Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2024 Boosting affordable and longer-term financing for governments

John Paolo R. Rivera, Ph.D.

Senior Research Fellow, Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Online Policy Dialogue with UN-ESCAP | 29 August 2024









What makes for the good society is a sound economy. Without it, all the rest falls apart.

Llewellyn Rockwell



What's in it for you? Three areas of discussion







1. Macroeconomic prospects and challenges

2. Ways to increase affordable long-term financing

3. Global megatrends



Macroeconomic prospects and challenges



Post-pandemic challenge most economies encountered

Rocky economic growth due to revenge spending, high inflation, high interest rates



2. Some observations:

Inflation for most economies have been cost-push than demand-pull

Core inflation is increasing faster than headline inflation



Two arguments by economists:

Higher-for-longer stance by monetary authorities impedes faster economic growth

Lower policy rate alone cannot generate faster and higher quality economic growth. (e.g., India)

Three key implications (1/3): REFORMS in the BETTER NORMAL



Importance of how reforms can create meaningful impacts on resource allocation and distribution



Leverage on both capacities of fiscal and monetary sector in stabilizing the economy (goal: meet goals of the macroeconomy)



EMDEs can develop its agriculture sector in the same manner it developed its manufacturing and services sector (goal: improve food security)



Improve investment climate by guaranteeing ease of doing business, minimize corruption, reasonable tax policy, reduce red tape, among others



Importance of global peace, geopolitical stability, and economic cooperation

End war and conflict (i.e., peace is a global public good; political risk generates economic risk)

FTAs should not be limited to economic (e.g., RCEP)

Economic diplomacy is the use of government recourses to promote the growth of an economy by increasing trade, promoting investments, collaboration on bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, among others.

Three key implications (2/3): **REFORMS in the BETTER NORMAL**

Three key implications (3/3): REFORMS in the BETTER NORMAL



PROMOTING EQUALITY AND REPRESENTATION FOR ALL AND BUILDING RESILIENCE ARE KEYS TO ALLEVIATING GLOBAL POVERTY



INCREASE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND HEALTH



BUILD CLIMATE
RESILIENCE; PURSUE
SUSTAINABILITY; SUPPORT
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAMS



ACCESSIBLE FINANCING



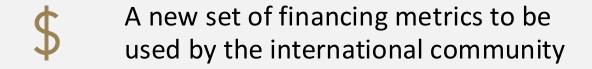
Three ways to increase affordable long-term financing: FISCAL CREDIBILITY IS KEY



Efficient tax collection and prudent spending of taxpayers' money on PAPs that are productive and value-adding.



Ensure an economic environment that is conducive for real and financial investment



Create bandwagon effect in reducing reliance on traditional GDP and national income levels to be used by the international community in determining both the provision and allocation of concessional development financing in the form of grants, loans and debt relief.

Sustainability metrics and stakeholder-driven indicators can also be used.





Global megatrends affecting fiscal policy: EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF SOCIETY, ECONOMY, POLITICS



Three key implications:



Governments must be adept with the evolving landscape of society, economy, and politics for new policy solutions and policy synergies – need to create fiscal space; explore new ways of measuring fiscal performance; fiscal reforms; tax reforms



Better reforms in the better normal are required; mitigate political risks to minimize economic and market risks.



Governments and international development partners acting as investors must go beyond simply providing funding – requires investment in both the cultivation of citizen capabilities, and hard and soft resources and infrastructure to enable citizens to be successful at scale.

