



**Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Fourth International Conference
on Financing for Development (FfD4) Second Session, NY, 3-6 December,
2024**

**Mae Buenaventura, APMDD on behalf of the CS FfD Mechanism Intervention
delivered at the Interactive Discussion :1 Domestic Public Resources**

4 December 2024

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, good morning. I am Mae Buenaventura of the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development, speaking on behalf of the Civil Society Financing for Development Mechanism. We wish to foreground the following —

One, on the UN Tax Convention

- During the last two years, we've seen a truly historic breakthrough on international tax cooperation, and just last week, the Terms of Reference for a new UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and two early protocols were adopted.
- We applaud the adoption of the Terms of Reference for the new UN Tax Convention, and we commend the Africa Group for the immense leadership it has shown in championing this issue. The UN Tax Convention provides both hope and opportunity to win the fight against illicit financial flows and international tax abuse, as well as replace harmful tax practices with fair, transparent and inclusive international tax cooperation.
- In the past, global tax policies were negotiated behind closed door forums, where countries, and in particular developing countries, were not able to participate on equal footing. The negotiation of the UN Tax Convention constitutes a watershed moment — for the first time, all countries are negotiating as equals.

- The Terms of Reference was adopted by a very broad majority of UN Member States. We especially recognize the G77 and China's contribution to the adoption of the ToR, without which the number of votes required for its adoption would not have been reached. We further acknowledge the role of the G77 and China in continuing to support the Africa Group.
- However, we note with grave concern that some countries have failed to support these efforts. Though all UN Member States claim to support the UN Tax Convention process, there is a small but very loud minority that first voted against starting the UN Tax Convention process, and then failed to support the Terms of Reference. As we head towards the 4th UN Conference on Financing for Development, we call on all countries to express their full support and unconditional endorsement of the Terms of Reference. We also expect all UN Member States to engage in a constructive manner and negotiate in good faith.
- The Terms of Reference make it clear that the UN Tax Convention and its protocols will include commitments on a broad range of issues, including: Fairness in the allocation of taxing rights between countries, illicit financial flows, corporate tax and the digitalized economy, taxation of high-net worth individuals, as well as transparency. We underscore the obvious fact that issues already covered by the Terms of Reference should not be renegotiated here in the FfD process. The role of the FfD process must be to help advance the UN Tax Convention process – not pull it backwards.

Two, on Progressive tax

- It is vital that the FfD Process reinforces its existing commitment to progressive tax systems, which was a key part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Without progressive tax systems, we will not be able to reduce inequalities within and between countries, and thus be unable to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG10 on inequalities.

and, Three, on Tax and Gender

- The FfD Process has underlined the importance of gender equality, including in relation to economic and financial policies. We call on all governments to commit to ensuring that all fiscal policies are gender-responsive and gender just. The empowerment of women and girls is possible only through the realization of their rights and full effective economic empowerment.

Thank you.

Talking points DRM / Tax & FfD

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