



CSW63

Oral statement

Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ) & Partners

March 18th, 2019

"Statement made under Christian Aid, a UN ECOSOC registered organisation"

Thank you Chair for this opportunity to speak. I am speaking today on behalf of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice and partners.

Distinguished delegates, the Global Alliance for Tax Justice aims to create a world where fair, transparent tax policies counteract inequalities within and between states and generate the public funding governments need to fulfill their human rights obligations – including the rights of women – the realization of strong social protections floors and quality public services for all.

Our statement draws attention to the fact that with only a decade to go before the clock runs out on Agenda 2030, there is still a desperate and urgent need to address how these ambitions will be financed. As women's rights advocates, we are increasingly alarmed by the dominant narrative from international financial institutions, the UN and development finance institutions about how to fill the SDGs financing gap. Overwhelmingly, we find these solutions firmly fixated on the role of the private sector. In every corner of the globe, we see and hear the overwhelming recommendations for SDGs financing through more private sector investments and private development capital.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls cannot be achieved when the current dominant narrative seeks to commodify their rights, limit their access to quality gender-responsive public services and deny them protection from the ills of free-market and state capitalism. This model also carries enormous risks including the privatization of key services, increasing countries' debt burdens and crowding out public financing options. Furthermore, the dominant political consensus entrenches women in gendered roles and the burden of unpaid care work leaves them unable to participate in their civic duties.

For instance: Amendment 95 of the Brazilian constitution freezes real public spending for 20 years, in an extreme version of austerity currently sweeping the globe. With this measure, Brazil is reducing resources for public services and has an immediate impact on women, because women, especially black women, are the majority among the poor. Already, in 2017, the share of health and education spending within the federal budget dropped 17% and 19% respectively with massive cuts to gender equality institutions and women's rights programs.

There is a desperate need for governments to step up and explore financing models that are truly transformative, address inequalities and advance gender and economic justice. But where is the money? Empirical evidence is crystal clear: nations continue to bleed massively through illicit financial flows when the wealthy and multinational companies use highly sophisticated tax planning methods to reduce their tax burden and stash resources in offshore tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions depriving governments the needed resources to fund public services and social protections.

We therefore demand that the CSW63 final resolution impel governments to:

- Endorse the establishment of a truly representative, intergovernmental tax body under the auspices of the UN.
- End tax abuses by MNCs and the wealthy and combat illicit financial flows.
- Recognize tax as a feminist issue and progressively raise domestic revenue to invest in the gender-responsive public services, social protections and infrastructure.
- Ensure that tax and fiscal policies are designed and implemented to recognize, represent, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work.

ECOSOC accredited organizations ActionAid, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), Christian Aid, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), Public Services International (PSI) and Womankind Worldwide.

