

## The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

Side event on 2 July 2025, 10:30 – 12:00

FIBES Sevilla Exhibition and Conference Centre (Room 19)

# New approaches for renewed international cooperation: ‘Insights for the Beyond GDP Global Alliance’

**Lead partners: Government of Spain, OECD, UNCTAD, SEGIB**

**Associated partners: UNDESA, UNDP, UN ECLAC, UN ESCWA, AUDA-NEPAD, CAF, OPHI, PAHO, Beyond Lab, FERDI, Ford Foundation**

## Event at a Glance

Led by Spain, the OECD, SEGIB and the United Nations, through UNCTAD, and in close collaboration with a diverse set of institutional partners—, the event will provide a space to help shape the future focus, scope, and work of the Beyond GDP Global Alliance, which is being launched at the Conference. The Global Alliance gathers countries and partners committed to advancing the integration of more comprehensive development considerations into policy and financing practices.

In doing so, the Alliance contributes to the ongoing process of identifying and promoting the use of new measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond GDP, and to their application in renewed frameworks of international co-operation in line with the *Pact for the Future*. This Alliance will serve as a platform for shared ambition, mutual learning and coordinated action, contributing to the efforts within the Seville Platform. The event will also seek to encourage broader participation from countries and organisations in the *Beyond GDP Global Alliance*.

Bringing together participants from across all regions, the event will foster cross-regional dialogue and knowledge exchange. It will provide space for countries and institutions to share experiences, identify region-specific priorities, and articulate expectations for the Alliance’s agenda. Particular attention will be given to the ways in which beyond GDP metrics can inform development strategies, policy planning, and financing frameworks at both national and international levels.

## Background

As global leaders gather at the Financing for Development Conference in Seville, the focus on 'Beyond GDP' gains prominence<sup>1</sup>, highlighting the necessity of integrating comprehensive measures of social, environmental, and economic well-being into national and international financial strategies to foster sustainable development.

Traditional metrics can be enriched to better reflect the complexity of global economic interactions and their impact on people’s lives. In a world that has seen the highest pace of technological progress and the greatest prosperity

<sup>1</sup> The recent **Pact for the Future** reaffirms the need for measures that complement or go beyond GDP (Action 53), but also stressed the need to consider these measures to inform the channelling of development finance and developing technical cooperation.

[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sof-pact\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_adopted.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sof-pact_for_the_future_adopted.pdf)

that the economy has ever produced, one would expect to see greater economic well-being across populations, better health, stronger social cohesion and more balanced use of resources across countries and over time. But “beyond GDP” evidence shows a more mixed and nuanced picture. For instance, the generation born between 1980s and early 2000s has faced more intense economic and social disruptions during their formative years, leading to lasting effects on wealth accumulation, home ownership, and overall financial security. These disruptions have also impacted mental health, [subjective well-being](#) and social connectedness. More broadly, development patterns have been uneven, and [the convergence once observed](#) between developing and advanced economies has stalled. Advanced economies generate twice as much waste per capita, contributing to a [larger environmental and economic footprint](#). Meanwhile, inequalities, both between and within countries, remain significant.

Against this background, the urgency of adopting multidimensional frameworks that inform new multilateral approaches to development, has become increasingly clear. While GDP remains a key indicator of economic output, it is not a comprehensive measure of progress, nor a guide for people-centered and planet-conscious policy. GDP fails to reflect key dimensions of human and environmental well-being, such as ecological vulnerability, informality and job quality, social cohesion and trust, access to quality education, digital inclusion, health disparities, safety and violence or the fairness of income and wealth distribution. It also overlooks intergenerational mobility and equity issues. There is a growing need for metrics and policy frameworks, including in development finance, that capture not just how much is produced, but how development is experienced, distributed, and sustained over time. These should help enhance the resilience of economies and societies to shocks and foster truly inclusive development for people and communities. These metrics and policy objectives should also consider interrelated challenges posed by the social, green and digital transitions and should inform action to generate the opportunity for creating new growth models that put people and the planet first.

Over the years, there have been many attempts, from north to south of the globe, from a larger number of researchers, non-governmental organizations, countries and international organizations to provide alternative measures of development. The “beyond GDP” agenda has advocated for the integration of [well-being metrics](#) and sustainability of the environment to complement GDP while calling for a strengthening of statistical capacity in developing countries.

The “beyond GDP” agenda has also been increasingly mainstreamed in policy action:

- At domestic level, several countries have worked on [incorporating well-being and beyond GDP measures in domestic policymaking](#) and in budgetary forecasts and allocations. While implementation challenges remain, these frameworks have demonstrated a number of [important benefits](#) allowing to (a) Refocus on the outcomes that matter the most to people; (b) Redesign policy content to meet a wider range of social and environmental objectives; (c) Realign policy practice across government silos; and (d) Reconnect people with the public institutions that serve them. There is a significant number of countries that is now working to advance Beyond GDP frameworks, supported by catalytic initiatives such as the [OECD Knowledge Exchange Platform on Well-Being Metrics and Policy Practice](#).
- At the international cooperation level, the “beyond GDP” agenda has supported renewed cooperation frameworks including multidimensional vulnerability indexes and the [“Development in Transition”](#) approach, which promotes a multidimensional understanding of development. The “beyond GDP” agenda also encompasses efforts to help countries escape [development traps](#), and to resolve the so-called [development paradox](#). This approach also calls for greater attention to potential transboundary impacts and reinforces the importance of localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Going forward, it can further promote a reflection on how new and different measurements can be at the core of different models of international cooperation, with a better articulation of different actors, with a stronger focus on building capacities, and peer exchanges across shared policy challenges. By adopting such a perspective, development partners can also design more targeted technical assistance tools and define clearer principles for allocating resources based on countries’ actual needs.

Now is time to embrace and enact a new vision of progress. It is time to promote mutual understanding and convergence among various initiatives and to encourage further mutual learning on how to incorporate well-being and beyond GDP considerations to inform financial strategies for sustainable development.

## Objectives of the meeting

**Provide insights to the focus, scope and work of the *Beyond GDP Global Alliance*,** an alliance of countries and partners committed to advancing the integration of more comprehensive metrics of development into policy and financing practice. Building on widespread recognition of the need for more holistic indicators—and on the many initiatives emerging across regions and institutions, notably the new UN High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP—this Alliance will serve as a platform for convergence, mutual learning, and action. Most importantly, it will focus on the practical application of new metrics, exploring how they can reshape international cooperation to better respond to the complex challenges of our time.

**Provide a space to share experiences and expectations.** The event will offer a platform for countries to share their experiences, identify specific priorities, and articulate their expectations for the Alliance's future agenda.

**Inspire further engagement.** It will also serve as a strategic opportunity to broaden engagement from both countries and organisations in the Beyond GDP Global Alliance.

## Draft Agenda

90 min

Speakers are currently being confirmed

New approaches for a renewed international cooperation: 'Beyond GDP Global Alliance'	
10 min	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>This opening session will set the scene by outlining the ambition and goals of the Global Alliance on Beyond GDP. It will also invite countries and institutions to join the initiative and contribute to shaping its future objectives and activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HE José Manuel Albares Bueno, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain</li> <li>- <i>Rebecca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD</i></li> <li>- <i>Mary Beth Goodman, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD</i></li> </ul>
45 min	<p><b>Session 1. Towards integrating more comprehensive metrics of development into policy and financing practice.</b></p> <p>This session will provide an overview of the need and urgency to advance the Beyond GDP agenda. Countries will share the efforts they are undertaking at the national level to integrate Beyond GDP metrics, as well as initiatives to promote their use in international cooperation. They will also offer regional perspectives and outline their aspirations for how the Global Alliance can support and accelerate progress on this agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>H.E. Abdourahmane Sarr, Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, Senegal</i></li> <li>- <i>H.E. Nadia Fettah Alaoui, Minister of Economy and Finance, Morocco</i></li> </ul>

- H.E. Ryan R. Straughn, Minister in the Ministry of Finance Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment, Barbados
- H.E. Ambassador Philip Fox-Drummond Gough, Secretary for Economic and Financial Affairs, Brazil
- H.E. Mario Marcel, Minister of Finance of Chile

30 min

## Session 2. Consolidating a Beyond GDP Global Alliance

This session will highlight the contributions of regional institutions in advancing the Beyond GDP agenda within their respective contexts, as well as their perspectives on future directions. Institutions will also reflect on how the Global Alliance can support and enhance these efforts, helping to scale up the use of Beyond GDP metrics at both national and international levels.

### Interventions

- Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, AUDA-NEPAD
- Ignacio Corlazzoli, Manager for Resource Mobilization and Global Alliance, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean
- José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Representative from UN ESCWA

### Reactions

- Jarbas Barbosa, Director, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Sabina Alkire, Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

5 min

## Closing remarks

- Andrés Allamand, Secretary General, Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)

## In partnership with



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