Fifth Session, UN Tax Convention Negotiations
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Article 1 - Objectives

Nathalie Beghin – Institute of Socioeconomic Studies (INESC)

Distinguished delegates,

We strongly believe that the **Objectives** set forth in **Article 1** of the current draft of the Tax Convention should be preserved in their current form because they already provide a broad, balanced and forward-looking foundation for international tax cooperation.

These objectives establish a common framework capable of accommodating diverse legal traditions and levels of development while advancing a more inclusive global tax architecture under the United Nations. Reopening the objectives could mean shifting the goal post for the job we have been given by the UN General Assembly and create opportunities to dilute commitments that are already essential for developing countries.

However, since Member States have decided that amendments to the Objectives are necessary, we urge you to explicitly include the concept of **progressivity**. Progressive taxation is a cornerstone of equitable tax systems because it aligns tax burdens with taxpayers' ability to pay, thereby helping to reduce excessive inequalities in income and wealth while strengthening the fiscal capacity of governments.

We also want to remind delegates that all countries in this room have already committed to progressivity several times before, including in the Sevilla Commitment of Financing for Development, in which governments stressed - in paragraph 27(e) - that: “We will promote progressivity and efficiency across fiscal systems to address inequality and increase revenue.”

In the current context of unprecedented wealth concentration, growing corporate market power and widening global inequalities both within and between countries, explicitly recognizing progressivity would reinforce the Convention's commitment to fairness and sustainable development. It would also provide normative guidance for future decisions on issues such as the effective taxation of HNWI, multinational enterprises and sectors generating extraordinary profits or environmental harm.

Including progressivity would also strengthen the Convention's contribution to the realization of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals. Progressive taxation is crucial for financing universal public services, social protection, climate action and measures to advance indigenous peoples rights as well as gender, racial and economic justice. Moreover, progressive tax systems are consistently associated with greater social cohesion, democratic legitimacy and public trust.

Explicitly recognizing progressivity among the Convention's objectives would therefore not prescribe specific national tax policies; rather, it would reinforce a shared international concept that encourages tax systems to contribute to reducing inequalities while ensuring that those with the greatest economic capacity make a fair contribution to sustainable development.

Thank you.