



February 11, 2025

To the kind attention of:

**Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for FfD4  
Co-Facilitators of the FfD4 Outcome Document  
Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations in New York United  
Nations Secretariat, Agencies and Programmes**

Your Excellencies distinguished representatives of UN Member States,

We appreciate the engagement of the delegations in this initial phase of the Zero Draft negotiations. This confirms the importance of the FfD process in advancing a new phase of global economic governance that can restore the centrality of the developmental agenda and reaffirm the role of the United Nations with its jurisdictional power, universal participation and democratic and inclusive decision-making process.

We are therefore deeply concerned with the modalities of the negotiations and could sense some process uncertainty in the statements of many delegations. As articulated in [our recent letter to Member States](#), we reiterate the call for the highest standards of transparency of this process. It is essential that the revisions of the Zero Draft can clearly be attributed to Member States positions. Not only does this require that all comments and text submissions by Member States be shared, but it also imposes the distribution of a compilation text that exposes the diversity of views on each paragraph. This is the only option to be truthful to the agreed FfD4 modalities that provided for a member-state driven process under the facilitation of the Bureau of the FfD4 Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee. It was our understanding that the role of the Co-Facilitators, which was not provided in the official modalities, was precisely one of facilitating but not replacing the inter-governmental process. Hence the need for clear accountability to Member States' positions in the revision of the Zero Draft.

We are equally concerned with the plans for the next phase of negotiations to continue behind closed doors, therefore removed from public scrutiny, accountability and civil society access. The FfD process, with the so-called Monterrey modalities, was ahead of its time in providing for the full participation of civil society, among other actors. The negotiation roadmap therefore breaks past practice, compromises the well-established FFD practices and undermines civil society's capacity to contribute to the process by witnessing the positions of Member States and engaging with them, upholding the UN principles of democratic participation and accountability.

We have voiced these concerns widely, including with the Co-Facilitators, and have been reassured by many Member States of the importance they attach to the full inclusion of civil society in the process. Unfortunately, no Member States have explicitly demanded a revision of the modalities, besides a few mild and generic references to civil society's participation. We now call on Member States to take an explicit stance and demand a revision of the process.

A new International Economic and Financial Architecture that responds to the imperative of our Peoples and Planet cannot be shaped behind closed doors. It requires as much courage and leadership as it requires transparency and civic accountability. This is the UN we need to break the pattern of closed-door and undemocratic global economic governance.

FfDly yours,  
Civil Society FfD Mechanism