

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
Third session, 4–6 November 2019
Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Provisional Meeting Programme**

Monday, 4 November 2019	
10–11.30 a.m.	<p>Opening plenary</p> <p>Opening remarks: H.E. Mr. Michael Gaffey, President of the Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD</p> <p>Item 1 – Election of officers Item 2 – Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Item 3 – Financing for development: International development cooperation and interrelated systemic issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (video) <p>Presentation of the issues note by the UNCTAD secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD <p>General statements</p>
11.30 a.m. –1 p.m.	<p>Item 3 (continued) <i>Session 1: International development cooperation and financing for development – the current landscape and future challenges</i></p> <p>The year 2015 was marked by the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Pursuing this bold global development agenda requires scaling up development finance in significant ways and in a relatively short timeframe. This, in turn, poses both opportunities as well as formidable challenges for international development cooperation. How best can international development cooperation be strengthened to support the new developmental agenda and ensure set goals and targets are met? This session will set the stage by discussing the current landscape of international development cooperation as well as potential reform challenges arising in the current global economic environment.</p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Clare Short, former Minister for International Development, United Kingdom • H.E. Mr. Rob Davies, former Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa • H.E. Mr. Chad Blackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva <p>Followed by an interactive discussion</p>
1–3 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
3–5 p.m.	Item 3 (continued)

	<p><i>Session 2: Official development assistance – reform needs and policy options</i></p> <p>The Addis Ababa Action Agenda stresses that “the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial” (para. 51), yet average ODA contributions have languished at around half of the committed levels for decades. Moreover, the core developmental impact of ODA is complicated by several factors, including a growing shift in the direction of concessional loans rather than grants; double counting of ODA funds, and ODA delivery systems which remain misaligned with national budgeting processes and hence domestic policy priorities. At the same time, ideas on what role international public finance should play in promoting scaled-up development finance are changing, raising concerns about the “additionality” of ODA. This session will discuss current proposals and frameworks to align ODA with other forms of development finance as well as new or changing reform needs and options in the light of recent ODA trends.</p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Mr Penda Naanda, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director, Development Cooperation, OECD • Ms. Jean Saldanha, Director, Eurodad • Mr. Tony Addison, Chief Economist and Deputy Director, UNU-WIDER • Mr. Gyekye Tanoh, Director, Third World Network Africa <p>Followed by an interactive discussion</p>
5-6 p.m.	Reserved: Discussions on draft agreed policy recommendations

Tuesday, 5 November	
10–10.15 a.m.	Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development: Summary of day 1
10.15 a.m.–1 p.m.	<p>Item 3 (continued) <i>Session 3: Blended finance – taming expectations with standards</i></p> <p>As part of the “total official support for sustainable development” framework that aims to measure all external financial flows from traditional and emerging donors to support global public goods and sustainable development in developing countries, blended finance has been hailed by some as the solution to the achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Others have raised concerns about the suitability of total official support for sustainable development to provide transparent accounting of different types of financing instruments and their developmental impact. More generally, the definition, role and impact of blended finance remain unclear, and initial empirical estimates suggest that, at present, blended financing instruments deliver a smaller than expected fraction of required development finance. This session will discuss what can (or cannot) be expected from blended finance as a vehicle to deliver global development goals and possible implications for the reform of international development cooperation.</p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Ms Rebeca Sánchez Bello, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paul Horrocks, Head Financing for Sustainable Development, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD • Ms. Samantha Attridge, Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute, United Kingdom • Mr. Gary Dymski, Professor of Applied Economics, Leeds University Business School, United Kingdom • Mr. David Hillman, Director, Stamp out Poverty, United Kingdom <p>Followed by an interactive discussion</p>
1–2 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2–3 p.m.	Reserved: Discussions on draft agreed policy recommendations
3–5 p.m.	<p>Item 3 (continued) <i>Session 4: Environmental protection and climate change mitigation – challenges for international development cooperation</i></p> <p>The Addis Ababa Action Agenda furthermore calls for the strengthening of international development cooperation in areas relating to environmental protection, including climate change mitigation, as a central objective of this cooperation. Natural disasters have hit developing countries with increasing frequency and extremity over recent years, ceasing to be “freak” events. An appropriate preventative response from the international community that goes beyond current reliance on a combination of short-term aid, longer-term conditionalities of fiscal consolidation and preventative self-insurance schemes against catastrophic risk is needed; developing countries require an approach that addresses the systemic impacts of natural disasters on the longer-term economic prospects of affected nations. This session will review existing response mechanisms, including overlaps with ODA delivery and explore avenues for international development cooperation to help improve the provision of predictable and stable disaster funding without narrow policy conditionalities or limiting eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Mr Sergio Toro, Deputy Permanent Representative of Chile to the World Trade Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Lumumba Di-Aping, Ambassador, Chair of the Rights of Future Generations – Working Group, Adviser to His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan Al Qasimi, United Arab Emirates • Ms. Sarah Bracking, Professor of Climate and Society, King’s College London, United Kingdom • Mr. Saliem Fakir, Head, Policy and Futures Unit, WWF South Africa <p>Followed by an interactive discussion</p>
5–6 p.m.	Reserved: Discussions on draft agreed policy recommendations

Wednesday, 6 November 2019	
10–10.15 a.m.	Chair/Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development: Summary of day 2
10.15 a.m.–1 p.m.	<p>Item 3 (continued) <i>Session 5: South–South cooperation and development finance</i></p> <p>Discussions on promoting South–South cooperation go back to the 1940s when developing countries, many of which were still emerging from colonial rule, explored South–South trade as a reliable mechanism to facilitate structural transformation in a context in which North–South trade suffered severe setbacks. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), agreed in 1978, saw South–South cooperation largely in terms of technical assistance programmes, with a view to derive mutual benefits from the sharing of experience and knowledge. Since then, a more substantive South–South agenda has emerged to build productive capacities and regional value chains, promote strategic infrastructure investment and effective industrialization strategies, leverage new digital technologies for development and make international financial and trade architectures work for the South. The Belt and Road Initiative of China, now including over 100 developing countries, has been an important albeit not exclusive driver of South–South cooperation in recent years. Importantly, and as reaffirmed at the recent BAPA+40 Conference, there is however general agreement that South–South cooperation can complement North–South development cooperation but not substitute it. This session examines recent developments in South–South cooperation from the perspective of development financing and discusses future priorities for South–South as well as North–South and triangular development cooperation.</p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Ms. Gothami Silva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the World Trade Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yuefen Li, Senior Adviser on South–South Cooperation and Development Finance, South Centre • H.E. Mr. Rajiv Kumar Chander, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva • Ms. Alessia Amighini, Associate Professor of Economics and Public Law, University of Piemonte Orientale, Head of Asia Centre and Senior Research Fellow, Italian Institute for International Political Studies • Ms. Xian Liu, Researcher, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, China <p>Followed by an interactive discussion</p>
1–2 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2–3 p.m.	Reserved: Discussions on draft agreed policy recommendations
3–6 p.m.	<p>Closing plenary</p> <p>Item 3 – Draft agreed policy recommendations: final discussion</p> <p>Item 4 – Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics and guiding questions for the third session <p>Item 5 – Adoption of the report of the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed policy recommendations • Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development

