



Second Session: Ad Hoc Committee to Draft Terms of Reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation

Intervention by Aida Jean Manipon on behalf of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice and APMDD

Thank you, Chair and distinguished delegates.

I am Aida Jean Manipon from the Global Alliance for Tax Justice, and the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), an alliance of peoples' movements and grassroots organizations from across Asia. We are one of the more than 200 CSOs and trade unions that made a collective submission on the Zero Draft Terms of Reference.

- 1. We are here to implement a mandate about promoting inclusive international tax cooperation, and Resolution 78/230 explicitly states that the work of this committee shall work “with the contribution of civil society.” However, this week, we have found it very difficult to contribute and participate effectively because we have been unable to speak to the individual agenda items when they were being discussed. At the first session, Mr. Chair, you asked for permission to grant the floor to stakeholders during the discussions- as opposed to after. At the time, one Member State raised concerns about this, but we have reason to believe that this Member State has since changed its position and we therefore ask for this issue to be revisited. We also call on all governments to ensure that reference to the inclusion of civil society is added to the draft Terms of Reference.**
- 2. We have come here with great anticipation and high hopes. This is a historic opportunity to mobilize expertise AND demonstrate political will, to fix the flaws of an international tax system that for so long has not brought equitable benefits and outcomes for all countries, and that, indeed, had contributed to the widening and deepening of inequalities within and between countries.**
- 3. The historical circumstances that shaped the context during which Resolution 78/230 was adopted are extraordinary – an unprecedented multiple crises of great proportions affecting the entire planet, the impacts of which are disproportionately borne by peoples and countries of the Global South – especially women, workers, the youth, the grassroots, and the Least Developing Countries, the Small Island States and communities in the frontlines battling hunger and climate change. Let us all be**

reminded of the scale and urgency of the need for solutions AND for finance, to address the multiple crises' continuing and inter-generational impacts. This requires bold, ambitious response from all sectors in the international community, including from you, dear distinguished delegates, who have the valuable task of carrying forward the mandates of Resolution 78/230

4. **We have long advocated the establishment of a UN Tax Convention that would rectify the failures of global tax rules that cost governments over one billion US dollars every day, lost to tax abuse committed by multinational corporations and wealthy individuals.** These tax losses severely hamper the abilities of governments to raise the revenues needed to finance quality public services, deliver on human rights obligations, and deliver rapid and urgent climate action to meet the scale of need. **The flaws and failures of the international tax architecture have been part of the problem – thus, rectifying the imbalances and inequities in the international tax system is part of the solution. And there is no time to lose.**
5. In our submission you will find recommendations on the substantive text of the TOR, on the principles, on the timeline, and other important aspects. **Allow me to highlight two of our recommendations, and that is, for the AdHoc Committee to consider including in the substantive text of the ToR :**
 - **A commitment to provide for full cooperation, mutual assistance and support between states to ensure fair and effective taxation, and to recognize the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities of countries.**
 - **A commitment towards ensuring the fair and effective taxation of extractive industries. This is recognized in Resolution 78/230 and we believe should be included in the ToRs, with a view to finding effective solutions, while giving special attention to the challenges faced by developing countries. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the rights and needs of communities impacted by extraction, the need to reduce inequalities and ensure environmental sustainability.**

6. Distinguished delegates,

We have come here to contribute to the discussions and bring to the table the urgent concerns and conditions of peoples on the ground, those whose lives, livelihood and future, are every day affected by the impacts of flawed tax policies, inequitable allocation of taxing rights across countries, massive profit shifting of corporations, and tax-related illicit financial flows.

We call on you to stay the course in fulfilling the spirit and mandates of Resolution 78/230, This is a precious opportunity for you and the international community to make history, to introduce change, to match the urgency and scale of need for solutions with bold ambition and action. So full speed ahead, please, with

your timelines on the road to the UN tax Convention. The world is watching with hope.

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