9:00	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>
9:00 – 9:30	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Zuzana Schwidrowski, Director, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, UNECA</li> <li>• Ms. Shari Spiegel, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO), UNDESA (Video message)</li> <li>• Mr. Maxwell Gomera, Director of UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub (Video message)</li> <li>• Ms. Rumbidzai Manhando, Programme Coordinator, African Union Financial Institutions, AUC</li> </ul> <p><b>Review of the Agenda</b>  <i>Moderator: Gamal Eltaib Ibrahim, Chief, Economic Governance and Public Finance Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA</i></p>
09:30 – 10:45	<p><b>Setting the Development Financing Stage in Africa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving public finance architecture in Africa: Lessons and Policy Options: Gamal Eltaib Ibrahim, Chief, Economic Governance and Public Finance Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, <b>UNECA</b></li> <li>• The road to FfD 4 and opportunity for INFF implementation: Resina Katafono, Inter-Regional Adviser on Financing for Sustainable Development, <b>UNDESA</b></li> <li>• Connecting the dots - Public finance highlights from the INFF global report: Ankun Liu, SDG Finance and South-South Cooperation Specialist, <b>UNDP</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Oyebanke Abejirin, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA</i></p>
10:45 – 11:00	<b>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</b>
11:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Efficient tax administration for SDGs: issues of tax expenditure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making use of the SDGs Taxation Framework - Rethinking tax expenditures: Amna Khalifa (virtual), Technical and Outreach Specialist SDG Taxation Framework, <b>UNDP</b></li> <li>• Presentation on Economic Governance Report II and its implications on public financing potentials in Africa: Farzana Sharmin, Economic Affairs Officer, <b>ECA</b></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges and opportunities of tax expenditure measurement in Benin: Thibaut Tossou, Econometric Engineer and Statistician, Directorate General of Taxes, Ministry of Economy and Finance, <b>Benin</b></li> <li>• Challenges and opportunities of tax expenditure measurement in Zambia: Evaristo Mwale, Senior Economist, Zambia Revenue Authority, <b>Zambia</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Mtwalo Msoni, Regional Tax for SDGs Specialist, UNDP</i></p>
13:00-14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
14:00 –15:30	<p><b>Integrated approaches to budgeting for the SDGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate budget tagging in Rwanda: Fred Sabiti, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, <b>Rwanda</b></li> <li>• Budgeting for SDG policy initiatives across all levels of Government: Nana Yaw Yankah, Principal Economist, Ministry of Finance, <b>Ghana</b></li> <li>• Improving budget credibility in Malawi: Patrick LIPHAVA, Chief Debt and Aid Management Officer – INFF Focal Point, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, <b>Malawi</b></li> <li>• Findings from Open Budget Survey: Andrés Ponce Morales, Senior Program Officer, <b>International Budget Partnership</b></li> <li>• Budget credibility and INFF: Orria Goni (virtual), Chief, Public Finance and Local Governance, <b>UNICEF</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Ana-Maria Beldiga, SDG Finance Analyst, UNDP</i></p>
15:30:16:00	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
16:00-17:00	<p><b>Insights from partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Rumbidzai Manhando, Programme Coordinator, African Union Financial Institutions, <b>AUC</b></li> <li>• Mr. Emmanuel Eze, Senior Advisor on Tax Policy to the AU, <b>ATAF</b></li> <li>• Mr. Isaac Danso Agyiri, Policy, Research and Advocacy Manager, <b>TJNA</b></li> <li>• Mr. Theophilus Jong Yungong, Policy, Research and Advocacy Lead, <b>AFRODAD</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Gamal Eltaib Ibrahim, Chief, Economic Governance and Public Finance Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA</i></p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What are the opportunities and challenges for Africa?</i></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>How are you supporting INFFs issues in Africa?</i></li> <li>- <i>What are the areas you envision to work on/support countries on in future?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Day 2 13 June</b>	
09:00-10:30	<p><b>Harmonizing public finance with SDGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background presentation on harmonizing public finance with SDGs with a focus on tax and debt policies: Farzana Sharmin, Economic Affairs Officer, <b>ECA</b></li> <li>• Innovative public finance approaches to financing for development and accelerating achievements of SDGs: Case of Debt Swaps-Blue Bond: Julius Joubert (virtual), Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade, <b>Seychelles</b></li> <li>• Tax policies for improved tax revenue: Mulay Weldu Asegehegn, Head of Tax Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, <b>Ethiopia</b></li> <li>• Linking Taxes Policy to the achievement of the SDGs: Laila Abdul Latif (virtual), Technical Expert for Tax for SDGs, <b>UNDP</b></li> <li>• Aligning Development Finance with National Development Priorities: Bartholomew Armah, Chief, Development Planning Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Emmanuel Eze, Senior Advisor on Tax Policy to the AU, ATAF</i></p> <p>INFFs can help mobilize domestic resources to support national priorities to attain SDGs. This session will examine country experiences in areas of tax policies, innovative financing, and so on for SDGs attainment.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What are the current issues and opportunities of the country?</i></li> <li>- <i>How has the INFF approach helped to mobilize public financing to support national priorities?</i></li> <li>- <i>What plans/initiatives exist or are being planned to support domestic resource mobilization in the INFF implementation?</i></li> <li>- <i>How has the UN and other partners supported this?</i></li> <li>- <i>Moving forward, what are your country's plans on INFF implementation and what support do you anticipate you would need?</i></li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	<b>Coffee/Tea break</b>
11:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Integration of public finance reforms focusing on tax system and debt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overarching financing issues and opportunities in Egypt: Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Abdu, Associate Minister of Finance for Policies and Economic Affairs, <b>Egypt</b></li> <li>• Enhancing revenue mobilization and exploring sustainable debt instruments within INFF in Nigeria: Felix Okonkwo, Director, Macroeconomy, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning; Alfred</li> </ul>



	<p>Okoh, Technical Assistant to Director General, Budget Office of the Federation, <b>Nigeria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Domestic revenue mobilization and debt management during INFF in Ghana: Christopher Papa Kojo Conduah, Senior Planning Analyst, Ministry of Planning, <b>Ghana</b></li> <li>● INFF Experience in Zambia: Michelle Nelly Simwinga Sinda, Principal Planner, National Planning Division, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, <b>Zambia</b></li> <li>● INFF Experience in Burkina Faso: Dr. Larba Issa Kobayagda, Director General of Economy and Planning, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Forward Planning, <b>Burkina Faso</b></li> <li>● Monitoring of effective development cooperation in INFFs (virtual): Axel Nyström, Programme &amp; Policy Specialist, Effective Development Cooperation, <b>UNDP</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Theophilus Jong Yungong, Policy, Research and Advocacy Lead, AFRODAD</i></p> <p>This session aims to highlight the reforms of public finance focusing on tax and debt for mobilizing resources for development. Through country experiences, it will showcase how INFFs can serve as effective tools for countries to ensure public finance reforms to meet national development goals and the SDGs.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What are the current issues and opportunities of the country?</i></li> <li>- <i>How has the INFF approach benefited your country? Discuss INFF implementation, including relevant roadmaps or financing strategies or relevant focus area.</i></li> <li>- <i>How has the UN supported this?</i></li> <li>- <i>What plans/initiatives exist or are being planned to support INFF implementation in countries?</i></li> <li>- <i>Moving forward, what are your country's plans on INFF implementation and what support do you anticipate you would need?</i></li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
14:00 - 16:15	<p><b>Action Planning to Enhance Public Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work in country groups to develop a draft action plan to prioritize public finance reforms, drawing from existing INFF processes, if applicable, including consideration of issues for FfD4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Domestic resource mobilization: Revenue and tax administration</li> <li>- International tax cooperation</li> <li>- Illicit financial flows</li> <li>- SDG-related public expenditure and investment</li> <li>- Sustainable debt management</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Report to plenary – 3 groups</li> </ul>



	<i>Moderator: Resina Katafano, Inter-Regional Adviser on Financing for Sustainable Development, UNDESA</i>
16:15-16:30	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One representative from the participants</li> <li>• Gamal Eltaib Ibrahim, Chief, Economic Governance and Public Finance Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, <b>ECA</b></li> </ul>

\*All times given are from the location of the workshop (Addis Ababa time)

