



**United  
Nations**

Committee for  
Development  
Policy

**ECOSOC Coordination Segment, 7 February 2025**

**15:00 - 16:30 Leveling the multilateral playing field: Financing and investment solutions for sustainable development in countries in special situations**

**Statement by José Antonio Ocampo**

When talking about countries in special situations, levelling the playing field is not enough. We need systems that effectively ensure that LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS overcome their structural impediments to development.

Debt is one of the most pressing problems. Too much money is going towards debt servicing instead of health, education, social protection, and the development of productive capacities that would enable countries to move ahead consistently and independently. Too many countries are at high risk of debt distress or already in debt distress, including 19 LDCs. We urgently need a permanent institutional mechanism to facilitate the restructuring of sovereign debts to manage problems of over-indebtedness.

A second pressing issue is tax cooperation. In institutional terms, we have recommended the transformation of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters into an intergovernmental organ, better collaboration between the UN Secretariat and the OECD and the creation of a global asset registry to control tax evasion and avoidance. I chair the International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development. We have made comments on the contents of the UN Convention to guarantee, in particular, a fair payment of multinational corporations in all countries where they operate, and of very rich individuals in their main country of citizenship.

A third issue is the role of multilateral development banks. With a significant increase in their lending capacity, and the required capitalization, and changes of their operational models, they can play a much larger role in the provision of international public goods, both global and regional, including in health and climate.

This should be reinforced by supporting national development banks, as a major activity of the multilateral development banks, including their creation in countries where they were dismantled.

In general, we need stronger interaction between regional and global institutions, a topic on which I will speak more later on.

The CDP made other, more specific, recommendations to the FfD4 process, including the creation of an IMF-Managed Instrument for International Liquidity Provision for Emerging Markets and Developing Economies. But in parallel to reforms, we cannot forget about the importance of fulfilling historical commitments and more recent agreements related to development financing for developing countries in general and for LDCs in particular, notably in ODA, 0.7% and 0.2% respectively, as well as climate financing.

In addition to the need for better representation in the governing structures of international organizations in general, we need to strengthen regional institutions and the multilevel institutional architecture which connects regional and global spheres. There is a strong sense of belonging or ownership of many countries in special situations to regional institutions, where they have more voice, and which often respond more strongly to their interests. There is also complementarity and healthy competition between global and regional entities. This type of multilevel architecture exists for multilateral development banks, although it can be improved. It should be extended to the monetary system and tax cooperation.

The issue of global governance in trade and climate cannot be comprehensively addressed here, and the current context brings many uncertainties. But trade and climate are intertwined in many ways, including in the quest for a globally just transition. Among the issues the CDP has emphasized recently is the need for a multilateral system that protects the policy space of the most vulnerable countries for the development of productive capacities; addresses the proliferation of unilateral trade measures; ensures intellectual property frameworks that work for public goods; and ensures effective special and differential treatment in trade, responsive to country needs and capacities.

The CDP is a channel connecting ECOSOC to multiple networks of independent research and practice on development policy. The diversity in our expertise and regional perspectives enables us to provide comprehensive assessments of the development policy issues that require attention from the international community, including emerging issues. We are currently working on identifying the elements of the current context that will be critical in terms of defining pathways for development to 2030 and beyond.

The analysis and interaction with governments in the context of the CDP's triennial reviews of the LDC category, the regular review of all LDCs, and the monitoring of countries that are graduating or have recently graduated give us a close view of what systemic inequalities look like on the

ground. These countries often don't have sufficient resources to ensure basic services and social protection to their populations and are in many cases paying exorbitant amounts in debt service. Then, they are being hit by climate-related events and other global shocks that require them to divert their scarce resources and lead to the loss hard-won infrastructure investments, affecting their future prospects irreversibly. The CDP can play a crucial role in informing member states through both assessments and policy recommendations, in preparation for their deliberations, including on sustainable development to 2030 and beyond. We also regularly make proposals of the international support that LDCs required to support their development process.

In the context of the CDP's mandate, we would welcome requests from the Council for the analysis of specific topics and challenges and solutions to specific problems.