SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Unlocking the Flow of Finance for Climate Adaptation: Estimates of "Fiscal Space" in Climate-Vulnerable Developing Countries

Toby Melissa C. Monsod ^{a,1}, Mary Anne Majadillas ^b, Maria Socorro Gochoco-Bautista ^a Professor, University of the Philippines; ^b Professor, California State University, Monterey Bay

Supplement A. "When output growth is greater than interest rates on government debt, the debt-to-GDP ratio can be stabilized or even decline without governments having to generate primary surpluses".

An expression for the change in debt, derived from the standard government budget constraint, is: $d_t - d_{t-1} = (r_t - g_t)$ $d_{t-1} - pb_t$, where *d* is one-period debt (as a share of GDP) at the end of the period, *r* is real interest rate on debt contracted in period *t*-1 and due in period *t*, *g* is growth rate of real GDP, and *pb* is the primary balance (as a percentage of GDP).

Thus, one can see that if $(r_t - g_t) < 0$ (i.e., when output growth is greater than the interest rate on government debt), then $d_t - d_{t-1}$ can be negative or zero (i.e., the debt-to-GDP ratio can decline or be stabilized), even when $pb_{t.}<0$ (i.e., without governments having to generate a primary surplus).

¹ Corresponding author: tcmonsod@up.edu.ph

Supplement B. Determination of the Debt Limit by Ostry/Ghosh²

The solid line in Figure 1 is a stylized representation of a fiscal reaction function with fiscal fatigue. The fiscal reaction function is of the form:

$$pb_{t+1} = \mu + f(d_t) + \varepsilon_{t+1} \tag{1}$$

where *pb* is the primary balance, μ is all systematic determinants of the primary balance other than lagged debt, *f*(*d*_t), and ε is an independent and identically distributed shock to the primary balance. "At very low levels of debt, there is little response of the primary balance to debt. As debt increases, the balance responds more vigorously, but eventually the adjustment effort peters out as it becomes increasingly difficult and costly to raise taxes or cut primary expenditures." (Debrun et al., 2019)



Figure 1. Determination of Debt Limit

Source: Debrun et al. 2019 and Ghosh et al. 2013b

The dotted line is the effective interest bill or interest payment schedule. Three points of intersection are identified. Points A and B are the lower and upper (right most) intersections of the fiscal reaction function (given by equation 1), with the "risk-free" interest payment schedule, given by $(r^* - g) d$, where r^* is the risk-free real interest rate and g is growth rate of real GDP. r^* is assumed to be exogenously given and output growth is assumed to be independent of the level of public debt or the interest rate.

Point A yields **d***, the smallest positive root of the equation:

$$\mu + f(d) = (r^* - g) d$$
 (2)

² This discussion draws heavily from Ghosh et al., 2013 and Debrun et al., 2019 (pp. 13-14)

It is the "conditionally stable" long-run average debt ratio to which the economy normally converges. If a shock raises debt above d^* (but not beyond the upper intersection), the primary balance in later periods will more than offset the higher interest payments, returning the debt ratio to d^* .

Point B yields *d***, the largest root of equation (2), our debt limit of interest. This is the limit in what is referred to as the "deterministic" case as it assumes no shocks to the primary balance and no endogenous responses of interest rates to risk. Beyond *d***, debt would be unsustainable: debt would rise forever because, barring any extraordinary fiscal adjustment, the primary surplus would never be enough to offset a growing debt service. At *d***, "the interest rate becomes infinite" - the schedule becomes vertical - "as the government loses market access and is unable to rollover its debt." (Debrun et al., 2019)

Point C gives d_{ls} , the debt limit in a more general stochastic case, which considers stochastic shocks and increasing risk premiums as debt approaches its limit. This is depicted by an upward bending, convex interest payment schedule that becomes vertical as debt exceeds its limit at d_{ls} . d_{ls} is necessarily lower than d^{**} . Thus, the available fiscal space implied by d^{**} will likely be overstated.

Supplement C. Variable definitions and data sources (data are as of 2 February 2022

Variable	Description	Source			
Dependent variable					
Primary balance to GDP ratio	in percent, budgetary central government	Calculations based on IMF Government Finance Statistics			
Explanatory variables					
Lagged debt to GDP ratio	in percent; government gross debt	WEO Database			
Output gap	Difference between actual and potential, calculated using Hodrick-Prescott filter, real GDP	Calculations based on WEO database			
Government expenditure gap	Difference between actual and potential, calculated using Hodrick-Prescott filter, real government non- interest spending, budgetary central government	Calculations based on WEO database			
Trade Openness	sum of exports and imports to GDP (in percent)	Calculations based on World Development Indicators			
Inflation	logarithm of CPI inflation	Calculations based on WEO database			
Revenue to GDP ratio	two-year moving average	Calculations based on IMF Government Finance Statistics			
IMF	dummy variable = 1 if programme exists for given year, 0 otherwise	IMF History of Lending Arrangements			
oil prices	Log of oil prices applied to oil exporters (i.e., oil accounts for at least 20% of exports)	Exporters identified from UN COMTRADE. Oil prices from IMF Primary Commodity Price System			
non-fuel commodity prices	Log of non-fuel commodity price index, applied to commodity exporters (i.e. a non-fuel commodity comprises at least 20 percent of exports) only	Exporters identified from UN COMTRADE. Non-fuel price index from IMF Primary Commodity Price System			
GFC	dummy variable = 1 if year > 2007, 0 otherwise				
Interest rate -Growth Differentials	(IRGD)				
Historical 2009-2019	Effective interest rate, computed as interest expense of budgetary central government divided by general government gross debt, less nominal GDP growth. Mean of 2009 to 2019.	IMF Staff Reports containing Debt Sustainability Analysis (e.g., Article IV, Review Under the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement, Review Under the Stand-by Arrangement, Review Under the Staff-Monitored Program, Request for Disbursement Under the Rapid Credit Facility, Request for Purchase Under the Rapid Financing Instrument, Request for Arrangement Under the Extended Credit Facility)			
Projected 2021-2025	Mean IRGD for 2021 to 2025, where IRGD per year is computed (as described in the preceding row) using IMF projections for interest expense, general government debt, and GDP growth.	IMF Staff Reports containing Debt Sustainability Analysis (as enumerated above)			
Debt 2025	IMF projection of debt in 2025, or latest year projection is available	IMF Staff Reports containing Debt Sustainability Analysis (as enumerated above)			

Supplement D. Estimation results for the fiscal reaction function 1990-2019

	LIC		MAC	
Lagged debt	-0.750	***	-0.393	***
	0.161		0.111	
Lagged debt2	0.013	***	0.007	***
	0.003		0.002	
Lagged debt3	-0.0001	***	-0.00004	***
	0.00002		0.000011	
Output gap	30.784	**	8.629	**
	15.130		4.079	
Govt expenditure gap	-6.534	***	-12.079	***
	1.954		0.935	
Revenue, 2-year average	0.759	***	0.723	***
	0.071		0.072	
Log(inflation)	0.341		0.181	+
	0.285		0.116	
Trade openness	-0.026		-0.002	
	0.025		0.008	
IMF	0.143		0.210	
	0.607		0.283	
Oil prices			-0.825	
			0.785	
Non-fuel comm prices			-0.595	**
			0.302	
GFC	-1.548	*	-1.144	***
	0.833		0.339	
_cons	3.080	*	-2.214	*
	1.858		0.630	
Observations	238		272	
Countries	23		15	
Average size	10.3		18.1	
Min, Max size	4, 25		5,28	
R ² (within)	0.395		0.575	
AR(1) coefficient	0.402		0.707	

Notes. The dependent variable is budgetary central government primary balance to GDP (in per cent). Country-specific fixed effects are included in all specifications and the error term is assumed to follow an AR(1) process. ***, **, *, + denote significance at 1%, 5%, 10% and 12% levels respectively.

Comment:

- 1. The coefficients of the cubic functional form are statistically significant,³ and with one exception, the estimated coefficients of control variables are as expected.⁴ Specifically, primary balances respond positively to the output gap and negatively to temporary increases in government outlays (government expenditure gap) stronger fiscal institutions (two-year moving average of revenue-to GDP) are associated with better surplus generating capacity, and the period after 2008 is associated with lower primary balances. Primary balances also respond positively to inflation and to international influence (IMF), but the former is only marginally significant in one panel and the latter is not significant. The sign of the coefficient on non-fuel commodity prices is unexpectedly negative. This may indicate elastic global demand for these exports.
- 2. Tests for slope homogeneity are reported below. We find some evidence that the null hypothesis of slope homogeneity cannot be rejected, following Pesaran and Yamagata (2008) and Bervendsen and Ditzen (2020). For our sample size, the power of these tests is quite low, however. Ghosh et al. (2013) also notes that testing for slope homogeneity is difficult. Instead, they group their data into different debt categories and run fixed effects regressions per country to establish whether countries in the same category behave similarly to rising debt. This procedure was not feasible with our unbalanced sample.

	Delta	p-value						
LIC, non-adj	-1.448	0.148						
adj	-8.625	0.000						
MAC, non-adj	1.297	0.195						
adj.	2.349	0.019						
Variables partialled out: constant.								

H0: slope coefficients are homogenous

Reference: Pesaran and Yamagata (2008). Using the test for pure autoregressive models, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected using the unadjusted delta statistic but can be rejected using the adjusted delta statistic. However, the adjusted delta statistics tend to have a larger size. See Bervendsen and Ditzen (2020).

3. Fixed effects were confirmed using a test of overidentifying restrictions by Schaffer and Stillman (2010).

³ Robustness was confirmed using an alternative specification - feasible GLS - which corrects for within panel heteroskedasticity and panel specific autoregression, although country fixed effects are proxied using country-specific dummy variables. Panelcorrected standard errors could not be used because of our unbalanced panels.

⁴ Variables draw from Ostry/Ghosh, Abiad and Ostry (2005), and Mendoza and Ostry (2008). Institutional variables such as political stability or fiscal rules were not useful.

	Debt/GDP			GDP	Growth	IRGD≎			
	2009	2019	2025ª	2009- 2019	2021- 2025 ^b	Historical 2009-19 ^d	Projected 2021-25 º	Projected, Shocked 2021-25 ^f	
Bangladesh	39.5	35.7	40.3	6.6	7.1	-8.5	-10.5	-9.3	
Bhutan	65.7	106.6	82.8	6.1	6.9	-9.3	-7.2	-5.3	
Burkina Faso	25.9	42.0	48.3	5.7	5.3	-5.2	-6.1	-5.3	
Cambodia	28.5	28.6	38.0	6.4	5.1	-8.2	-7.5	-5.8	
DR Congo	91.3	15.0	20.7	5.9	6.4	-20.1	-12.5	-6.9	
Ethiopia	35.2	57.9	40.0	9.7	7.3	-23.5	-16.9	-10.2	
Ghana	26.8	62.6	87.0	6.6	5.3	-12.4	-6.9	-4.4	
Honduras	23.4	43.3	39.9	3.1	4.0	-2.1	-3.7	-3.3	
Kenya	35.9	59.0	64.4	4.9	5.6	-4.9	-8.8	-8.4	
Kiribati	9.3	18.1	86.5	3.1	1.9	4.1	-1.9	-1.4	
Madagascar	34.9	38.5	49.3	2.3	4.8	-8.0	-9.6	-8.4	
Maldives	48.4	78.3	78.1	5.2	7.3	-6.9	-7.1	-3.6	
Marshall Islands	41.6	24.8	54.2	2.3	1.7	-2.7	-1.7	0.5	
Nepal	39.4	33.1	41.1	5.0	5.4	-12.0	-10.3	-9.9	
Rwanda	18.5	50.2	73.1	7.1	8.1	-9.2	-10.0	-7.0	
Samoa	34.1	47.4	67.7	1.5	0.6	-1.1	-0.8	5.8	
Senegal	29.9	63.8	61.5	4.6	7.1	-2.1	-6.0	-3.0	
State of Palestine	24.0	34.5		4.7	0.0	-8.0			
Timor-Leste		9.6	23.4	3.7	2.6	-5.6	-4.2	-2.4	
UR Tanzania	24.0	39.0	38.8	6.5	5.2	-11.3	-6.9	-5.6	
Vanuatu	21.1	45.3	55.5	2.7	2.9	-2.5	-4.3	-2.4	
Lao PDR	51.8	61.1	53.9	7.2	6.8	-9.1	-7.1	-6.0	
Myanmar	54.4	38.8	46.7	6.4	5.4	-8.8	-9.7	-6.4	
Median	34.5	42.0	51.6	5.2	5.3	-8.0	-7.1	-5.5	
Mean	36.5	44.9	54.1	5.1	4.9	-7.7	-7.3	-4.9	

Supplement E.1: 23 LICs: Actual and projected debt-to-GDP ratios, GDP growth, and average IRGDs

Source: IMF WEO Database. Notes: ^a Debt projections are from IMF reports and are for 2025 except for Honduras (2024) and Bhutan, Kiribati, and Lao PDR (2023); ^b Projections are from IMF Reports and are for 2021-2025, except for Honduras (2020-2024) and Bhutan, Kiribati and Lao PDR (2021-2023); ^c Effective interest rate, computed as interest expense of budgetary central government divided by general government gross debt, less nominal GDP growth, from IMF Reports; ^d Average IRGD for 2009 to 2019; ^e Average for 2021 to 2025 – except for Honduras (2020-2024) and Bhutan, Kiribati and Lao PDR (2021-2023) - where IRGD per year is computed using IMF projections for interest expense, general government debt, and GDP growth; f"Shocked" is the difference between country-specific mean of real interest rate plus one country-specific standard deviation, and country-specific mean of GDP growth minus one country-specific standard deviation.

	Debt/GDP			GDP	growth	IRGDs °			
	2009	2019	2025ª	2009- 2019	2021- 2025 ^b	Historical, 2009-19 d	Projected, 2021-25 ^e	Projected- shocked [†]	
Colombia	35.4	52.3	59.3	3.5	4.1	-0.8	-1.4	-0.6	
Costa Rica	26.0	56.7	74.2	3.3	3.1	-0.7	2.8	4.1	
Dominican Republic	36.7	53.5	63.1	5.2	5.1	-4.1	-1.5	-1.0	
Fiji	51.5	48.9	79.3	2.9	4.3	-0.6	-1.7	4.0	
Guatemala	22.8	26.5	34.2	3.3	3.8	-0.2	-0.5	0.4	
Mongolia	48.5	68.4	77.3	6.9	5.9	-14.9	-10.5	-9.2	
Morocco	46.1	65.1	76.6	3.6	3.9	-0.1	-1.4	-0.7	
Philippines	49.8	37.0	61.1	6.0	6.4	-2.7	-4.0	-3.3	
Sri Lanka	75.2	86.8	79.2	5.1	4.6	-3.6	-1.3	-1.0	
Tunisia	46.6	74.2	99.7	2.0	2.4	-2.3	-4.0	-3.1	
Viet Nam	36.3	43.6	49.3	6.4	6.8	-13.6	-7.0	-5.9	
Indonesia	26.5	30.6	41.3	5.4	5.4	-11.0	-2.8	-1.5	
Malaysia	50.4	57.1	62.2	4.7	5.7	-2.2	-2.4	-0.8	
Singapore	101.7	129.0	142.6	4.5	3.4	-5.9	-2.2	-0.7	
Thailand	42.4	41.0	52.7	3.3	3.4	-2.7	-2.1	0.2	
Median	46.1	53.5	63.1	4.5	4.3	-2.7	-2.1	-0.8	
Mean	46.4	58.0	70.1	4.4	4.5	-4.3	-2.7	-1.3	

Supplement E.2 15 MACs: Actual and projected debt-to-GDP ratios, GDP growth, and average IRGDs

Source: IMF WEO Database. Notes: a Debt Projections are from IMF Reports and are for 2025, except for Sri Lanka (2024); b Projections are from IMF Reports and are for 2021-2025, except for Sri Lanka which covers 2021-2024; c Effective interest rate, computed as interest expense of budgetary central government divided by general government gross debt, less nominal GDP growth, from IMF reports; d Average IRGD for 2009 to 2019, except for Indonesia which covers 2002 to 2007; e Average for 2021 to 2025 – Sri Lanka which covers 2021-2024 - where IRGD per year is computed using IMF projections for interest expense, general government debt, and GDP growth; f "Shocked" the difference between country-specific mean of real interest rate plus one country-specific standard deviation, and country-specific mean of GDP growth minus one country-specific standard deviation.

	Daht			Historical		Duciented		Droisstad	abaakad	
	Dept	1 Batariaal		Ductoria	nisit		Proj		Projected	, snocked
	2025a	HISTORICAL	Projected	Projected,	a**	FISCAI	d**	FISCAI	d**	FISCAI
Deneladaah	20254	2009-19°	2021-25*		u 1/1 2	100 0	u 1// 3	104.0	u 1/25	102.2
Bangladesh	40.3	-0.00	-10.40	-9.5Z	141.2	60.8	1/10.0	67.1	142.5	6/ 6
Bnutan Durking Face	02.0 48.3	-9.33	-1.23	-0.04 = 00	138.3	09.0	149.9	07.1	138.5	04.0
Burkina Faso	40.5	-5.20	-0.00	-0.00 5.70	1/0.0	30.0 111 0	1/0/	110 /	145.0	107 Q
Cambodia	20.7	-0.17	-7.54	-0.70 6.01	149.Z 156 /	125.7	140.4	110.4	145.9	107.9
DR Congo	20.7	-20.10	-12.50	-0.91	100.4	100.7	140.0	124.9	130.3	101.00
Ethiopia	40.0	-23.52	-16.94	-10.15	100.5	120.3 59.5	101.9	111.9	141.0	101.0
Ghana	07.0 20.0	-12.30	-0.94	-4.35	140.0	00.0 00.0	100.4	49.4	131.4	44.4 06 7
Honduras	59.9 64.4	-2.08	-3.66	-3.25	123.7	03.0	127.5	07.0	120.0	00.7
Kenya	04.4	-4.93	-8.78	-8.43	131.2	00.0	138.5	74.1	137.9	73.5
Kiribati	86.5	4.13	-1.90	-1.39	141.1	54.6	149.2	62.7	148.5	62.0
Madagascar	49.3	-8.01	-9.58	-8.39	141./	92.4	144.2	94.9	142.3	93.0
Maldives	/8.1	-6.88	-7.14	-3.60	138.8	60.7	139.2	61.1	132.8	54.7
Marshall Is	54.2	-2.74	-1.70	0.47	131.7	77.5	129.6	75.4	124.7	70.5
Nepal	41.1	-12.03	-10.30	-9.85	145.9	104.8	143.2	102.1	142.5	101.4
Rwanda	73.1	-9.17	-10.00	-7.01	145.7	72.6	146.9	73.8	142.5	69.4
Samoa	67.7	-1.07	-0.76	5.78	130.7	63.0	130.1	62.4	113.9	46.2
Senegal	61.5	-2.06	-6.02	-3.00	134.5	73.0	141.2	79.7	136.1	74.6
State Palestine		-8.00			135.9					
Timor-Leste	23.4	-5.63	-4.16	-2.43	152.0	128.6	150.1	126.7	147.9	124.51
UR of Tanzania	38.8	-11.26	-6.94	-5.60	143.4	104.6	136.0	97.2	133.5	94.7
Vanuatu	55.5	-2.51	-4.32	-2.41	134.0	78.5	137.3	81.8	133.9	78.4
Lao PDR	53.9	-9.07	-7.07	-5.97	144.3	90.4	141.2	87.3	139.4	85.5
Myanmar	46.7	-8.82	-9.66	-6.39	141.0	94.3	142.4	95.7	136.9	90.2
Median	51.6	-8.0	-7.1	-5.5	141.2	86.9	141.8	87.4	138.2	86.1
Mean	54.1	-7.7	-7.3	-4.9	141.7	87.8	141.5	87.4	137.4	83.3

Supplement F.1. 23 LICs: Estimated debt limits (d**) and associated point estimates of fiscal space under various IRGDs assumptions

Notes: ^a Debt projections are from IMF reports and are for 2025 except for Honduras (2024) and Bhutan, Kiribati, and Lao PDR (2023); ^b Effective interest rate, computed as interest expense of budgetary central government divided by general government gross debt, less nominal GDP growth, from IMF Reports; ^c Average IRGD for 2009 to 2019; ^d Average for 2021 to 2025 – except for Honduras (2020-2024) and Bhutan, Kiribati and Lao PDR (2021-2023) - where IRGD per year is computed using IMF projections for interest expense, general government debt, and GDP growth; ^e "Shocked" is the difference between country-specific mean of real interest rate plus one country-specific standard deviation, and country-specific mean of GDP growth minus one country-specific standard deviation.

	Debt		IRGD ^b		H	istorical	Projected		Projected, shocked	
		Historical	Projected,	Projected,						
	2025ª	2009-19 ^c	2021-25 d	shocked e	d**	Fiscal space	d**	Fiscal space	d**	Fiscal space
Colombia	59.3	-0.80	-1.38	-0.56	116.5	57.2	119.0	59.7	115.3	56.0
Costa Rica	74.2	-0.65	2.78	4.12	113.4	39.2	84.9 f	10.7	88.4 f	14.2
Dominican Rep.	63.1	-4.11	-1.54	-0.99	133.1	70.0	124.9	61.8	122.9	59.8
Fiji	79.3	-0.60	-1.72	4.00	118.8	39.5	123.2	43.9	79.2 ^f	-0.1
Guatemala	34.2	-0.15	-0.48	0.36	111.8	77.6	113.6	79.4	108.9	74.7
Mongolia	77.3	-14.92	-10.54	-9.23	162.4	85.1	154.3	77.0	151.7	74.4
Morocco	76.6	-0.05	-1.40	-0.73	122.1	45.5	126.8	50.2	124.5	47.9
Philippines	61.1	-2.70	-4.02	-3.27	131.5	70.4	135.3	74.2	133.2	72.1
Sri Lanka	79.2	-3.60	-1.30	-0.96	127.3	48.1	118.5	39.3	117.0	37.8
Tunisia	99.7	-2.27	-4.02	-3.12	129.7	30.0	134.8	35.1	132.3	32.6
Viet Nam	49.3	-13.63	-6.98	-5.92	159.8	110.5	146.5	97.2	144.1	94.8
Indonesia	41.3	-11.03	-2.80	-1.47	153.4	112.1	134.3	93.0	130.6	89.3
Malaysia	62.2	-2.16	-2.42	-0.80	130.5	68.3	131.3	69.1	126.2	64.0
Singapore	142.6	-5.89	-2.18	-0.65	146.0	3.4	137.3	-5.3	133.3	-9.3
Thailand	52.7	-2.68	-2.08	0.23	125.7	73.0	123.6	70.9	113.8	61.1
Median	63.1	-2.7	-2.1	-0.8	129.7	68.3	126.8	61.8	124.5	59.8
Mean	70.1	-4.3	-2.7	-1.3	132.1	62.0	127.2	57.1	121.4	51.3

Supplement F.2. 15 MACs: Estimated debt limits (d**) and associated point estimates of fiscal space under various IRGDs assumptions

Note: ^a Debt Projections are from IMF Reports and are for 2025, except for Sri Lanka (2024); ^b Effective interest rate, computed as interest expense of budgetary central government divided by general government gross debt, less nominal GDP growth, from IMF reports; ^c Average IRGD for 2009 to 2019, except for Indonesia which covers 2002 to 2007; ^d Average for 2021 to 2025 – Sri Lanka which covers 2021-2024 - where IRGD per year is computed using IMF projections for interest expense, general government debt, and GDP growth; ^e "Shocked" the difference between country-specific mean of real interest rate plus one country-specific standard deviation, and country-specific mean of GDP growth minus one country-specific standard deviation; ^f modulus of a complex number



Supplement G.1 23 LICs: Fiscal space assuming a 20 percent reduction in projected-shocked d** (found in column 9 of Supplement F.1)

Base data: Columns 1 and 9 of Supplement F.1.



Supplement G.2 15 MACs: Fiscal space assuming a 20 percent reduction in projected-shocked d** (found in column 9 of Supplement F.2)

Base data: Columns 1 and 9 of Supplement F.2