GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR TAX JUSTICE

CIVIL SOCIETY FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT Mechanism

Session 1, UN Tax Convention Negotiations
August 8, 2025 – Transparency
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Thank you, Madam Chair. I speak on behalf of the Tax Justice Network and Dejusticia.

Transparency is the beacon that exposes the shadows of tax abuse. It is the kryptonite of tax abusers and its enablers. And it is also one of the most powerful tools to ensure this convention yields gains for all states from day one.

Transparency is already in principle 9E in the terms of reference. However, for the convention to achieve its objectives and for the other commitments in paragraph 10 of the TORs to be effective, transparency must be also an actionable standalone commitment from the outset. The creation of global public registries of key information such as country by country reports and key information about ownership of legal vehicles through a global registry points firmly establishing the Compromiso de Sevilla, paragraph 28, must be included as part of such a commitment on transparency.

The framework convention is the vehicle to deliver on these actions. Principle nine, on transparency demands the highest standard as a global norm, public access. The reasons for deviating from the public access standards should be clearly defined as an exception, as demanded by the right to access to information. Where domestic protections require safeguarding certain information, the convention must establish the obligations of states not to deny information that is critical for other states to combat cross-border tax abuses by both corporations and individuals. If there is info that needs to be protected on confidentiality and privacy grounds, this must be made compatible with pathways that allow authorities from all countries to access the information required to fulfill the various commitments of the convention. For information that continues to be exchanged between authorities, a universal standard for automatic information exchange is needed, as some states have already suggested in their submissions.

Currently, there is no globally agreed upon framework designed from the outset to prioritize equitable access to tax information exchange for all willing countries tailored to their specific needs and capacities. Existing frameworks such as the OECD's Common Reporting Standard and the Crypto Asset Reporting Framework are often structured to favor wealthier nations with advanced tax administrations. These standards impose technical administrative requirements that many lower income countries cannot meet without significant support, effectively excluding them from meaningful participation. Under a standard and system of governance created by the framework convention with differentiated responsibilities, all willing countries should be able to benefit from access to key information before facing any immediate requirement to reciprocate. A subsidiary body created by the convention should manage global registries, analyze data, and provide quantitative evaluations.

Madam Chair, transparency is a cornerstone of effective tax cooperation. We endorse the inclusion of a standalone actionable commitment on transparency. If these measures are not adopted as a separate commitment, they should be operationalized through cross-cutting mechanisms to operationalize other commitments. delegates, the more ambitious we are on transparency, the larger the losses for tax abusers and their enablers, and the larger the gains for all states here, with no exceptions.

Thank you.