



SOUTHERN VOICE

### SV Talks First Edition

## Local Solutions to Global Challenges : Financing for Development in a Shifting Geopolitical Landscape

### Concept Note

**Date:** Thursday, 14 August 2025  
**Time:** 14:00-15:00 (UTC) / 9:00- 10:00 (UTC-5)  
**Format:** Virtual, ensuring global accessibility.  
**Duration:** 1 hour  
**Registration:** Please register for this event through [Zoom](#)

In a world increasingly marked by polycrisis, from pandemics and climate shocks to spiralling debt and fragile health systems, communities and countries in the Global South are on the frontlines of global challenges. Global South countries are most affected by these crises, with impacts exacerbated by financing challenges including limited fiscal space and increasing debt. This session aims to dive deeper into these topics highlighted in our latest publication, *Global South Perspectives (GSP)*, and connect them with the discussion on financing for development.

Building on the recent FfD4 conference in Seville and Southern Voice's positioning to advance the financing for development agenda reflected in our [Joint Statement on Financing for Development](#)—which highlighted the need to expand fiscal space for countries to fund essential services such as health, including through debt relief, tax reform, and multilateral development bank reform. This session offers a timely space to reflect and reinforce the need for Southern solutions to global crises, and stronger leadership and agency.

The upcoming conversation will highlight country-specific cases on **debt sustainability and healthcare access**, demonstrating two types of Global South contributions to global challenges:

- **Globally relevant policy thinking:** A GSP researcher from Sri Lanka offers concrete proposals to reform financial systems to address debt sustainability. These contributions reflect the Global South's capacity to inform and shape international development debates, not just respond to them.
- **Context-responsive, community-based strategies:** Research by GSP researchers in Nigeria highlights expanding equitable health care access. Drawing on lessons from local interventions, this work highlights the importance of institutional flexibility, technology, and community engagement in building resilient systems lessons that are increasingly relevant beyond the South.

Together, these perspectives challenge outdated notions of where expertise comes from, repositioning the Global South not as a passive recipient of global solutions, but as a dynamic source of knowledge, strategy, and leadership in development thinking.

### Speakers and Moderators

- Lakmini Fernando, IPS Sri Lanka
- Denyinye Hitlar, CPED Nigeria
- Julie Garfieldt Kofoed, United Nations Foundation
- Aline Contti Castro, The Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)
- Azizah Fauzi, Southern Voice (Moderator)

### Annotated agenda

Time	Activity	Description
5 minutes	Introducing panelists and getting started with the event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcoming participants</li> <li>● Short intro to SV Talks</li> <li>● Brief introduction of panelists and commentator</li> <li>● Setting the scene for the conversation with brief info on the topic and FfD4 connection. Clearly explaining the connecting thread</li> </ul>



10 minutes	Presentation by GSP Authors	<p>Each GSP author is given 5 minutes to present the global challenge they are trying to tackle. Researchers are encouraged to use one image that best represents the challenge. Then, they will present their research findings, and recommendations. The presentation should include these following insights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the global challenge addressed?</li><li>• What are the main contributions of your research to this specific topic?</li><li>• Why did you choose to conduct research on this specific topic?</li><li>• What are the most relevant findings from your research, and what are its limitations?</li><li>• What are the key recommendations of your article?</li></ul>
15 minutes	Commentator's response	<p>Each commentator is given 7.5 minutes to respond to the authors' presentation, offering several insights that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why is this issue important to address, and why is it essential to bring in perspectives from the Global South?</li><li>• How do these Global South solutions contribute to achieving the goals of FfD4 and what steps are required for the international community to prioritise these solutions?</li><li>• What would you suggest to make these recommendations actionable?</li></ul>
7 minutes	Menti session	<p>Open ended question on Menti: Share with us something that was eye-opening for you today and your biggest takeaway from the conversation</p>
20	Q&A Session	<p>Engaging the audience on issues raised throughout</p>



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minutes		the session.
2 minutes	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thanking participants, panellists, commentators, and partners.</li><li>• Inform participants of upcoming talk dates.</li></ul>