

Scaling Private Investment Mobilization through Blended Finance (Side Event – Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, Sevilla 2025)

Side Event: The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

July 2, 2025, Virtual event

10:30 – 12:00 CET (11:30 – 13:00 ETA)

Registration link: <https://zoom.us/j/93979145224>

Description of the Side Event and Objectives

Africa continues to attract less than 3% of global private investment flows, despite its vast development potential and urgent financing needs. This persistent gap is driven by high perceived risk, underdeveloped financial ecosystems, and limited use of structured de-risking mechanisms. To address this challenge, this side event will explore practical pathways to mobilize large-scale private capital in Africa through blended finance solutions, especially those rooted in standardized Private Investment Mobilization Models (PIMMs) and cross-border projects under the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

Anchored in the first draft of the FfD4 Outcome Document, which calls for “an ambitious package of reforms to catalyze sustainable development investment at scale” and “greater standardization of blended finance instruments” (Clause 5, C28, C28g), the session will bring together regional and global stakeholders to:

- Share insights on catalytic and concessional financing instruments that have proven effective in improving the risk-return profiles of African projects.
- Showcase replicable, investment-grade transaction models that align with Agenda 2063 priorities, particularly in infrastructure, green energy, and SME financing.
- Introduce a continental framework for private investment mobilization under the Sevilla Platform for Action, co-led by UNECA and Convergence, and discuss how PIDA pipelines can serve as a credible entry point.

The session will also feature lessons from over a decade of blended finance implementation, offering participants tangible case studies, scalable approaches, and policy recommendations to crowd in private capital at both national and regional levels.

This event is not only about unlocking finance, but also about changing the investment narrative for Africa, moving from fragmented, project-by-project interventions to coherent, systems-level mobilization strategies that meet both the SDG and Agenda 2063 aspirations.

Organizers:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) – Macroeconomics, Finance and Governance Division
- Convergence Blended Finance Network

Partner and Stakeholders:

- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- African Union Commission (AUC)
- OECD DAC and Development Cooperation Directorate
- Governments of Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, and Canada
- Gates Foundation and Mastercard Foundation

Contribution to the Forum's Main Theme and Sub-Themes

This side event contributes directly to the FfD4 theme of financing sustainable development in high-risk, under-capitalized regions. It will:

1. Demonstrate successful use of blended finance to de-risk African investments.
2. Present replicable models for cross-border, thematic, and corridor-based infrastructure financing.
3. Provide recommendations to inform the Sevilla Platform for Action and FfD4 Outcome Document.
4. Showcase efforts to align Africa's blended finance ecosystem with global standards and regional needs.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Concrete policy guidance for integrating blended finance into national and regional investment frameworks.
2. Demonstrated case examples from developing countries, and Convergence on scalable catalytic models.
3. Strengthened coalition-building toward an African-led private investment mobilization strategy.
4. Shared commitment from international institutions to contribute to an African Action Plan under Sevilla.

Target Audience

The event targets a diverse audience, including:

- African government officials (Ministries of Finance, Planning, Investment)
- Central banks and financial sector regulators
- Development finance institutions (DFIs) and multilateral development banks (MDBs)
- Donor governments and bilateral agencies involved in blended finance
- Institutional investors and private asset managers
- Regional economic communities
- UN agencies and international development organizations
- Think tanks, academia, philanthropic foundations, and civil society organizations focused on SDG financing and accountability

Agenda

10:30 – 12:00	Scaling Private Investment Mobilization through Blended Finance
10:30 – 10:35	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa</p>
10:35 – 10:55	<p>Context setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on blended finance <p><i>Chris Club – Managing Director- Convergence Blended Global Finance</i></p>
10:55-11:55	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Views on Africa’s private investment mobilization, the African Union, Central Banks and Private Sector on the challenges and potentials of scaling blended and its adoption across all 55 African Union member states.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smita Sanghrajka – Director, International Development Advisory Services (IDAS) KPMG, <i>Kenya</i> - Paul Clements-Hunt- Board chair, The blended Capital group, UK - Dr Charles A. Mwamwaja – Commissioner for Financial Sector Development- MOF, Tanzania (tbc) - Alessandro Scalco – Private Sector Expert, RMB, South Africa <p>Discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Collins Otoo - Microeconomic, Finance and Governance Division, <i>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</i></p>
11:55 -12:00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Eren kelekci – Chief Investment Officer, Private Sector and Blended finance, AfDB</p>