



Data-Enabled Development Cooperation: Enhancing Development Impact and Accountability in FfD4

Side event to the Third FfD4 Preparatory Committee Meeting

1:15pm - 2:30pm, Tuesday 11th February 2025

Meeting Room 8, UN Headquarters, New York

Co-hosts: Government of Australia, Government of Germany, Government of Liberia, International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), and World Bank Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard

Abstract

This high-level side event will facilitate discussion around specific proposals for the transformative role of data in development cooperation for FfD4 and its implementation beyond Sevilla. With a focus on transparency, integration, and partnerships, the event will highlight innovative and proven approaches to aligning financial flows with sustainable development priorities through voluntary reporting. Through presentation of practical case studies and discussion, the event will bring sharp focus on the critical issues of evidence-based policymaking, an integrated, follow-up mechanism, and enhancing global and national capacity to track diverse and non-traditional financing flows into the FfD4 dialogues.

Ministerial-level representatives will share insights on advancing data-driven strategies to achieve SDGs, climate goals, and national development outcomes, emphasizing collaboration and trust-building among stakeholders. Key member countries, development partners and civil society organizations in financing for development will have an opportunity to contribute and participate to the event with the view to inform the final outcome document of FfD4.

Objectives

1. Provide an opportunity for the international community to share best practices from open data standards and transparency frameworks;
2. Demonstrate how open data standards can enable sustainable development impact through international development cooperation at national level; and
3. Discuss how open data standards can be integrated to support the follow up mechanism in FFD4 Outcome.

Background

The global development financing landscape is at a critical juncture. Despite significant efforts under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, systemic challenges in aligning diverse financial flows with sustainable development priorities persist. These challenges include fragmented data systems, lack of transparency, and limited integration of financial reporting with national and global development priorities.

Negotiations ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) emphasizes the need for renewed multilateral efforts to strengthen development cooperation, foster partnerships, and enhance the role of data in monitoring and review frameworks.



Discussions during PrepCom2 highlighted data as a cross-cutting enabler for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). High-quality, timely, interoperable, and disaggregated data is crucial for evidence-based policymaking, monitoring the delivery, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation in all its forms, drawing on country-owned reporting of data, and a robust follow-up process. However, significant gaps remain in integrating diverse sets of data, strengthening national systems, and aligning global review and indicator frameworks to meet the level of ambition set out by the international community. Exploring practical and proven solutions to these challenges with existing data and reporting standards and processes will provide critical insights for advancing the FfD4 outcome.

Agenda

Opening Remarks (5 mins)

- Sarah McGill Mulbah, Assistant Minister of Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, **Government of Liberia**

Framing the Challenge: Data-Enabled Development, (20 mins)

- Dr Tony Swan, Director of Development Economics Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, **Government of Australia**
- Mr Dirk Meyer, Director-General, Multilateral Development Policy; Transformation; Climate, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), **Government of Germany**

Data-enabled impact and accountability, lessons from country and global initiatives (30 mins)

- **International Aid Transparency Initiative**, Yemesrach Workie, Executive Director: Transparency for effective development cooperation.
- **World Bank Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard**, Genevieve Theodorakis, Economist: Real-time data in crisis settings.
- **Open Contracting Partnership**, Kathrin Frauscher, Deputy Executive Director: Open data and digital governance for development effectiveness.

Interactive Segment (15 mins)

- **Open Discussion:** Envisioning an FfD follow-up mechanism that supports data-enabled development

Closing Remarks (5 mins)

- H.E. Mr James Larsen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, **Government of Australia**

NB: Interpretation is not permitted during side events

(v1.6 - 10 February 2025)