

Yilmaz Akyüz and Andrew Cornford. 1999. Capital flows to developing countries and the reform of the international financial system. UNCATD discussion paper 143 (November).

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Growth of foreign capital movements has resulted in:

- increasing privatisation of external financing for developing countries;
- globalisation of finance;
- instability driven mostly by short-term, speculative capital flows, both at local and global levels.

The regulation and control of the international capital movements has lagged far behind. In particular:

- the G-7 group agrees over:
  - the negative effects of the volatility of short term, speculative capital movements;
  - the need for financial regulation and supervision and transparency on market transactions and structure;
- the G-7 disagrees over:
  - reform of multilateral surveillance over exchange-rate and monetary policies of developed economies;
  - global rules and control over capital movements;
  - establishment of a lender of last resort;
- the preferred G-7 policies are:
  - limited access to external finance designed to impose discipline on debtor countries and keep them under short leash;
  - orderly debt-workout procedures;
  - more private sector participation in the resolution of financial crisis.
- given this political context, developing countries should:
  - preserve national control over capital flows;
  - engage in agreeing international arrangements for debt stand-still and lending into arrears.

Data on capital flows into developing countries:

- as % of GNP, and excluding China, capital flows into developing countries in 1975/82 > 1990/98 > 1983/89;
- FDI as % of net inflows doubled from 1975/82 to 1983/89, and doubled again from 1983/89 to 1990/98 (to over 1/3, the single most important component of capital flows into developing countries);
- Bank loans halved as % of net inflows;
- ODA and other official loans fell by 1/3 over the period;
- SSA share of net inflows fell. Only in East Asia and Pacific did the share on net inflows to developing countries increased continuously.