

GLOBAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT (GPI)

Transforming International Cooperation to Finance Common Needs

Event Briefing Note

Date and Time: 13:00 – 15.30, 19 September, 2022

Location: Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, 320 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017

Format: In Person Event

Note. This is an invitation only UNGA side-event

Headline messages

COVID-19 has laid bare that the global aid architecture is radically unfit for purpose. **Multiple and interlocking crises** from climate change to future pandemics to social inequality **require a different approach** than the donor-recipient model, as the funding gaps faced by the SDGs and the Act-Accelerator each confirm.

Global Public Investment calls for a global contributions budget line for global common needs. All countries would contribute on a fair share basis in exchange for a meaningful say in governance, and all countries are potentially recipients based on shared definitions of need. GPI means *all countries contribute, all benefit, and all get to decide*.

Global Public Investment could transform how governments meet the shared needs of citizens all over the world: from securing global public goods, such as vaccines, to protecting the global commons. The shared, unprecedented challenges we all face require a new unified approach that leverages the capacity of all nations, and achieves a better resourced, more democratic response. GPI would meet these needs through a more universal and better structured system.

Interest and momentum around **Global Public Investment** is growing. Key leaders (from economists to former heads of state), civil society organisations, and national governments are engaging with GPI. We are delighted that many of these are in the room today to continue the task of pushing GPI up the international agenda. Just this morning saw the launch of the [Global Public Investment Network \(GPIN\)](#) which will coordinate strategy and advocacy around GPI.

Our overarching objective is clear. **GPI needs to be part of the post-2030 global financing plan**. Before then, GPI will be essential to making progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. Already GPI is being explored in different contexts, from multilateral partnerships (e.g. CEPI) to regional cooperation initiatives (e.g. Mexico's Regional Roadmap).

GPI: Background information

What is GPI?

Global Public Investment (GPI) is a new financing and governance framework for the 21st century's pressing global challenges. The failure of current approaches to address these challenges has been highlighted by the UNSG in *Our Common Agenda*. GPI is framed by the principles of "all contribute, all benefit and all decide". GPI has been cocreated by partners from multiple sectors and countries around the world. GPI is increasingly endorsed as an equitable means to advance global common priorities such as pandemic preparedness, climate stability, and sustainable development. Concretely, GPI is a global contributions line in national budgets dedicated to shared global priorities. Politically, it asks all countries to make such contributions on a fair share basis in exchange for a meaningful say in governance of international financing. In this way it raises not only more money but better money: better allocated, better prioritised, and better spent.

How would GPI work?

In contrast to the traditional donor-recipient vertical approach of ODA, GPI is a universal contributions model, in which (a) each country is both a contributor and a recipient, to varying degrees depending on income level, and (b) all countries have an equal say in a horizontal governance structure managing international public investments.

The political feasibility of GPI

The road to GPI is well signposted. GPI has been driven forward as a policy idea in dialogue with global partners, including via a worldwide consultation consisting of three launch events across the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America - engaging hundreds of participants. The result is a validated global policy proposal, with agreed-upon core principles underpinned by a commitment to co-creation.

Early outcomes from GPI show promise. GPI has informed discussions around the new Pandemic Fund, the PPPR FIF, particularly in relation to the governance principal of "all decide". Country governments, including Indonesia during its G20 presidency, are taking note: Indonesia has broken the "norm" of the traditional aid approach to funding multilateral objectives and has played a leading role both as a contributor and by calling for low and middle-income countries to be included in governance, in line with GPI principles.

There are clear incentives for countries to participate. GPI does not rely on all countries participating to begin with, but provides clear incentives for doing so: be it the political imperative to respond to citizen demand for protection against global warming and pandemics, status benefits for first-mover countries, resource-leverage benefits for traditional donor countries, or power and dignity for traditional recipients.

The traditional aid model has reached such high levels of dysfunction (unkept commitments, amidst growing needs) that multilateralism itself is under threat. In a context of rising geopolitical and global governance challenges, GPI provides a framework for countries to bridge their geopolitical divides using a fresh paradigm for agreeing and managing common priorities. Opening up governance is the key to getting the finance debate unstuck.

We need fundamentally new approaches to fill the SDG funding gap. The quest to fund the SDGs (which include key global public goods (GPGs)) is increasingly urgent yet innovative financing solutions continue to evade the international community. In *Our Common Agenda* (2021) the UN Secretary-General calls for Member States, along with other key stakeholders, to secure the SDGs "through enhanced multilateral governance of global commons and global public goods": issues that benefit humanity as a whole and that cannot be managed by any one State or actor alone. In the lead up to the Summit of the Future (2024), GPI should be one of the tools on the table and be adopted as a recommendation by the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

A growing multi-stakeholder coalition. More and more governments are showing interest in GPI, and a broad-based civil society mobilisation is developing, including the launch of the [Global Public Investment Network](#) (GPIN) at this UNGA. We need to continue developing this political momentum. Today's meeting affords the opportunity to begin this discussion, and to collectively assess how to strategically position GPI for the challenges of our time. We expect GPI principles to become increasingly and commonly accepted in global public finance in the years leading up to 2030.

The time is now

Energetic and strategic advocacy will be required along with experimental adoption if we are to overcome barriers, build on incentives and bring decision-makers over the line. Our global crises are colliding. On top of the huge impact of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic, the tragedy of hunger continues to affect tens of millions and the total external debt of developing countries increased from US\$6.5 trillion in 2011 to US\$11.1 trillion in 2021¹.

Meanwhile the war in Ukraine has not only worsened some global crises (energy and fertiliser price spikes, food shortages and supply disruptions), but also diverted attention away from other pressing global challenges.

GPI can help meet these **complex and intersecting needs**, beginning with a new multilateral commitment to financing our acute need for global public goods (GPGs), such as vaccines and climate stability.

Global Public Investment on the international agenda

The next 12 months will see the following international agenda-setting initiatives. In the context of colliding crises and the significant increases in public investment needed to save the SDGs, GPI principles should be embraced in each of them.

- **COP 27** (6 -18 November 2022)
 - GPI should be raised as a part of the solution for securing existing climate finance commitments
- **UN High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism Final Report** (Early Spring 2022)
 - GPI should be included among the Board's core recommendations
- **G20 Heads of State and Government Summit** (15-16 November 2022)
 - GPI should be profiled in an official side event
- **Japan G7** (19-21 May 2023)
 - GPI should be included in the official communique (see, e.g., the [C7 Official Communique](#) 2022).
- **The Second SDG Summit** (September 2023)
 - GPI should be reflected by UN Member States at this mid-term review
- **Annual Meeting of the World Bank and IMF** (October 2023)
 - Concrete proposals for GPI should be discussed
- **Fourth Financing for Development Summit** (Spring, 2024)
 - GPI should be included among the Summit's key recommendations
- **Summit of the Future** (September 2024)
 - GPI should be a central pillar of the international commitments identified as priority areas for Agenda 2030 and for filling the SDG funding gap; GPI should be a central part of the "new global consensus on what our future should look like" called for by the UNSG.

¹ UN. 2022. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Trade and Development. New York: UN https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/osg2022d1_en.pdf

Background of the event

This two-hour in person event will bring together thought leaders, UN Delegations and representatives from governments, NGOs, academia and civil society from global south and north to discuss and capitalize on the historic opportunity to embed GPI into the UNGA conversation on reforming multilateral cooperation and financing for common needs.

The event is designed to build political support for GPI and its mission to boldly reimagine and to reassert the need for international public finance in a time of multilateral challenges and geopolitical disquiet. GPI's core message of inclusive governance and equity responds to growing calls to "decolonize" aid and offers a roadmap for developing an alternative system of international public finance rooted in collective responsibilities for meeting shared global needs.

This event is unique in that it provides a platform for stakeholders from different sectors (government, civil society, academia, the UN) to grapple with and strategize on these issues together.

About the host partners

This dialogue is hosted by the Ford Foundation and Equal International. [Equal International](#) is a specialist international development consultancy which uses expertise in cocreation, thought leadership, policy research and advocacy to address marginalization, the rights of those at risk of being 'left behind', and the drivers of inequality. Equal is based in the UK and South Africa and has been supporting the cocreation of GPI since its inception, including functioning as the Secretariat to the [Expert Working Group on Global Public Investment](#). The Ford Foundation and Equal are grateful and proud to have developed this event in partnership with some of the key champions of the GPI movement: the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), CIVICUS, Partners In Health, Joep Lange Institute and Open Society Foundations.

About the panellists



Winnie Byanyima

Executive Director, UNAIDS

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

A passionate and longstanding champion of social justice issues, Ms Byanyima leads the United Nations' efforts to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Ms Byanyima believes that health care is a human right, and she is the co-founder and co-chair of the People's Vaccine Alliance, advocating for COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to be available and free of charge to everyone, everywhere. Before joining UNAIDS, Ms Byanyima served as the Executive Director of Oxfam International. Previously, she was elected for three terms in the parliament of her country, Uganda.

A global leader on inequality, Ms Byanyima led the establishment of the African Union Commission's Directorate of Gender and Development and served as Director of Gender and Development at the United Nations Development Programme. She founded the Forum for Women in Democracy, an influential Ugandan nongovernmental organization. Ms Byanyima has co-chaired the World Economic Forum and served on the World Bank's Advisory Council on Gender and Development, the International Labour Organization's Global Commission on the Future of Work and the Global Commission on Adaptation. She holds a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Cranfield University and an undergraduate degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Manchester. Ms Byanyima is the recipient of four honorary doctorates.



Navid Hanif

Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Development

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Navid Hanif is the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development (previously Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Until 2003, he was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. He later joined the office of the Under-Secretary General for UNDESA and focused on departmental initiatives in various policy areas. He worked as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support from 2004 to 2009. In 2005, he was sent on a special one year assignment to work as a Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General. He worked there as a member of the team for the 2005 World Summit. In 2010, he was appointed as Head of the newly established DESA Strategic Planning Unit. He served as Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (June 2012 – February 2018).



Diah Satyani Saminarsih

Founder and CEO, Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives (CISDI)

Diah S Saminarsih is an Indonesian development practitioner and public health advocate, currently serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and CEO of the public health non-profit Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives (CISDI). A psychologist by academic training, her professional journey has gone across consulting companies, government and national public institutions, and multilateral organizations. Diah has represented Indonesia in numerous global agendas including the UN General Assembly on the conception of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the World Health Assembly. She just recently concluded her role as the Senior Advisor to the WHO Director General on Gender and Youth.



Professor Avinash Persaud

Chair, CARICOM Commission on the Economy
Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Barbados on Investment and Financial Services
Emeritus Professor of Gresham College, UK

Avinash Persaud has served as a Member of the UN Commission of Experts on International Financial Reform. He also served as Chairman of the Financial Services Commission of Barbados and co-chair of the OECD Emerging Market Network. He was appointed a visiting scholar at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 2001-2002 working on risk appetite measures and a visiting researcher at the European Central Bank (ECB) (2005) to work on issues of liquidity and transparency in European financial markets. Prof Persaud was a Non-resident Senior Fellow of the Peterson Institute of International Economics, Executive Fellow of London Business School and Senior Fellow with the Caribbean Policy Research Institute and Head of its Barbados office. He is actively involved and supports education and poverty related charities. He is also an author of several academic and professional journals.



Solange Baptiste

Executive Director, The International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)
Member, Expert Working Group on Global Public Investment

Solange Baptiste leads community activists and allies across the globe to deliver ITPC's mission to enable people in need to access optimal and affordable treatment. She has fought to amplify the work of communities to ensure that data from community-led interventions including community-led monitoring is included as trusted global health evidence. She is committed to ensuring that the voice of affected communities contributes to and influences the decisions and policies that affect their lives. Although a native of Trinidad & Tobago, Solange is based in Johannesburg, South Africa with her family. Solange has been an active and key member of the Expert Working Group on GPI.

Moderator



Professor Alicia Ely Yamin

Senior Advisor on Human Rights and Health Policy, Partners in Health
Lecturer on Law and Senior Fellow on Global Health and Rights,
Harvard Law School
Member, Expert Working Group on Global Public Investment

Alicia Ely Yamin is currently Senior Fellow at Harvard Law School; and Senior Advisor on Human Rights at Partners in Health. Alicia's 30-year career at the intersection of global health and human rights has bridged academia and activism. Alicia has lived and worked in Latin America and East Africa for half of her professional life, working with and through local advocacy organizations. In 2016, the UN Secretary General appointed Yamin as one of ten international experts to the Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) for the SDGs. She also serves on the WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Health Technology Assessments, as well as the Lancet Commission on Arctic Health.

Event host



Salih Booker

Senior Program Officer for Global Governance & International Cooperation,
Ford Foundation

Salih Booker is a senior program officer for Global Governance & International Cooperation at the Ford Foundation. He is responsible for launching the foundation's efforts to inform and convene global institutions and actors that are instrumental in addressing inequality and working to foster dialogues and strategic alliances among non-governmental organizations and governments around the world. He has over 40 years of experience in international affairs and U.S. foreign policy, including leadership of several American and international research and advocacy organizations.

Growing support

““ *The Global Public Investment approach is our best bet for modernising international public finance for the 21st century.*”

*Rt Hon Helen Clark
Patron, Helen Clark Foundation
(Former New Zealand Prime Minister and former UNDP Administrator)*

““ *Internationalist perspectives seem to be losing ground just when the world needs them most. This can be changed, if people put pressure on leaders to choose bold responses based on solidarity. There is a convincing case for GPI based on statutory contributions, rather than patronising “aid” from rich to poor countries, as a necessary element to deal with the challenges we face.*”

*Jayati Ghosh
Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*

““ *The GPI approach is an invitation to the development community to re-imagine itself by questioning some strongly held beliefs about international cooperation. The world has changed from how it was seen at the beginning of this century. The GPI approach is for anyone interested in a new international response to global problems.*”

*Andrea Ordóñez
Director, Southern Voice*

““ *GPI fits perfectly with the spirit that guided the development of Agenda 2030, with solidarity as the backdrop. GPI is a platform meriting proper consideration and a potential rallying point as we work to reconstruct the socio-economic fabric after the pandemic.*”

*Francisco Songane
Former Minister of Health of Mozambique and Founding Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health*

““ *GPI articulates what many intuitively feel but few say out loud: that aid needs to be reformed, increased and maintained for the long term. Not charity, but smart investment in a more just and sustainable world.*”

*David McNair
Executive Director, Global Policy, The ONE Campaign*

““ *Rethinking aid with GPI is critical if we are to secure our undeniably inter-dependent future.*”

*Lysa John
Secretary-General, Civicus (global alliance of civil society)*

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Social media

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