

CSBAG BUDGET NEWS



Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development Kicks Off Today



The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) is set to begin today and will run through July 3, 2025. This event will bring together world leaders, international institutions, businesses, civil society and the UN System to tackle pressing global financing challenges and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The conference will focus on reforming the Global Financial System to address inequities in the international financial architecture. Key discussions will center on reducing the unsustainable debt burden and improving access to affordable capital for low- and middle-income nations.

With only 17% of SDGs on track, the conference aims to catalyze innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize SDG financing. The FfD4 emphasises domestic resource mobilisation as a most sustainable financing with a focus on equitable tax systems and oversight of tax expenditure.

A major topic on the agenda is the debate on solutions for the 35 low-income countries facing debt distress. As you are aware Uganda is one of the low-income countries grappling with debt, where the country spends a significant portion of its budget on debts servicing limiting investment in critical social service delivery sector. In FY2025/26 alone, Uganda will spend 37,2% of its UGX 72.367Trillion budget on debt servicing.

The debate is anticipated to focus on proposals for debt relief, restructuring, and innovative instruments like GDP-linked or sustainability-linked bonds to ease fiscal pressures.

The 2025 FfD4 will prioritize aligning financial flows with climate and nature goals, emphasizing equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

The conference will also focus on strengthening international coordination, to reverse the decline on Official Development Assistance and urge Group of 77 and China to fulfil past commitments to support

countries achieve the SDGs as well as ensure and addressing the shift of resources away from multilateral development banks' concessional lending.

Civil Society Engagement

Prior to the conference, the Civil Society Organization Forum was held on June 28-29, 2025. CSOs pushed for the inclusion of marginalized groups and youth in shaping financial policies, calling for economic and climate justice, and addressing issues like rising debt, corporate tax abuse, and collapsing public services.

While at the FfD4, CSBAG will collaborate with the Civil Society FfD Mechanism to demand for reforms in the global finance and governance to ensure an inclusive and accountable public finance framework that addresses structural exclusion for Uganda and Africa.

CSBAG will draw on its insights from Uganda's debt challenges to inform global strategies for managing debt while protecting social spending, gender equality.

Given that Uganda faces significant climate risks, the push for equitable climate finance that is gender responsive and pro-people, ensuring funds reach the vulnerable populations in Uganda will be priority for CSBAG

Further to this, whereas Uganda relies on ODA, which is declining, to supplement its development budget calls for increased investment and for ODA to prioritise social protection and public services will high on CSBAG Agenda. The Ff4D calls for a two percentage point annual increase in social protection coverage in developing countries. The organization will also contribute to discussions on international tax cooperation.

The FfD4 conference promises to be a crucial event in shaping the global financial landscape and advancing the SDGs.

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Last week, CSBAF convened youth leaders from the CSO fraternity to discuss the existing economic opportunities for youth in the National Budget for the financial year 2025/26 whose implementation begins 1st July 2025

The OECD projects a 9-17% drop in net Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2025, following a 9% decline in 2024. In 2024, the decrease in net ODA from DAC member countries over 2023 was driven by a fall in contributions to the core budgets of multilateral organisations

Source: OECD

