

CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY FORUM

April 22-25, 2025



TUESDAY, APRIL 22

9:00-10:30	Location: HQ2-03B-768B How the Jubilee Year Can Address the Debt and Development Crises in the Global South
11:00-12:30	Location: HQ2-03B-768B Austerity vs. Protection: Labor's Perspective on the IMF's Contradictory Social Spending Approach
12:00-13:30	Location: IMF HQ2-03B-768 Taxing the Super-rich, a Step Closer
12:00-13:30	Location: WBG MC C2-350 Civil Society Roundtable with the World Bank Group Board of Directors
14:30-16:00	Location: HQ2-03B-768B International Tax Cooperation: Giving Up or Doubling Down

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

9:00-10:30	Location: TBD Mobilizing Private Finance for Water Security: How to Get it Right	Location: TBD School Meals Programs: A Proven, Efficient, and Resilient Safety Net	Location: HQ2-03B-768B Are Debt Sustainability Frameworks Compatible with Human Rights and Climate Action?
11:00-12:30	Location: HQ2-03B-768B Hidden Debt: Tackling Grand Corruption in Debt Management to Safeguard Financing for Development		
11:15-12:45	Location: TBD Catalyzing Climate Finance in Fragile Contexts—What's Being Done and What Still Needs Doing?	Location: TBD Social Protection for the Next Generation: Rethinking Safety Nets for Youth	
14:30-16:00	Location: TBD How Can IFC Support the Shift to Sustainable Food Systems (Including Sustainable, Affordable Protein Alternatives)?	Location: TBD Localizing Impact: How Community-led Approaches Are Shifting Power, and Enhancing the Effectiveness of International Development	Location: HQ2-03B-768B Decoding IMF Accounting, Unlocking the Full Potential of SDRs

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

9:00-10:30	Location: TBD IFC Sustainability Framework Review: A Pivotal Opportunity to Protect Human Rights and the Environment	Location: TBD Challenging Assumptions of “Green Development”: Cross-Continental Responses to the WBG’s Renewed Support for Hydropower
11:15-12:45	Location: TBD Open Data as a Catalyst for Transparency and Sustainable Development	Location: TBD Unlocking Financial Solutions for the Future Global Plastic Governance: Pathways to Implementation
14:00-15:30	Location: HQ2-03B-768B Missing Labor: Fixing the Fund’s Approach to the Gendered Division of Labor	
14:30-16:00	Location: TBD Reimagining IFI Governance for Gender & Climate Justice: FfD4 Opportunities and Challenges in a Shifting Global Order	Location: TBD Ensuring Accountability: The Challenges and Opportunities Posed by the Full Mutual Reliance Framework (FMRF)

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

9:00-10:30	Location: TBD The Next Disaster is Coming: The Role of Pre-arranged Financing and Opportunities for Reform	Location: TBD Mission 300: The High-stakes Gamble of Energy Transition
11:15-12:45	Location: TBD When Labor Goes Digital: Ensuring Decent Work and Social Security in the Platform Economy	Location: TBD What do IAM Case Outcomes Tell Us About IFIs’ Commitment to Remedy?
13:00-14:30	Location: HQ2-03B-768B Tackling Inequality in Eastern and Southern Africa: Will the Bretton Woods Institutions Step Up?	
14:30-16:00	Location: TBD Strategic Investments in Uncertain Times: Strengthening Health and Nutrition Financing through the World Bank and Global Health Institutions	Location: TBD Bridging Gaps: Strengthening Bottom-Up Approaches to Improve Access to Loss and Damage Finance
15:00-16:30	Location: HQ2-03B-768B Building Back Better: The Path for Inclusive, Sustainable, and Transformative Reconstruction in Lebanon and Syria	

DAY 1

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

SESSION DETAILS



<p>9:00-10:30 (DC Time)</p>	<p>How the Jubilee Year Can Address the Debt and Development Crises in the Global South Organizers: CAFOD, Caritas Internationalis, Institute for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, Suramericana Vision, Jesuit Ecology Network for Africa, Christian Aid, Jubilee USA Location: HQ2-03B-768B Link: https://imf.zoom.us/j/98847026402?pwd=cH3pNI1D34IB6b57UgRZ7oOmuvRfOw.1 FS Session Abstract: Many countries in the Global South are facing escalating debt and development crises. Numerous nations are experiencing economic stagnation due to unsustainable debt burdens, even without formal default. In this Jubilee year a Commission of Experts, convened by the Vatican and led by Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz, will produce a Jubilee Report on Addressing the Debt and Development Crises in the Global South. This session will present some initial findings of the Commission and in dialogue highlight practical solutions to the debt and development crises. By fostering collaboration between faith-based organizations, financial institutions, and policymakers, this discussion aims to contribute to meaningful reforms that promote global economic justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General, UNDP • Speaker 1: Mariana Mazzucato, Director, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose • Speaker 2: Martin Guzman, Co-President, IPD – Columbia University • Speaker 3: Mark Flanagan, Deputy Director, IMF • Speaker 4: TBC
<p>11:00-12:30 (DC Time)</p>	<p>Austerity vs. Protection: Labor's Perspective on the IMF's Contradictory Social Spending Approach Organizers: International Trade Union Confederation/Global Unions; Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF), Global Social Justice, MENAFem, Human Rights Watch, ARI, Gender Action, Akina Mama wa Afrika, Phenix Center for Economic Studies, SEATINI-U, ISER, ActionAid, Bretton Woods Project, Arab Watch Coalition, ANND Location: HQ2-03B-768B Link: https://imf.zoom.us/j/94247608672?pwd=EgG64SsRK5gSEY21yFbllSxiFX86zq.1 AS Session Abstract: The session will present a trade union study examining the implementation of the IMF's 2019 social spending strategy, exposing tensions between fiscal consolidation and social commitment. Panelists will explore alternative approaches prioritizing workers' rights, reducing inequality, and examining trade unions' and civil society's critical role in safeguarding essential social spending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Cathy Feingold, Deputy President, ITUC • Panelist 1: Isabelle Ortiz, Director, Global Social Justice • Panelist 2: Kaira Reece, Secretary for Sustainable Development, TUCA, Convergencia Sindical • Panelist 3: Nabil Abdo, Senior Policy Advisor, Oxfam International • Panelist 4: IMF representative (TBC)

12:00-13:30 (DC Time)	<p>Civil Society Roundtable with the World Bank Group Board of Directors Location: WBG MC C2-350 [In person only] A F S</p> <p>The Board of Directors of the World Bank Group will share notes on the institution’s approach and processes, and converse with civil society representatives about their concerns and queries.</p>
14:30-16:00 (DC Time)	<p>International Tax Cooperation: Giving Up or Doubling Down? Organizers: ICRICT, Oxfam, Patriotic Millionaires, European Tax Observatory, Tax Justice Network Africa, Center for Economic and Social Rights, GI-ESCR, ANND, Institute for Economic Justice Location: HQ2-03B-768B Link: https://imf.zoom.us/j/92370358214?pwd=fTrlxzzcLj5UPTOJQT0tLHL1Sgsyu.1 F S</p> <p>Session Abstract: In recent decades, international tax cooperation has made promising strides in curbing tax evasion by multinationals and the super-wealthy, signaling progress toward a fairer global tax system. However, the progress made is now under threat. The growing influence of oligarchs is fueling reactionary movements that seek to dismantle hard-won multilateral initiatives, including global tax cooperation efforts. Countries now face a crucial decision: to retreat to the status quo, allowing inequality to deepen, or to strengthen their collective resolve to defend and advance international tax negotiations, which are essential for financing development, tackling climate change, and ensuring a just economic future for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Journalist (TBC) • Speaker 1: Joseph Stiglitz, Co-Chair, ICRICT (TBC) • Speaker 2: Rogelio Ramírez de la O, Secretary of Treasury of Mexico (TBC) • Speaker 3: Carlos Cuerpo, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Business of Spain (TBC) • Speaker 4: IMF representative

Photography, Audio, and Video Recording during the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF)

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F French **A** Arabic **P** Portuguese **S** Spanish

DAY 2

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

SESSION DETAILS



Mobilizing Private Finance for Water Security: How to Get it Right

Organizer: WaterAid

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: The WBG is placing a lot of importance on mobilizing private finance as a way to fill critical gaps in funding for development priorities, including water security. But the WBG itself has acknowledged the skepticism and challenges that surround this agenda due to concerns around pricing water, the allocation of limited concessional finance, and social outcomes. What would it take to get this approach right, and what should be the role of the WBG and other IFIs?

- **Moderator:** World Bank Group Executive Director (TBC)
- **Panelist 1:** Azman Ahmed Chowdhury, Director of Business Development and Quality Assurance, WaterAid Bangladesh
- **Panelist 2:** Professor Mariana Mazzucato PhD, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value Director, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose
- **Panelist 3:** Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, Water Integrity Network
- **Panelist 4:** World Bank representative (TBC)

School Meals Programs: A Proven, Efficient, and Resilient Safety Net

Organizers: SDG2 Advocacy Hub, Global Child Nutrition Forum, World Vision International, Rockefeller Foundation, Novo Nordisk Foundation

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: School meal programs are one of the world's largest and most resilient social safety nets. Many governments recognize their catalytic role and seek to expand and improve their national programs. This event will take stock of global efforts and identify urgent actions, including the role of multilateral development banks.

- **Moderator:** Asma Lateef, Chief, Policy and Advocacy Impact, SDG2 Advocacy Hub
- **Panelist 1:** Heidi Kessler, Deputy Executive Director, Global Child Nutrition Foundation
- **Panelist 2:** Fabio Veras Soares, Researcher, International Policy Centre for Inclusive Development, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPCid/IPEA), Government of Brazil
- **Panelist 3:** Afton Halloran, Senior Scientific Manager, Global and Environmental Health, Novo Nordisk Foundation
- **Panelist 4:** Roy Steiner, Senior Vice President, Food Initiative, The Rockefeller Foundation
- **Panelist 5:** World Bank representative (TBC)

Are Debt Sustainability Frameworks Compatible with Human Rights and Climate Action?

Organizers: Eurodad, Afrodad, APMDD, Latindadd, MENAFem, SEATINI, IEJ, GDPC, DebtJustice Norway, Jubilee USA Network, Oxfam, Human Rights Watch, CESR

Location: HQ2-03B-768B

Link: <https://imf.zoom.us/j/99084929177?pwd=jLPX1pumrWErbSgDHbHBZKFACDrtUx.1>



Session Abstract: The Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-income Countries (LIC-DSF) review is crucial to determine concessional finance and debt relief. The session will offer an overview of how debt is increasingly becoming more unsustainable from a human rights, gender, and climate justice perspective -- and discuss new approaches to adapt the DSF to integrate human rights, climate, and gender justice.

- **Moderator:** Mae Buenaventura, Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development
- **Speaker 1:** Francisco Cantamutto, Latindadd consultant and associate researcher at CONICET
- **Speaker 2:** Imène Cherif, MENAFem Movement
- **Speaker 3:** Marina Zucker Marques, Boston University Global Development Policy Center
- **Speaker 4:** Allison Holland, Assistant Director, IMF

Hidden debt: Tackling Grand Corruption in Debt Management to Safeguard Financing for Development

Organizers: Centro de Integridade Pública, Transparency International, Eurodad

Location: HQ2-03B-768B

Link: <https://imf.zoom.us/j/98643886228?pwd=9FTKatSDCobVDbg1FeDwFMlkyQVQhW.1>

Session Abstract: Debt is essential for the economy. But what happens when it is captured, mismanaged, acquired improperly, or hidden? Amid increasing democratic backlash, greater transparency and accountability in debt are urgently needed. The session explores lessons from Mozambique to shape FfD4 discussions on preventing debt capture and safeguarding economic sustainability and future generations' welfare.

- **Moderator:** Daniela Patino Pineros, Lead Public Resources, Transparency International
- **Panelist 1:** Edson Cortez, Executive Director, Centro de Integridade Pública
- **Panelist 2:** Kjetil Abildsnes, Senior Policy Officer - Debt Justice, Eurodad
- **Panelist 3:** Sally Torbert, Policy Manager, International Budget Partnership
- **Panelist 4:** TBC

11:00-12:30 (DC Time)

Catalyzing Climate Finance in Fragile Contexts—What’s Being Done and What Still Needs Doing?

Organizer: International Rescue Committee

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: Hear and engage with front-line implementers, climate financiers, and subject matter experts in this exciting session about climate financing reaching the most fragile settings. Participants will first hear the latest developments on climate financing as well as the operating environment from persevering front-liners in lightening talks before going into a more traditional format, during which participants will have the opportunity to ask bold questions and provide unfiltered feedback. A final interactive component will further encourage participants to engage panelists and each other in discussing catalytic climate financing solutions for some of the hardest to reach communities.

- **Moderator:** Caroline Vassighi, Resource Mobilization Specialist, Green Climate Fund
- **Panelist 1:** Tara Clerkin, Climate Resilience Global Practice Lead, International Rescue Committee
- **Panelist 2:** Dr. Charles Ehrhart, Chief of Strategy and Impact Officer, Green Climate Fund

Social Protection for the Next Generation: Rethinking Safety Nets for Youth

Organizers: RAHA Foundation and Office of the Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: Young people today face increasing economic uncertainty, exacerbated by rising unemployment, digital transformation, and climate change. However, traditional social protection systems often exclude youth, leaving them vulnerable during critical life transitions. This session will explore innovative and sustainable safety nets that empower youth, focusing on universal basic income, social insurance, skills development funds, and climate resilience programs. Bringing together policymakers, development finance institutions, private sector leaders, and youth advocates, the discussion will highlight financing solutions, policy reforms, and public-private partnerships needed to create inclusive social protection frameworks. Participants will examine successful case studies, explore blended finance models, and identify strategies to ensure economic security, digital inclusion, and resilience for young people worldwide. This session aims to foster actionable policy recommendations and strengthen global commitments toward adaptive, youth-centered social protection systems that drive long-term economic growth and social stability.

- **Moderator:** Rasheed Yusuf, Executive Director, RAHA Foundation and Technical Advisor to the Presidency of Nigeria on Youth Initiatives
- **Panelist 1:** Titilope Gbadamosi, Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on Youth Initiatives, Government of Nigeria
- **Panelist 2:** Jeroo Billimoria, Child and Youth Finance International and One Family Foundation (CatalystNow)
- **Panelist 3:** Akshay Ruparelia, Founder, Doorsteps.uk
- **Panelist 4:** Tavneet Suri, Professor, MIT
- **Panelist 5:** World Bank representative (TBC)

How Can IFC Support the Shift to Sustainable Food Systems (Including Sustainable, Affordable Protein Alternatives)?

Organizers: Compassion in World Farming, Friends of the Earth-US, Bank Information Center, World Animal Protection

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: IFC is considering how to better align its agribusiness portfolio with requirements for environmental, social, and economic sustainability, especially considering the role industrial livestock systems play in deforestation and climate change. This panel will examine IFC's current agribusiness portfolio, its impacts, and the most promising alternatives to industrial livestock.

- **Moderator:** World Bank Group Executive Director (TBC)
- **Panelist 1:** Lizah Makombere, Agroecology Institute, University of Vermont
- **Panelist 2:** Megan Waters, Senior Policy Advisor, FAIRR (Farm Animal Investment Risk and Return) Initiative
- **Panelist 3:** Dr. Divya Narain, Researcher, Friends of the Earth
- **Panelist 4:** Anup Jagwani, Head, Global Agribusiness, International Finance Corporation

Localizing Impact: How Community-led Approaches are Shifting Power and Enhancing the Effectiveness of International Development

Organizer: ACDPN, Fondation Enfant Jeunesse (Haiti)

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: Localization is now an operational necessity. This session examines how community-led models in Haiti and Nigeria enhance aid effectiveness by shifting power to local actors. Through case studies and solution-driven dialogue, we will explore strategies for overcoming systemic barriers and institutionalizing direct funding to local organizations.

- **Moderator:** Ushana Houston, Director of Strategy and Communications, ACDPN Africa
- **Panelist 1:** Gina Ferrus, President and Co-founder, FEJ Haiti
- **Panelist 2:** Rafiu A. Olarore, President, Youth Enterprise Development and Innovation Society
- **Panelist 3:** Brooke Lehmann, International Development Policy Expert, USA
- **Panelist 4:** World Bank representative (TBC)

Decoding IMF Accounting, Unlocking the Full Potential of SDRs

Organizers: Center for Economic and Policy Research, ActionAid USA, MENAFem, Bretton Woods Project, Latindadd

Location: HQ2-03B-768B

Link: <https://imf.zoom.us/j/99098532078?pwd=iBbOp6OucozU2qRam4Oq5bqMQKJwo6.1>



Session Abstract: Efforts to maximize the impact of SDRs have been hamstrung by erroneous accounting recommendations and conflicts between central banks and governments. This session will clarify SDRs' status as equity instruments and the reserve asset characteristics of SDR investments to unleash their full potential for budget support and debt relief.

- **Moderator:** Niranjali Amerasinghe, Executive Director, ActionAid USA
- **Speaker 1:** Andrés Arauz, Senior Research Fellow, CEPR
- **Speaker 2:** Marina Zucker-Marques, Senior Academic Researcher, Boston University Global Development Policy Center
- **Speaker 3:** Francisco Cantamutto, Latindadd Consultant and Associate Researcher at CONICET
- **Speaker 4:** IMF representative (TBC)

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French Arabic Portuguese Spanish

DAY 3

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

SESSION DETAILS



IFC Sustainability Framework Review: A Pivotal Opportunity to Protect Human Rights and the Environment

Organizers: Recourse, Accountability Counsel, AIPNEE, Arab Watch Coalition, CIEL, Community Self Reliance Centre, FARN, IDI, Oxfam

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: A crucial review of the IFC's Sustainability Framework will soon commence. Involving the voices of communities impacted by IFC projects, this panel voices will address the successes, policy gaps, and implementation of the existing safeguards, discuss the key areas IFC must address, and share insights on how to improve implementation.

- **Moderator:** Kate Geary, Program Director, Recourse
- **Panelist 1:** Natalie Bugalski, Legal and Policy Director, Inclusive Development International
- **Panelist 2:** Leandro Gomez, Rights & Investment Coordinator, FARN
- **Panelist 3:** Jagat Basnet, Founder, Community Self Reliance Centre
- **Panelist 4:** IFC representative (TBC)

Challenging Assumptions of "Green Development": Cross-Continental Responses to the WBG's Renewed Support for Hydropower

Organizers: International Rivers, Rivers without Boundaries, Defenders in Development, Bank Information Center, Accountability Counsel, International Accountability Project, Mekong Watch, CEE Bankwatch

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: The session examines the World Bank's renewed involvement in hydropower, its impacts, possibilities for redress, and challenges when civic space is limited. Speakers will discuss Bank projects in the DRC, Central Asia, Pakistan, and Cambodia; the role of hydropower in the energy transition; and lessons 25 years on from the *World Commission on Dams* report.

- **Moderator:** Joshua Klemm, Co-Executive Director, International Rivers (TBC)
- **Panelist 1:** Manana Kochladze, Green Alternative
- **Panelist 2:** Emmanuel Musuyu, Executive Secretary, CORAP
- **Panelist 3:** Toshi Doi, Senior Advisor, Mekong Watch (TBC)
- **Panelist 4:** World Bank representative (TBC)

Open Data as a Catalyst for Transparency and Sustainable Development

Organizer: Open Data Association

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: In an era where transparency and accountability are crucial for sustainable development, open data has emerged as a powerful tool for driving economic growth, reducing corruption, and fostering public trust. This session explores how governments, businesses, and civil society can leverage open data to enhance decision-making, improve governance, and support post-crisis recovery. With a special focus on Ukraine, we will highlight how open data has played a key role in ensuring transparency during wartime, strengthening anti-corruption efforts, and accelerating reconstruction. Join us to explore best practices, challenges, and the future of data-driven policymaking in Ukraine and beyond.

- **Moderator:** Natalia Chornogub, Head of Open Data Association, Ukraine
- **Panelist 1:** Mykhailo Fedorov – Vice Prime Minister for Innovation, Education, Science & Technology Development, Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
- **Panelist 2:** Gavin Hayman – Executive Director, Open Contracting Partnership
- **Panelist 3:** Oksana Nesterenko – Executive Director, Anti-Corruption, Research and Education Center, University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- **Panelist 4:** World Bank representative (TBC)

Unlocking Financial Solutions for the Future Global Plastic Governance: Pathways to Implementation

Organizer: Community Action Against Plastic Waste

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: This side event will explore innovative financial mechanisms essential for the successful implementation of the future global plastic governance framework. Key discussions will focus on mobilizing resources through public-private partnerships, development finance, and international cooperation to support the plastic treaty's goals. The session will address financial tools, investment models, and policy alignment to ensure equitable and effective solutions, with a particular emphasis on overcoming barriers in low- and middle-income countries. By unlocking sustainable financial pathways, this event aims to catalyze actionable strategies for a plastic-free future through robust global governance.

- **Moderator:** Ahmed Tiamiyu, Executive Director, Community Action Against Plastic Waste
- **Panelist 1:** Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Director, Industry and Economy Division, United Nations Environment Program
- **Panelist 2:** Oliver Boachie, Special Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Environment, Ghana
- **Panelist 3:** Andrés Del Castillo, Senior Attorney, Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- **Panelist 4:** World Bank representative (TBC)

Reimagining IFI Governance for Gender & Climate Justice: FfD4 Opportunities and Challenges in a Shifting Global Order

Organizers: Equidad, Latindadd, CESR, MENAFem, IBON International, WEDO, IEJ, Christian Aid

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: This session explores how at the time of shifting global power dynamics, proposals on IFI transformation can open space for rights-based reforms that address climate and gender justice. Panelists will examine how FfD4 can catalyze equitable financing, democratic debt resolution, and governance reforms that uphold human rights, especially for marginalized and frontline communities.

- **Moderator:** Mahinour ElBadrawi, Global Partnerships Lead, CESR
- **Panelist 1:** Emilia Reyes, Program Director, Policies and Budgets for Equality and Sustainable Development, Equidad
- **Panelist 2:** Daniela Berdeja, Sovereign Debt Analyst and Manager of the LAC Vulnerability Atlas, Latindadd
- **Panelist 3:** Shereen Talat, Director, MENAFem
- **Panelist 4:** IMF representative (TBC)

Ensuring Accountability: The Challenges and Opportunities Posed by the Full Mutual Reliance Framework (FMRF)

Organizers: AIPNEE, Accountability Counsel, CIEL, Gender Action, NGO Forum on ADB, Recourse, World Bank Inspection Panel and Dispute Resolution Service

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank approved a Full Mutual Reliance Framework (FMRF) for certain co-financed projects. Under the FMRF, the lead financier's safeguards apply, and communities can only approach its accountability mechanism. This panel will debate key issues with the FMRF, including concerns that differing policies and practices between the institutions can affect project quality and communities' access to remedy.

- **Moderator:** World Bank Group Executive Director (TBC)
- **Panelist 1:** Stephanie Amoako, Policy Director, Accountability Counsel
- **Panelist 2:** Prabindra Shakya, Convenor, AIPNEE
- **Panelist 3:** Ramanie Kunanayagam, Chair, Compliance Review Panel, Asian Development Bank
- **Panelist 4:** Inspection Panel representative (TBC)
- **Panelist 5:** World Bank representative (TBC)

14:00-15:30 (DC Time)

Missing Labor: Fixing the Fund's Approach to the Gendered Division of Labor

Organizers: The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, ARI, Human Rights Watch, AWC-MENA, EFHR- Egypt, MENAFem, Global Social Justice, Gender Action, International Trade Union Confederation, Action Aid International, Aswat Nissa-Tunisia, EuroMed Rights, Akina Mama wa Afrika, CIHRS, Shirakat, ECRF, Takatoat-Jordan, The Alternative Policy Institute – BADIL-Lebanon, EIPR, GCSPF, EHRF

Location: HQ2-03B-768B

Link: <https://imf.zoom.us/j/99134646512?pwd=Tf2iZHplogpjDxvF8TadJbxqnrGGHa.1>



Session Abstract: Despite the IMF's prioritization of female labor force participation, it failed to improve and often harmed women's access to formal labor markets. The session aims to evaluate the IMF's impact on the gender gap in labor markets and offer practical solutions while accounting for the gendered division of labor.

- **Moderator:** Hossein Cheaito, PhD Researcher, The Geneva Graduate Institute
- **Panelist 1:** Timothy E. Kaldas, Deputy Director, The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy
- **Panelist 2:** Sarah Saadoun, Senior Economic Justice Researcher and Advocate, Human Rights Watch
- **Panelist 3:** Nada Nashaat, Head of Women's Public Participation Program, The Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance
- **Panelist 4:** Lisa Kolovic, Senior Economist, International Monetary Fund

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French Arabic Portuguese Spanish

DAY 4

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

SESSION DETAILS



The Next Disaster is Coming: The Role of Pre-arranged Financing and Opportunities for Reform

Organizer: Centre for Disaster Protection

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: Disasters are often treated as surprises, with only [2% of international crisis finance pre-arranged ahead of shocks](#). This session explores opportunities and challenges in scaling pre-arranged financing, focusing on international financial institutions' instruments and their development impact, specifically contingent loans, climate resilient debt clauses, insurance and catastrophe bonds.

- **Moderator:** Cristina Stefan, Head of Advisory, Centre for Disaster Protection
- **Panelist 1:** Shakira Mustapha, Research Lead, Centre for Disaster Protection
- **Panelist 2:** Michai Robertson, Senior Advisor (Finance), Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- **Panelist 3:** TBC
- **Panelist 4:** World Bank representative (TBC)

Mission 300: The High-stakes Gamble of Energy Transition

Organizers: Power Shift Africa, Recourse, Big Shift Coalition, MENAFem, SYND

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: Africa stands at a crossroads in its energy transition; Mission 300 serves as a critical platform for expanding access to sustainable energy. This session challenges gas as a transitional fuel, highlighting renewables as affordable, secure, growth-driving solutions through expert insights, community voices, successful case studies, financing options, and policy recommendations.

- **Moderator:** Fran Witt, Program Director, Ecological Justice, Recourse
- **Panelist 1:** Dean Bhekumuzi Bhebhe, Senior Just Transitions & Campaigns Advisor, Power Shift Africa
- **Panelist 2:** Adam Anthony, Programs Manager, Haki Rasilimali
- **Panelist 3:** Karabo Mokgonyana, Renewable Energy Campaigner, Power Shift Africa
- **Panelist 4:** World Bank Representative or Mission 300 Task Force (TBC)

When Labor Goes Digital: Ensuring Decent Work and Social Security in the Platform Economy

Organizers: Human Rights Watch, Arab Reform Initiative, International Trade Union Confederation/Global Unions, Global Social Justice, MENAFem, GCSPF, ISER

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: Platform work is transforming labor markets globally. As international bodies debate new standards, this panel explores how to regulate platform work, guarantee decent conditions, and ensure tech firms contribute to social security. It also examines how development finance, taxation, and labor standards can align for a more just digital economy.

- **Moderator:** Rouguiatou Diallo, Economic Research Officer, ITUC
- **Panelist 1:** Somiruwana Subasinghe, Legal Director, International Transport Workers' Federation (TBC)
- **Panelist 2:** Farah Al Shami, Program Director for Social Protection, Arab Reform Initiative
- **Panelist 3:** Amber Barth, Director and Representative to the Bretton Woods and Multilateral Organizations at the ILO
- **Panelist 4:** Lena Simet, Senior Researcher and Advocate, Human Rights Watch
- **Panelist 5:** World Bank representative (TBC)

What do Independent Accountability Mechanism (IAM) Case Outcomes Tell Us About IFIs' Commitment to Remedy?

Organizers: Accountability Counsel, Urgewald, Bankwatch, Recourse, CIEL, BIC, Gender Action, Arab Watch Coalition, IDI

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: Independent accountability mechanisms (IAMs) are often the only avenues communities have to seek justice for project impacts. However, there has been a lack of comprehensive data on the implementation and effectiveness of remedy commitments. This session will explore new research and recommendations for strengthening the delivery of remedy.

- **Moderator:** Samer Aarabi, Research Director, Accountability Counsel
- **Panelist 1:** Megumi Tsutsui, Sr. Research Associate, Accountability Counsel
- **Panelist 2:** Daniel Shaa, Community Representative, Kenya
- **Panelist 3:** Eyüp Özer, Community Representative, Turkey
- **Panelist 4:** World Bank Group Representative (TBC)

13:00-14:30 (DC Time)	<p>Tackling Inequality in Eastern and Southern Africa: Will the Bretton Woods Institutions Step Up?</p> <p>Organizers: Norwegian Church Aid, Save the Children, Act Church of Sweden, Felm, DFI, Oxfam, Afrodad, All Africa Council of Churches</p> <p>Location: HQ2-03B-768B</p> <p>Link: https://imf.zoom.us/j/94147874472?pwd=TbHbMX3Skbt0btUIATzbNTVbxhR5hX.1</p> <p>F</p> <p>Session Abstract: The IMF and World Bank aim to reduce inequality, but greater action is needed. Eastern and Southern Africa has the highest proportion of highly unequal countries. A new report by Act Church of Sweden, DFI, Felm, NCA, Oxfam, and Save the Children highlights rising inequality and urges stronger policies to foster sustainable, inclusive development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Kjetil Abildsnes, Senior Advisor, Economic Justice, Norwegian Church Aid • Panelist 1: Rev. Suzanne Matala, Former General Secretary, Zambia Council of Churches • Panelist 2: Matthew Martin, Director, Development Finance International • Panelist 3: Obeth Kandjoze, Director General/Minister, National Planning Commission and Minister of Economic Planning in the Republic of Namibia • Panelist 4: World Bank representative (TBC)
14:30-16:00 (DC Time)	<p>Strategic Investments in Uncertain Times: Strengthening Health and Nutrition Financing through the World Bank and Global Health Institutions</p> <p>Organizers: Health Promotion Tanzania (HDTT), ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership, Results Canada, RESULTS Educational Fund</p> <p>Location: TBD</p> <p>Session Abstract: While the World Bank’s UHC commitment to reach 1.5 billion people by 2030 is a critical milestone, achieving this goal requires not only stronger collaboration and innovative financing mechanisms but also greater domestic resource mobilization to sustain long-term investments. This session will take a deeper dive into how IDA21 financing, innovative mechanisms like loan buy-downs and debt swaps, and country-led strategies can be leveraged to strengthen primary health care systems. We will explore how targeted investments in nutrition, tuberculosis, and social protection are essential to delivering on UHC commitments and ensuring equitable access to quality health services. Additionally, we will examine the role of GHIs in aligning efforts amid shifting donor priorities and discuss how civil society and parliamentarians must play a central role in shaping and driving these processes to ensure that resources translate into tangible health outcomes at the country level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Action (TBC) • Panelist 1: Member of Parliament (TBC) • Panelist 2: CSO (TBC) • Panelist 3: Global Fund/GFF (TBC) • Panelist 4: World Bank (TBC)

Bridging Gaps: Strengthening Bottom-Up Approaches to Improve Access to Loss and Damage Finance

Organizers: SLYCAN Trust, AOSED, CARE Germany, CARE Madagascar, CPDC, ENDA Energie, FFC, Germanwatch, ICSC Munich Climate Insurance Initiative, SAF FJKM

Location: TBD

Session Abstract: The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), operationalized at COP28 and hosted by the World Bank, is mandated to support country-owned, bottom-up approaches, benefiting vulnerable communities, women and Indigenous Peoples. In this endeavor, ensuring access to funds and participation in decision-making for sub-national actors and civil society is crucial. Civil society plays a key role as an interlocutor, implementor, and evaluator of assistance and financial instruments. This side event fosters dialogue among civil society organizations and stakeholders focused on loss and damage to identify effective instruments to enhance essential support and build resilience for the most vulnerable populations.

- **Moderator:** Sönke Kreft, Executive Director, Munich Climate Insurance Initiative
- **Panelist 1:** Vositha Wijenayake, Executive Director, SLYCAN Trust
- **Panelist 2:** Angelo Kairos Dela Cruz, Executive Director, ICSC
- **Panelist 3:** Jwala Rambarran, Senior Policy Advisor, Caribbean Policy Development Centre / Financial Futures Centre
- **Panelist 4:** Representative of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage Secretariat (TBC)

Building Back Better: The Path for Inclusive, Sustainable, and Transformative Reconstruction in Lebanon and Syria

Organizers: ARI, TIMEP; Human Rights Watch; Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors; ANND; AWC; MENAFem; Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in MENA

Location: HQ2-03B-768B

Link: <https://imf.zoom.us/j/94319558426?pwd=8FNbroNXnEpOMWtnXa8rRDL3qEul2u.1>



Session Abstract: As Lebanon and Syria undergo reform and reconstruction, governance, financing, and economic policies must ensure transparency, accountability, and social justice. This session examines governance gaps, IMF and World Bank interventions, and needed reforms to foster stability, inclusive growth, and social protection while prioritizing livelihoods, equality, and community resilience.

- **Moderator:** Farah Al Shami, Senior Fellow and Social Protection Program Director, Arab Reform Initiative
- **Panelist 1:** Timothy E. Kaldas, Deputy Director, Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy
- **Panelist 2:** Lena Simet, Senior Researcher and Advocate, Human Rights Watch
- **Panelist 3:** Karam Shaar, Syrian Political Economist
- **Panelist 4:** Nizar Aouad, Influencing Lead, Oxfam in MENA
- **Panelist 5:** World Bank representative (TBC)

15:00-16:30 (DC Time)

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*Selected sessions will have interpretations in two or more languages.

 French  Arabic  Portuguese  Spanish