



NATIONAL WORKSHOP: ACCELERATING FINANCE FOR THE SDGs

Monday, 7 October 2024 | Ambassador Hotel, New Delhi | DRAFT

Background: Global perspective for financing for development

Global sustainable development prospects continue to diverge. If left unaddressed, the finance divide will translate into a lasting sustainable development divide. SDG financing needs are growing, but development financing is not keeping pace. In 2023, the midpoint of the 2030 agenda it was estimated that the annual SDG investment gap for developing countries stood at over \$4 trillion, about 60% higher than the already significant gap of \$2.5 trillion that was estimated in 2014-15, on the eve of the adoption of the SDGs. It is worth highlighting that more than half of the current gap, circa \$2.2 trillion p.a. relates to the energy transition alone¹.

India's work on the SDG Finance Agenda

India, under its G20 Presidency the Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) also worked to contribute to align financing and policies to the goals of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Key outcomes of the SFWG included (i.) Mechanisms for mobilisation of timely and adequate resources for climate finance (ii.) Enabling finance for the Sustainable Development Goals and (iii.) Capacity building of the ecosystem for financing toward sustainable development. The SFWG also highlights the cross-cutting interventions across these stakeholders through mechanisms such as blended finance instruments and risk sharing facilities.

It is widely acknowledged that the success of the 2030 Agenda globally will depend, to a significant extent, on the progress India makes on the SDGs. India has made a policy choice to prioritize the institutionalization of the SDGs, not to look at sustainable development as a standalone or parallel framework but to make them an integral part of the national thinking about development. As part of the 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) developed by NITI Aayog, it was estimated that achieving the SDGs for India would require an additional annual spend of 6.2 percentage points of GDP by 2030. The sectors covered as part of the analysis included education, health, electricity, roads and water and sanitation.

SDG Financing and the role of state governments

Given India's federal structure, key areas of responsibility for SDG themes lie with sub-national governments given that their combined expenditure spending is often more than that of the central government, the 28 states and eight union territories (UTs) play a pivotal role in delivering the SDGs. State governments have spearheaded the adoption of the SDGs by preparing SDG vision documents, and a number of states have extended the indicator framework

¹ UNCTAD, SDG Investment Trends Monitor, September 2023



to district and block levels and aligned their budgets with the SDGs. For instance, Haryana is one of the first few states to adopt the Output-Outcome Framework which serves as the foundational step for aligning the state government's public spending with SDGs.

UNDP's work on SDG Finance

UNDP has a track record of assisting countries with mobilizing and aligning public and private capital for SDGs. In India, UNDP has worked with the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on the Sustainable Finance Task Force and as Secretariat to the G20 SFWG. At the sub-national level, through a partnership with State Governments and NITI Aayog, UNDP has been supporting the localization of SDGs and accelerating the integration of SDGs into sub-national policies, programmes and budgeting through the establishment of SDG Coordination Centres (SDGCCs).

Through the establishment of several SDG Coordination Centres (SDGCCs), UNDP and SDGCCs are creating an enabling environment for data-backed decision-making and monitoring at the State level. This is contributing to the further improvement of the capacity of the State governments with regards to data collection, problem identification, decision-making and implementation monitoring, all of which laid a groundwork for SDG finance; the SDG-related mechanisms could be leveraged to attract private capital and optimize public finance.

National Workshop outline and objectives

The National Workshop aims to build on the background outlined above, and is a step to equip state officials with necessary knowledge, tools and guidance on financing for SDGs. The workshop is also a platform to share best practices, from a global perspective as well as highlighting the work undertaken by state governments in India. The key objectives of the Workshop are outlined below:

- Fostering a shared understanding of SDG Financing Landscape
- Exploring how existing and emerging opportunities can be effectively leveraged to support States to work on SDG Finance and reflect on potential entry points and actions needed.
- Network with representatives from other States for cross-learning and with the financial sector players to discuss potential opportunities of financing.
- Become familiar with different services that UNDP can provide and understand their values through use cases, including how to solicit external support².

Immediate outputs of the workshop will include a workshop report as well continued dialogue with state officials to assess needs for expertise and support on SDG Finance at the state level.

² It is envisaged that a questionnaire is distributed among the participants (esp. State officials) to assess which sub-domains of SDG Finance they are most interested in and eager to work on with UNDP.



DRAFT AGENDA

9:30 – 10:00	Registration
OPENING PLENARY	
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome Remarks and setting the context Ms. Angela Lusigi , Resident Representative, UNDP India
10:10 – 10:20	Special Remarks Mr. Ajay Seth , Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs [TBC]
10:20 – 10:30	Special Remarks Mr. B. V. R. Subrahmanyam , CEO, NITI Aayog [TBC]
10:30 – 10:50	TEA BREAK
SESSION 2: OVERVIEW OF SDG FINANCING LANDSCAPE AND UNDP'S SERVICE LINES	
10:50 – 11:05	Overview of the SDG Finance Landscape Mr. Karanraj Chaudri , Advisor, Sustainable Finance, UNDP
SESSION 3: SDG BUDGETING	
11:05 – 11:45	Aligning Budgets with the SDGs Presentation will focus on enhancing understanding of how budgets can be aligned with SDGs in practice to maximize budget effectiveness. Introduction to budgeting for the SDGs framework of tools and systems. Sharing implementation experience and key outcomes from peer countries. Ms. Radhika Lal, SDG Finance Team Leader, UNDP Regional Hub for Asia and the Pacific and Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq, Global Lead Public Finance, UNDP Sustainable Finance Hub
11:45 – 12:45	Panel Discussion: Representatives from three States share their experience of aligning budget for SDGs. Based on the lessons shared, their implication for other States will be discussed among participants. The discussion can extend to domestic revenue mobilization as a way to align public finance with SDGs. Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Government of Haryana [TBC] • Representative, Government of Odisha [TBC] • Representative, Government of Arunachal Pradesh [TBC] Moderator: Mr. Rajib Kumar Sen, Senior Advisor – SDGs, NITI Aayog [TBC]
12:45 – 13:45	LUNCH BREAK
SESSION 4: ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR AND LEVERAGING ALTERNATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS	
14:00 – 14:10	Overview of UNDP's work on Private Finance Mr. Ken Kameyama , UNDP
14:10 – 15:10	Panel Discussion: Role of alternative financing mechanisms and leveraging private finance at the sub-national level Session will explore the role of alternative/ blended financing mechanisms that leverage public sector resources to catalyse



	<p>investments from the private sector. This will include an overview of select global examples, as well as discussion on blended financing for specific themes such as skilling, education, healthcare and climate.</p> <p>Panelists: Representative, Convergence <u>OR</u> The Blended Finance Company Representative, AfD <u>OR</u> International Finance Corporation Representative, Samhita-Collective Good Foundation</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Geetu Joshi, Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs</p>
15:10 – 15:35	<p>SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE: Pooled Financing Mechanisms at the state level</p> <p>The session will spotlight mechanisms to aggregate financing at the state level, bringing together government as well as other stakeholders including multilateral development banks, impact investors and the private sector.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative, Government of Goa / Tamil Nadu [TBC]
15:35 – 16:00	<p>SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE: CSR as a whole-of-society approach towards SDGs</p> <p>The session will feature <i>Akanksha</i>, a CSR matchmaking platform developed in Karnataka and currently being rolled out in other States. It will dissect key consideration points for successful facilitation and matchmaking of CSR activities. The spotlight session aims to enhance understanding around how governments can provide enabling environments for corporates to carry out their CSR mandates.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative, Government of Karnataka [TBC] ▪ Private Sector (Tata Consultancy Services or Microsoft, TBC)
16:00 – 16:15	BREAK
VALEDICTORY SESSION: LOOKING AHEAD	
16:20 – 16:30	<p>Special Remarks: Way forward for financing the SDGs Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs [TBC]</p>
16:30 – 16:40	<p>Special Remarks Ms Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP [TBC]</p>
16:40 – 16:55	<p>Valedictory Address: Role of the Finance Commission in supporting financing for sustainable development Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Chairperson, 16th Finance Commission [TBC]</p>
16:55 – 17:10	<p>Q&A Moderated by: Ms. Radhika Lal, SDG Finance Team Leader, UNDP Regional Hub for Asia and the Pacific</p>
17:10 – 17:15	<p>Closing Remarks Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP</p>
17:15 – 18:00	Networking High-Tea