



**CIVIL SOCIETY
FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
Mechanism

**Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Fourth International Conference
on Financing for Development (FfD4) Second Session, NY, 3-6 December,
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**Agustina De Luca, Open Ownership on behalf of the CS FfD Mechanism
Intervention delivered at the Interactive Discussion :1 Domestic Public
Resources**

4 December 2024

Thank you chair. I hereby speak on behalf of Open Ownership and the Civil Society FfD Mechanism

We welcome the submissions from governments that have recognised the significant importance of transparency of the real, or beneficial, owners of corporate vehicles and assets, as a key policy reform to support sustainable development and integrity in economic governance.

With that in mind, we were disappointed to see very scarce commitments in the Elements Paper on strengthening international tax cooperation and beneficial ownership transparency, or BOT.

BOT is a vital concept to address financial secrecy, and prevent illicit financial flows, corruption, and international tax abuse. We therefore urge you to include in the zero draft explicit language on implementing high-quality, centralised and standardised beneficial ownership registers covering companies and other corporate vehicles, such as trusts. Where information is verified and up-to-date, and a wide range of actors have timely access to it. It is of vital

importance that FfD4 stresses this should be also included in the new UN Tax Convention.

Additionally, we recognise and celebrate that the Elements Paper commits to designing a beneficial ownership Global Asset Register, and support its incorporation in the zero draft. This holds significant potential to unveiling hidden wealth and supporting progressive tax policies. It must be also included and discussed within the negotiations for a UN Tax Convention in an inclusive and transparent manner, incorporating experts' views from governments, academia and civil society organisations.

Finally, the zero draft should recognise that current standards on automatic information exchange have not benefited all countries, and in particular not all developing countries, due to political constraints and excessive compliance burdens.

It should therefore commit to addressing these gaps in the negotiations towards a UN Framework Convention on Tax, strengthening automatic information exchange. Up-to-date information should be accessed in a timely, accurate and standardised manner, including direct access by foreign tax authorities to the information they need without unnecessary burdens, to ensure effectiveness of their domestic tax systems.

Thank you.