COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics-Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch
Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses

Borrowers' Platform: Strengthening capacity for sovereign debt management

Monday, 28 September 2026
Delivered by the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies
UNCTAD

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations	**Room XVI**
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome address, Mr. Angel Gonzalez, Head, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge Development Branch, UNCTAD. Moderator, Ms. Randa Jamal, Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Capacity Building Section/P166, Technology, Innovation, and Knowledge Development Branch-DTL, UNCTAD
10:15 - 11:30	**Session 1 – Navigating the Sovereign Debt Landscape: Challenges for Developing Countries** This session will provide an in-depth overview of the evolving sovereign debt landscape and the challenges facing developing countries in an increasingly complex global financial environment. The session will examine how elevated debt vulnerabilities, tighter global financial conditions and increasing uncertainty are affecting countries' ability to secure financing that supports sustainable development while maintaining debt sustainability. Zooming in on the challenges faced by borrowing countries, the session will examine the implications of an increasingly complex creditor landscape and persistent information asymmetries between borrowers, creditors and other stakeholders. Particular attention will be paid to the importance of timely, reliable and borrower-relevant information in enabling developing countries to assess financing options, formulate informed policy positions and better articulate their priorities and interests in debt-related discussions and negotiations. Therefore, delegates will gain a solid understanding of the current sovereign debt environment and the importance of strengthening the information, analytical and negotiating capacity of borrowing countries, setting the foundation for the subsequent session on the Borrowers' Platform and its practical applications. Presented by: Dr. Penelope Hawkins, Head a.i., Debt and Development Finance Branch, Division on Globalisation and Development Strategies, UNCTAD and Mr. Keith Anthony Lockwood, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Debt and Development Finance Branch, Division on Globalisation and Development Strategies, UNCTAD
11:30 - 13:00	**Session 2 – The Borrowers' Platform: Strengthening the Capacity and Voice of Developing Countries,** Building on the first session, this session will introduce delegates to UNCTAD's Borrowers' Platform, including its objectives, structure, key tools and functionalities. The session will explore how the Platform seeks to address information asymmetries by improving access to

	debt-related information, analytical tools and practical resources tailored to the needs and perspectives of borrowing countries. Particular attention will be paid to how policymakers and Geneva-based delegates can use the Platform to strengthen debt transparency, support evidence-based policymaking and prepare for debt-related discussions and negotiations with creditors and other stakeholders. Through practical examples, delegates will explore how the Platform can facilitate access to borrower-relevant knowledge and strengthen countries' capacity to assess financing options and engage more effectively in international discussions on debt and finance for development. The session will also consider the Borrowers' Platform's broader contribution to strengthening the voice of developing countries in the global financial architecture. Therefore, delegates will gain a practical understanding of how the Platform can support more informed and balanced engagement between borrowers and creditors and contribute to sustainable, development-oriented financing solutions, including in support of Sustainable Development Goal 17. Presented by: Dr. Penelope Hawkins, Head a.i., Debt and Development Finance Branch, Division on Globalisation and Development Strategies, UNCTAD and Ms. Lu WEI, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Debt and Development Finance Branch, Division on Globalisation and Development Strategies, UNCTAD Q&A

Borrowers' Platform: Strengthening capacity for sovereign debt management

28 September 2026, Room XVI

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The Borrowers' Platform, recently launched at UNCTAD, is an initiative aimed at strengthening the capacity of developing countries to navigate an increasingly complex sovereign debt landscape. By improving access to debt-related information, analytical tools and practical resources, the Borrowers' Platform helps empower borrowing countries to make informed financing decisions, enhance debt transparency and engage more effectively in discussions with creditors and the international community.

At a time of elevated debt vulnerabilities, tighter global financial conditions and increasing uncertainty, many developing countries face significant challenges in securing financing that supports sustainable development, in addition to paying debt in a sustainable manner. Access to timely, reliable, borrower-focused information is essential to mitigate information asymmetries and enable countries to better articulate priorities and interests in debt-related negotiations and policy discussions. This course introduces delegates to the Borrowers' Platform, including objectives, key tools and practical applications, and shows how the Platform can support policymakers and Geneva-based delegates by providing evidence, knowledge and tools that help strengthen participation in international discussions on debt and finance for development. By fostering greater transparency and strengthening countries' analytical and negotiating capacity, the Borrowers' Platform supports more balanced engagement between borrowers and creditors and sustainable, development-oriented financing solutions.

The course is relevant to Sustainable Development Goal 17, particularly with regard to strengthening the means of implementation and promoting international cooperation for sustainable development. At the end of the course, delegates will have gained knowledge of the following:

- The challenges faced by developing countries in the present sovereign debt landscape and the importance of reducing information asymmetries
- The objectives, structure and main functionalities of the Borrowers' Platform
- How the Borrowers' Platform may be used to strengthen debt transparency, support evidence-based policymaking and improve access to borrower-relevant information
- How the Borrowers' Platform helps empower borrowing countries to engage more effectively in debt-related dialogues and negotiations with creditors and other stakeholders
- The role of the Borrowers' Platform in promoting sustainable financing and strengthening the voice of developing countries in the global financial architecture