



**Third Session, UN Tax Convention Negotiations
November 19, 2025
Protocol 2, Europe Case**

Intervention by Nuri Syed Corser, from War on Want

Morning everyone,

I am speaking on behalf of War on Want and wider civil society.

Building on yesterday's discussion, I wanted to tell a couple of cautionary tales of arbitration gone wrong.

In 2024, my country, the UK, closed its last coal mine. Later that year, the high court quashed an application to open a new coal mine. After 200 years of mining and burning - these clear rejections of coal were a major climate achievement. That should have been the end of the story.

But in August, while many of us were sitting in a basement in New York, news broke that a Singaporean firm was suing the UK over its decision to block the new mine, using an obscure investor-state dispute settlement clause in a 1975 trade deal. Now, the British government could be on the hook for millions.

Similarly, in 2022, as energy company profits erupted, Germany and Denmark brought in a windfall tax on their excessive profits. But a Jersey-based company dug out the 1994 Energy Charter Treaty to challenge the levy - forcing both countries to drop these progressive environmental taxes.

In tax and trade, we have clear evidence that arbitration can undermine sovereignty, reduce revenues, fragment the legal system, and have a chilling effect on environmental policy. Governments, north and south, should reject arbitration in this Convention.

Finally chair, as I am giving the last civil society intervention of the secession, I hope you'll indulge me.

Delegates, you all have the privilege of helping shape a new global tax system. The timing could not be more crucial. Inequality is exploding. We could soon see the world's first trillionaires. Governments are losing billions to corporate tax dodging and public services are crumbling.

We need to build a new tax system where we can tax the super-rich, raise trillions to fund climate action and sustainable development, and redistribute resources between north and south.

When you submit your visions for the UN Tax Convention on December 5th, we implore you to be bold.