



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Parliamentary event at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4)

### *Taking stock of deliverables; mobilizing parliaments into action*

**Wednesday, 2 July 2025, 12:30 – 14:00**

#### **Summary**

The session, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) as an FFD Special Event, highlighted the important role that parliaments and parliamentarians play as the critical link enabling governments to deliver to the people on all development commitments, including those related to development finance. The session took a detailed look at the FFD4 outcome document, the *Compromiso de Sevilla*, to assess how far it had gone in resolving the many outstanding issues, particularly concerning aid, debt, taxation, trade and private investments; and how parliamentarians perceived the impact of the evolving development finance landscape at the local level.

The session was moderated by Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development at the IPU. It included an expert presentation from Ms. Ana Patricia Muñoz, Executive Director of the International Budget Partnership (IBP) and a panel discussion with Ms. Brenda Nyirenda, Member of the Parliament of Zambia, Ms. Marit Maij, Member of the European Parliament (Netherlands), and Ms. Afshan Khan, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. The presentations were followed by a debate with participants.

Ms. Muñoz presented IBP research highlighting a post-COVID-19 decline in legislative oversight of national budgets. She welcomed the inclusion of references to parliamentary oversight in the *Compromiso de Sevilla*, but emphasized the need for safeguards in budgeting practices and legal frameworks to prevent the misuse of crisis situations, and the importance of inclusive, participatory processes involving all stakeholders — civil society, supreme audit institutions and others.

Ms. Nyirenda stressed the limitations faced by parliament in exercising its budget powers, calling for more in-depth sectoral budget analysis with inputs from relevant stakeholders. Debt remained a major challenge, with significant portions of the national budget allocated to debt servicing. She welcomed the recognition of the importance of concessional loans for African countries in the *Compromiso de Sevilla*. She called for investment in basic needs such as health, and for the gender dimension of development to be taken into account.

Ms. Maij informed participants of the current lack of political consensus on development issues within the European Parliament, which had put funds for development cooperation under pressure. She called for physical and social security to be considered together, and for more debate on investment in individuals. She noted that, despite differences in political systems around the world, all countries required inclusive stakeholder engagement and strong political leadership.

Ms. Khan highlighted that nutrition should be viewed not as a cost but as a long-term investment in societal productivity and human capital. She advocated for a dedicated nutrition budget line and for stronger budget tracking and monitoring. She saw transparency and accountability as paramount for keeping the social contract with citizens and rebuilding trust.

In the interactive discussion, participants emphasized that the high turnover of parliamentarians during electoral cycles posed a significant challenge, necessitating targeted capacity building for new members and close collaboration with parliamentary staff to safeguard institutional memory. They also highlighted broader constraints on parliamentary capacity caused by democratic backsliding and the shrinking of civic spaces. The session concluded with the observation that addressing such complex problems called for carefully designed solutions that would prioritize people, emphasize solidarity and the common good, and be strengthened through inter-parliamentary cooperation and the active inclusion of civil society.