



Expert Group Meeting on Sovereign Debt Crises and Restructurings: Lessons Learnt and Proposals for Debt Crisis Resolution Mechanisms

3.15p.m. – 5.45 p.m., Thursday, 25 October 2012, New York

Provisional Agenda

- Participants:** Government officials, academics and representatives of multilateral institutions, NGOs, and the private sector
- Venue:** United Nations Headquarters,
1st Avenue between 42 and 48th Street, New York
- Conference room:** ECOSOC Chamber
- Format:** The objective of the expert meeting is to have an interactive discussion on the desirability and possible institutional set-up of a structured mechanism for the resolution of sovereign debt crises. Each session will have a chair and four lead speakers. Rather than making a formal presentation, the lead speakers should use their time (5-7 minutes at most) to inform and stimulate the interactive debate.

3:15-3:20	Introduction: UNCTAD
3:20-4:20	What are the main challenges associated with the creation of a statutory mechanism for the resolution of sovereign debt crises?
	<p>In answering the question, panellists may want to address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What would be the consequences for creditor rights, access to credit, and borrowing costs?• Can such a mechanism be truly independent, or will it always be subject to political pressures and geopolitical considerations?• Are there hidden costs in the creation of a structured mechanism for the resolution of debt crises?• Does comparative law and international law provide support for a statutory approach?
	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Yuefen Li, Head, Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD</p> <p><u>Lead speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Otaviano Canuto, Vice-President, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, World Bank• Lorenzo Giorgianni, Deputy Director, Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, IMF• Hung Tran, Institute of International Finance
4:20-4:45	Coffee break

4:45-5:45

Issues surrounding the creation and institutional set-up of a debt resolution mechanism

If a structured mechanism were to be created, what should be its institutional set-up and guiding rules? In discussing this issue, panellists may want to address the following questions:

- Should the mechanism be hosted by an existing institution (and if so, which one), or would it require the creation of a new international body?
- What criteria would the mechanism use to establish ability to pay?
- Would recourse to the mechanism lead to automatic standstills and interim financing?
- How would the mechanism treat official debt? How would it establish seniority?

Moderator: John Williamson, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics

Lead speakers:

- Jeromin Zettelmeyer, Deputy Chief Economist and Director of Research, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Eric LeCompte, Executive Director, Jubilee USA Network
- Martin Landais, Deputy Secretary-General, Paris Club
- Anna Gelpern, Professor of Law, American University, Washington D.C.

A Closed Meeting of the UNCTAD Expert Group on Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing will be held in conjunction with these activities during the lunchtime session, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at a different venue.

The meeting will discuss the proposed structure of the guidelines to the Principles on Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing. Presentations will be made by Michael Waibel, University of Cambridge and Enrique Cosio-Pascal, Senior consultant on public debt and public finance.

For further information, contact: Kristine.Forslund@unctad.org

October 17, 2012