



### **Third Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), NY, 10-14 February, 2025**

**February 11, 2025**

#### **Ommey Nahida, Christian Aid, on behalf of the CS FfD Mechanism Intervention delivered on Domestic Resource Mobilization**

In relation to paragraph 28, The Zero Draft rightly underscores the role of domestic public resources in achieving the SDGs and mobilising maximum available resources to meet human rights obligations of States. However, its emphasis on international cooperation remains inadequate, merely limited to prescriptive measures.

In paragraph 29, we must recognize that persistent tax evasion and avoidance by large corporations and high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) have significantly undermined the capacity of Global South countries to secure the fiscal space necessary for critical public services, including care, education, healthcare, sanitation, water, and reproductive and sexual health. Fiscal policies, procurement policies, and related public frameworks must adopt a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to ensure the equitable redistribution of resources. The focus of the existing text remains ambiguous, particularly in terms of inclusivity, participatory governance, and progressive taxation.

When applied without exemptions, taxes such as the VAT, often prescribed as part of fiscal austerity packages and loan conditionalities by IFIs are inherently regressive. As women generally receive less pay than men for work of equal value, regressive taxes have a gender bias that disproportionately disadvantages women, especially poor and low income women, who are also disproportionately affected by certain exemptions and zero-ratings because they have different consumption baskets to men. These policies are harmful, and should be removed - while expanding the role of greater international tax co-operation, eliminating Illicit Financial Flows and promoting progressive tax policies to raise more taxes from high incomes, wealth, and large corporations instead.

As feminists, we call on FfD4 delegates to acknowledge and support the ongoing process of the UN Framework Convention on Tax that is progressive, ecologically just, gender-equitable, and firmly grounded in human rights principles, and ushers in national progressive tax systems that enable the fair and sufficient mobilisation of internal resources to finance the rights and needs of women and girls. These resources should also include financing for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, which disproportionately affect women. We urge Member States to actively endorse this process to foster equity both within and among nations, including the equitable distribution of taxing rights between countries, following the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities.

FfD4 must lay the foundation for meaningful transformation by advocating for a robust, decolonial, feminist, ecological, and human rights-based fiscal system that advances women's economic empowerment and human rights liberation.

Thank you.