

Speakers' Biographies

The Future of Sustainable Development Financing

UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue

Thursday, 14 April 2022, 8:30-10:00 a.m. EDT

Moderator



Gerald Berger

Gerald Berger has been working in sustainable development for more than 20 years. Since April 2021, he is an independent sustainability consultant with his own company. Previously, he was a senior scientist and project manager at the Institute for Managing Sustainability at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in Austria. He holds an MA in Political Science from Salzburg University, Austria and an MSc in Sustainability, Planning and Environmental Policy from Cardiff University, Wales, UK. He is not only a prolific moderator of different event formats, but also a content expert on many sustainability topics. Amongst others, he worked for UNDP, the World Resources Forum, the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN), and various national government ministries and government institutions across Europe.

Panelists

Topic 1: Overcoming the great finance divide



Stephany Griffith-Jones

Stephany Griffith-Jones is an economist with a PhD in Economics. She is currently Emeritus Professorial Fellow, IDS; Financial Markets Director, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, Senior Research Associate, ODI, London, Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Global Development, Washington DC, Distinguished Fellow, Climateworks Foundation, California. She provides researching and providing policy advice on international and national finance, including capital flows; reform of international and national financial architecture, from a development perspective; the role of national and regional development banks, especially in Europe and Latin America, with special emphasis on their increased role in funding low carbon investment. Leading many major international research projects on international financial and macro-economic issues, with networks of senior academics and policy-makers from developed and developing countries.

She has been published widely, having written or edited more than twenty-five books and numerous journal and newspaper articles. A 2010 OUP book, coedited with Joseph Stiglitz and Jose Antonio Ocampo, "Time for a Visible Hand," dealt mainly with financial regulation. She advises or has advised many international organizations, including the European Commission, European Parliament, World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, IADB, AfDB, and various UN agencies, including UN ECLAC (CEPAL), UN DESA, UNDP and several governments and Central Banks, including the Chilean, UK, Swedish, South African, Tanzanian, Brazilian and Czech. She is a member of Scientific Boards of different think tanks.



Régis Marodon

Régis Marodon is Senior Economist on sustainable finance at the French Development Agency (AFD). He holds a Ph. D in Economics, and joined the AFD group back in 1989. He contributed to extend operational financing in many African, Mediterranean and Latin American countries and was successively Director for operations in Turkey, Mexico and Latin America. He joined AFD's research departments in 2019 as a special adviser on sustainable finance matters and participates in numerous international networks on this topic. He recently published an illustrated educational book on sustainable finance.



Shari Spiegel

Shari Spiegel is Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of UN DESA. She leads the work on the Financing for Sustainable Development Report of the Inter-agency Task Force. Prior to joining the UN, she worked as Executive Director of IPD at Columbia University, a Principal at New Holland Capital, Director of FI emerging markets at Lazard Asset Management, and CEO of Budapest Alapkezelő, which launched the first domestic investment funds in Hungary in the early 1990s.

Topic 2: Addressing debt and debt sustainability



Niranjana Sarangi

Niranjana Sarangi is a Senior Economic Affairs Officer at the Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). He leads the branch of work on debt and fiscal policy. He is the project coordinator of projects on topics of “Public Finance and Inclusive Fiscal Policy”, “Debt Swap for Climate/SDGs Finance” and “Sustainable Debt Financing Strategies to Provide Financing for the SDGs” at UN-ESCWA.



Oliver Schwank

Oliver Schwank is a senior economist in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the UN’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and one of the authors of the 2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Bridging the Finance Divide. He is part of the policy analysis team that leads the substantive follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and focuses on debt sustainability and integrated financing frameworks. Prior to his current role, he held various positions in the Secretariat of the United Nations, including as part of the writing team of the World Economic and Social Survey, a flagship UN publication, and in the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa. He also was a consultant with UNIDO and a lecturer in development economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business and at the University of Vienna. He holds a Doctorate in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business.



Cynthia Nona Tamale

Cynthia Nona Tamale is a legal and policy consultant with expertise in financing for development, particularly sovereign debt. She has consulted on debt related projects for various institutions including the UN DESA Financing for Sustainable Development Office, Oxfam International, and the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD).

Ms. Tamale is currently a Fellow with the African Sovereign Debt Justice Network (AfSDJN) where she undertakes research on sovereign debt developments in Sub-Saharan Africa. Previously, she worked with Oxfam International, monitoring trends in lending by international financial institutions to low income countries.

Ms. Tamale holds a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School.