IISD
International Institute for Sustainable Development

IISD Sovereign Debt Technical Assistance

Strengthening debt management and sustainability for climate and development

IISD's Sovereign Debt technical assistance supports public institutions in strengthening analytical capacity, improving debt governance, navigating the political economy of borrowing decisions, and aligning financing strategies with sustainable development objectives.

OUR EXPERTISE

Sovereign debt, when well-managed, can be a powerful driver of economic transformation, climate action, and long-term resilience. Yet inadequate debt management decisions and more frequent external shocks can quickly turn it into a brake on development. IISD supports governments in addressing these challenges through targeted technical assistance.

Areas of Work

Debt Management

We strengthen the full debt management ecosystem, including debt management offices, ministries of finance, central banks, parliaments, supreme audit institutions, and fiscal councils.

Debt Sustainability

We support the development and use of country-owned debt sustainability analysis, deepen understanding of debt dynamics and drivers of debt sustainability, and provide independent advice on debt restructuring and creditor engagement.

Debt for Green and Inclusive Transformation

We engage with countries on financing strategies that address investment needs for the energy transition while safeguarding debt sustainability.

OUR EXPERTS

IISD's Sovereign Debt team brings together internationally recognized experts with hands-on experience as policy-makers in developing countries. The team combines rigorous analytical expertise with practical policy experience, regularly advising governments on debt sustainability, fiscal and external risks, and financing strategies.

HOW WE WORK

Our Approach

We understand maintaining and restoring debt sustainability as an institutional and system-wide effort, shaped by the interaction between technical capacity, legal frameworks, institutional coordination, and political incentives.

We work at three levels...

Individual expertise

Developing the technical and analytical skills of government officials through targeted technical trainings.

Institutional systems

Strengthening the mandates, coordination mechanisms, and operational frameworks that underpin debt management and fiscal policy.

System-level governance

Reinforcing coordination, oversight, transparency, and broader policy frameworks to improve public decision making and institutional resilience.

How We Engage With Governments

The **length and scope** of our support are jointly defined with partner governments. Engagements can range from technical assistance with specific policy challenges to comprehensive, multi-year partnerships that support broader debt sustainability objectives.

The **nature** of our support depends on the context and objectives set together with countries. It may take the form of technical advisory services, hands-on analytical work, workshops and training, institutional assessment and reform support, and peer-learning exchanges. The support is free of charge.

Our **partners** sit in ministries of finance, debt management offices, parliaments, supreme audit institutions, fiscal councils, central banks, and other public institutions involved in fiscal policy and debt management.

How to Request Support

To inquire about receiving technical assistance on sovereign debt sustainability, please contact: Anahí Wiedenbrüg, senior policy advisor, Sovereign Debt, IISD, at awiedenbrug@iisd.org

About the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

IISD is an award-winning independent think tank working to accelerate solutions for a stable climate, sustainable resource management, and fair economies. Our work inspires better decisions and sparks meaningful action to help people and the planet thrive. We shine a light on what can be achieved when governments, businesses, non-profits, and communities come together. IISD's staff of more than 200 experts come from across the globe and from many disciplines. With offices in Winnipeg, Geneva, Ottawa, and Toronto, our work affects lives in nearly 100 countries.

About the IISD Tax and Debt Program

The IISD Tax and Debt Program works with emerging markets and developing economies to strengthen tax collection, use debt sustainably, and manage revenues responsibly, leveraging fiscal policy to mobilize resources that support sustainable development and long-term fiscal stability.

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