



Second Session: Ad Hoc Committee to Draft Terms of Reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation

Intervention by Dereje Alemayehu on behalf of the CS FfD Mechanism and the Global Alliance for Tax Justice

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of GATJ – a southern led global coalition for tax justice. GATJ also coordinates the tax workstream of the CSO FFD Mechanism.

Several controversial debates took place on the way to **Resolution 78/230**. After the adoption of the resolution, we hoped that the main procedural issues were sorted out for the duration of the Ad Hoc Committee's work.

Regarding decision making, it was controversially debated and finally resolved that consensus is the goal but if that is not the case then, following UNGA rules, the issue will go for a vote.

Throughout these negotiations, some countries have been repeating some issues again and again. If they take the floor five times, they will bring up five times that the decision-taking procedure should be by consensus. The current negotiations process takes place under UN GA rules; it cannot be renegotiated.

The second worrying repetitive argument is that the ToR and the ensuing negotiations should not include “issues and themes being dealt with by the OECD”.

This is against the spirit of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee; which is part and parcel of UNGA tax resolution itself.

This complaint is being raised only by the founding members of OECD. Non-OECD members of the UN, even non-OECD members of the Inclusive Framework have not expressed a similar position during the two preceding sessions.

Let us take Africa. Half of the 54 African countries are not members of the Inclusive Framework. The UN Tax resolution was tabled by the Africa Group; by both members and nonmembers of the Inclusive Framework. Let me in particular mention Nigeria, who is a member of the IF but played a key role in promoting the Africa Group UN Tax Resolution. If these countries were of the view that the OECD is adequately addressing the global tax rules, they would not have spearheaded this process at the UN. Let's please move forward!

Despite repetition, positions are not shifting. Are OECD members now trying to convince non-OECD countries to change their position? Is it not this paternalistic attitude of “we know better than you what is good for you”?

The second preposterous argument is that countries are asked to accept OECD's package of alleged solutions that they have not taken part in. If the OECD members are so certain that it serves the interest of all countries, its key elements can be submitted as a proposal when the negotiations to draft the convention starts because all Inclusive Framework members are also UN members

As we now finalize the ToR, we hope the discussions stop moving in circles and countries get serious about international tax cooperation.

I appeal to OECD members to stop duplicating their duplication narrative.