

Workshop on Innovative Resource Mobilization Strategies for International Organizations: From Ideas to Implementation

2 June 2026 (09:30 - 14:30)

LOCATION

Bahá'í International Community (BIC), 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120, New York, NY 10017

Convened by the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General

The global funding environment for international organizations (IOs) remains under significant strain. Fiscal pressures in major donor countries, shifting geopolitical priorities, and growing skepticism toward multilateral spending have intensified pressure on traditional funding channels. Official development assistance (ODA) fell to USD 174.3 billion in 2025—a 23.1% drop from 2024 and the largest annual contraction on record—while core contributions to the UN system declined by 27%. This erosion of predictable financing is constraining the system's ability to plan, invest, and respond at a time of growing demand.

Those demands are shifting rapidly. Multilateral cooperation is increasingly required in emerging domains like artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, biotechnology, outer space and the deep seabed, while basic commitments to development, peacekeeping, and humanitarian functions contract. The result is a widening gap between a contracting resource base and an expanding mandate.

This raises a central challenge for multilateralism: how to design and scale financing models that are more diversified, resilient, and capable of supporting both new and persistent global needs. As discussions on the future of the UN system advance under UN80, the need to rethink how international cooperation is financed has never been more urgent.

In July 2025, UNU-CPR convened an expert workshop on Innovative Resource Mobilization Strategies for International Organizations, which examined mechanisms used by IOs to raise resources beyond traditional contributions. While some models — such as airline ticket levies or bond-backed health financing — are well known, others remain less visible but offer valuable lessons, including sector-based contribution systems, registration fees linked to global commons governance, and export- or activity-based levies administered through international regulatory regimes.

The June 2026 workshop moves from mapping to application, exploring how innovative financing mechanisms can be adapted and scaled for emerging governance priorities and long-standing funding gaps. Discussions will examine political, legal, and institutional pathways, as well as barriers that have prevented promising ideas from advancing. A key objective is to generate practical solutions for UN entities and Member States, identifying opportunities that could be piloted or implemented in the near term.

The workshop will provide a space for frank exchanges among practitioners, policymakers, economists, and IO leaders. Insights will inform UNU-CPR's Global Governance Innovation Platform, as well as broader discussions on strengthening multilateral financing for both emerging and persistent global challenges.

Questions for discussion include:

- Which innovative financing models can be scaled or adapted for emerging governance areas and chronic needs?
- What political and institutional arrangements make new financing mechanisms viable?
- How can these mechanisms complement core funding without undermining it?
- What legal, accountability, and governance frameworks are needed for legitimacy and participation?
- Where are immediate opportunities to pilot new approaches?

Agenda

09:30 – 09:40

Welcome Remarks | Michael Franczak, UNU-CPR

09:40 – 10:00

Keynote Remarks | Maria Chepurina, Executive Office of the Secretary-General

10:00 – 11:00

Session 1: Capturing Private Sector Value

- Arun Maharajan, Unicef
- Jun Jin, UN Development Programme
- Carlo Restuccia, UN Capital Development Fund

11:00 – 12:00

Session 2: Managing Risk and Building Resilience

- Juan Chaves-Gonzalez, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- Toni-Shae Freckleton, UN Habitat
- Lance Bartholomeusz, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

12:00 – 12:30

Working lunch served

12:30 – 13:30

Session 3: Accessing Capital Markets: When and How?

- Frank Moser and Marijana Todorovic, Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat
- Natalia Toschi, International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Danny Morris, Climate Investment Funds

13:30 – 14:30

Session 4: Scaling Innovative Models: Institutional Pathways and Political Realities

Group discussion with moderator