Ad Hoc Committee - Meeting 1

26 April 2024

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[00:00:00] Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, I would like to warmly welcome you all to the first session of the ad hoc committee to draft the terms of reference for UN Framework Convention on International Tax Corporation pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 78 230.

[00:00:22] The session is declared open.

[00:00:25] Over the next nine working days, the committee will, in accordance with the decisions taken at its organizational session, Undertake substantive SC of the draft terms of reference and discuss an indicat list of matters to be addressed in the draft. Two hours. I will now deliver my opening remarks.

[00:00:50] Distinguished delegates. It's my honor to welcome you all to the ad hoc committee for drafting the terms of reference for the framework Convention on International Tax [00:01:00] Cooperation since our last session, the bureau meetings. Have been productive and fruitful with significant progress made in outlining the key principles and objectives of this groundbreaking convention.

[00:01:17] I would like to commend all member states for their dedicated dictation and commitment to this important course. It's crucial that we continue to work together in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration. Sitting aside any conflicts or differences. And there is a common goal. We want to create a framework that will ensure fair and equitable international tax cooperation for generations to come.

[00:01:51] This is histo this is a historical moment in the life of international tax, and the decisions will be, will be [00:02:00] made here, have a far reaching implication for the global economy. It's imperative that we take balanced positions. Considering the needs and interests of all member states, let us seize this opportunity to shape the future of international tax cooperation in ways that benefit all of us.

[00:02:25] The decision we make here will impact the economies, livelihoods, and well beings of our people for many upcoming generations worldwide. I have faith in our collective wisdom and determination. Countries should recognize that international tax policies should be fair and transparent with input from all nations to ensure a level playing field for all.

[00:02:54] It is important for countries to work together to create a global tax system [00:03:00] that benefits everyone rather than allowing a few member states or organizations to dictate the rules by promoting A cooperation and the collaboration in the international tax matters. Countries can create a more just and sustainable global economy.

[00:03:22] I argue you all to approach our discussions with an open mind and willingness to compromise together. Together, we can create a framework that will promote transparency, fairness, and accountability in international tax matters. Let us work together toward a brighter future for all.

[00:03:45] I now invite the committee to turn to item one of the provisional agenda entitled adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

[00:03:55] Allow me to turn to the adoption of provisional agenda and the provisional [00:04:00] Organization of work of our session.

[00:04:04] The committee has before it the provisional agenda for the first session of the ad hoc committee to draft terms of reference for United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation as contained in document a slash AC two nine five twenty twenty four slash three. The provisional agenda therein has been prepared and adopted at the organizational session of the ad hoc committee.

[00:04:35] Are there any comments to the provisional agenda

[00:04:38] that distinguish Delegate of Russian Federation? The floor is yours.

[00:04:42] We confirm our commitment to the task of creating an inclusive and fair international tax system. Of course, the UN remains the most suitable platform for this. But, of course, this platform has its own rules and procedures [00:05:00] and established practice. Mr. Chairman, We would like to refer to the preliminary order of the organization of the session and declare our disagreement with the transfer of all substantive items of the agenda to informal meetings.

[00:05:16] Despite the fact that the auxiliary bodies of the General Assembly can hold informal meetings, they should not replace the formal ones. In accordance with the rules of the procedure, we will consider the issues on the agenda. In accordance with the existing practice, and here, for example, we can bring a special committee on the comprehensive United International Convention on the protection and empowerment of the rights and dignity of the disabled, and a special intergovernmental committee of the UN Open Committee on the development of a comprehensive international convention on the counteraction to the use of ICT for criminal purposes.

[00:05:53] So, in these committees, the main discussion on the agenda takes place within the framework [00:06:00] of formal meetings. The task of informal meetings is to bring together the positions of the states on issues on which it was not possible to reach an agreement during formal meetings. We believe that the work of our committee should be based on the same principle.

[00:06:17] Also, we would like to note that the need to translate sessions into informal languages

[00:06:24] The format we have here explains the Secretariat's wish to include hybrid modality in the working process. This was only announced on the 22nd of April. A notice on missions has been officially issued and the need for a hybrid format is explained by the notions of inclusivity. We fully agree with the importance of all parties involved in the working process of this Committee, but We believe that the rules of the GenAssembly procedure must be followed.

[00:06:59] [00:07:00] The Secretariat's proposal not to provide a synchronous translation of virtual speeches is a violation of Rule 52 of the GenAssembly procedure. We also note that despite the fact that the hybrid format explains the need to ensure inclusiveness, we doubt that it is possible to talk about inclusiveness in this case.

[00:07:26] The thing is, according to the website of WebEx, a number of countries, including Russia, are not working because of certain export restrictions. Thus, the inclusiveness that we are talking about The meeting will be held in accordance with the rules of the General Assembly procedure and all those present in the room, including representatives of accredited NGOs and international organizations, will speak with their statements. We could interrupt the meeting and start [00:08:00] informal consultations.

[00:08:01] The distinguished delegate of Canada.

[00:08:04] Thank you, Mr Chair. First, allow me to thank the yourself and the Bureau for convening us today. I would also like to reiterate that Canada, as you mentioned, come to this discussion with an open mind and with the objective of a smooth meeting. I listened carefully to the intervention from our colleague from the Russian Federation and certainly would like to seek some clarification on what exactly is the request of the Russian Federation in his last statement.

[00:08:37] Is it that we delay the adoption of the program of work at a later time today? And if so more clarity would it be Appreciate it. Thank you.

[00:08:48] Distinguished representative of Russia. Please. Um,

[00:08:52] To distinguish representative of Columbia, the floor is yours,

[00:08:56] Gracia, senior [00:09:00] Colombian.

[00:09:02] We have been awaiting the completion of this session because we know that there is a lot of interest in starting our work and starting substantive discussions that allow us to advance in the mandate of this committee. Y en ese sentido, un trabajo importante se ha realizado.

[00:09:32] Who, in turn, have expressed concern for the lack of financial resources available to attend these sessions in person. We have seen ourselves in the painful need to receive financial assistance.

[00:09:55] The

[00:09:57] adoption of the agenda. [00:10:00] Our work is postponed as well. In principle, we would like to consider that

[00:10:09] we define an action course today and

[00:10:15] that in that consideration we take into account the needs to ensure the participation and the effective involvement of developing countries

[00:10:28] And we find this petition of taking into account the prudential times to manifest complaints to these plans. very much. Distinguished representative

[00:10:46] of of Colombia. Now the floor to back to distinguished representative of Russian Federation. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank the representative of Colombia for his comments. And we, of course, agree with the importance [00:11:00] of ensuring the participation of developing countries in the work of this committee.

[00:11:04] At the same time, we note that neither in the resolution of the General Assembly 78 230, nor in the modalities of its work agreed on by the organization session of the committee, nor in the modalities of work,

[00:11:20] I would like to give the opportunity to all the members of the state, interested parties and international organizations, to speak with a formal position, and only after that proceed to informal consultations, to which representatives of the capitals can join in a hybrid format. So, the developing countries and all member states will have the opportunity to participate in discussions in a hybrid format.

[00:11:51] for your attention. I would also like to note that we are not making any changes to the [00:12:00] preliminary agenda that was approved on the last day of the organizational session. Our proposal applies only to

[00:12:09] Thanks, distinguished representative of Russia now to the distinguished representative of Canada.

[00:12:14] Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand from the last intervention by our Russian colleague, what is suggested now is not so much to turn all sessions from informal to formal, but to actually I would like to adjust a little bit the agenda to first have a formal session followed by an informal session on that agenda item to which hybrid to which colleagues were not present could join via an hybrid model, which is a similar model that have been followed in other committee like the sixth committee, for example.

[00:12:54] What I can suggest maybe, Mr Chair, since. This this discussion is novel to [00:13:00] many of our colleagues here could be maybe to adopt the program of work only for this morning, which would be to actually go forward with the general statements and allow delegation to consult in the margins And reconvene on the issue of the program of work at three o'clock this afternoon, which would be earlier than suggested by our Russian Federation colleague, which would potentially give time to delegation to consult, but also at the same time in the vein proposed by our colleague from Colombia allow all delegation to be fully prepared for next week.

[00:13:36] So that would be our proposal, and I hope to find a compromise. Thank you.

[00:13:42] Thank you. Distinguished representative of Canada. Back again to distinguish representative of Russia. Mr. Speaker. Indeed, we would like to confirm the correctness of our colleague from Canada's understanding of our proposal, except that we do [00:14:00] not make any changes to the agenda, only to the document on the preliminary organization of work, in which it is stated that all meetings from April 29 will be held in Canada.

[00:14:16] I agree with Canada's proposal, the compromise proposal, to postpone the consideration of this issue for three hours, without objecting to the statement of the agenda. As of today, I note that today's meeting was originally planned as a formal one. for your attention.

[00:14:40] Thank you all. Just here, a point of clarification for everyone that we need to differentiate between two items. The first one, the agenda items, which till now I didn't hear any objection or any concerns about it and the organization of the work. I think our colleagues from Russia concern is about the [00:15:00] organization of work.

[00:15:01] So if you allow me, we will go for two items. So we will split these two topics and we will go now for the adoption of the agenda items. So may I take it that the committee wish to adopt the provisional agenda items for the first session as contained in document AAC 295 2024 3, this for the agenda items.

[00:15:26] So I hear no objections. It is so decided.

[00:15:30] For the organization of the work. We will go with the proposal from Canada, which is, was acceptable from Russia, and I'm gonna ask the bureau to convene in the lunch break to discuss this and to reach an agreement, and we will delay the adoption of the provisional organization of work till the second half of the day after 3 p.

[00:15:57] m.

[00:15:58] Allow me now [00:16:00] to draw the attention of the committee to other organizational matters under agenda item one, in particular action on the requests from, for the ad hoc accreditation of observers. Let us focus on international organizations first. International organizations and other entities having received a standing meeting.

[00:16:23] Invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly may participate in the committee sessions in that capacity. Other organizational organ international organizations not having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly were invited to submit an application for accreditation to participate in the work of the committee as observers pursuant to the established practice for a final decision by by the committee.

[00:16:55] One valid application has been received under the I. G. O. application window [00:17:00] from the African tax administration forum. Are there any comments on this application received?

[00:17:08] May I take it that the committee wished to decide to accredit the African tax administration forum?

[00:17:15] I had no objection. It's so decided

[00:17:19] I welcome the newly accredited organization and look forward to its contributions to this important process. Let us now turn to the requests for ad hoc accreditation of civil society organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders.

[00:17:38] 26 valid applications were received in total. The applications Received have been subject to a non objection procedure with with a deadline ending yesterday. Thursday 25th of April 2024, 5 p. m. Objections were raised on four applications. [00:18:00] Due to these objections, the committee will now first take action on the applications to which no objections were raised.

[00:18:09] Valid applications to which no objections were raised were submitted by Amazon, United States of America, Asian Peoples, Movement on Debt and Development, Philippines, BMR Legal, India, Bombay Shorted Accountants Society, India, Committee on Physical Studies. Kenya, Deloitte, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Foundation of International Taxation, India, Global Distribution Advocates, France,

[00:18:50] ICR, ICT, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Information Technology Industry Council, United State of [00:19:00] America, International Budget Partnership, United State of America, International Tax and Investment Center, United State of America,

[00:19:11] Latin Dada, payroll.

[00:19:13] Movement this enterprise, the France, France. Sorry for pronunciation for, for France. I'm I'm not good in French.

[00:19:24] National foreign trade council, United state of America. There we can church aid. No way. Tax justice network, United Kingdom of great Britain and Northern Ireland. Tax justice network, Africa, Kenya, tax justice. No way. No way. The M group, Inc. United State of America, University of Florida, Living College of Law, United State of America, Use for Tax Justice Network, Uganda.

[00:19:56] Are there any comments on these applications to [00:20:00] which no objections were raised?

[00:20:02] May I take it that the committee wished to decide to accredit the civil society organization, U. and other relevant stakeholders as already introduced.

[00:20:13] I hear no objections. It is so decided.

[00:20:16] I welcome the newly, the newly credited organizations and look forward to their contribution to this important process.

[00:20:25] Let us now turn to the consideration of the four applications to which objections were raised.

[00:20:32] Alien suit. Switzerland's European Economic and Social Committee, Eco Section,

[00:20:39] Funders Central Analysis Investigation, Mexico,

[00:20:45] Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. The committee will consider and take action on each of them, one by one, in alphabetical order.

[00:20:58] Alliance South. [00:21:00] Switzerland. The committee will first consider the application of alliance suit Switzerland. Are there any comments on the application of alliance suit Switzerland?

[00:21:11] Okay. So the objection for alliance suit actually came from Turkey. So opening the floor for any comments. On Approving Alliance suit

[00:21:26] the floor to Russian Federation. Distinguished Delegate. Please take the floor. Yes,

[00:21:41] this is according to the procedure. We checked this already before the session with with the procedures. If, if the one who gives this objection didn't take the floor, then just we name and then we, we, we ask if any objections or consideration about this.

[00:21:56] So as we. Okay, so the [00:22:00] floor to cut. Distinguished representative of Canada, please.

[00:22:04] Thank you. Oh thank you, Mr Chair. Yes, this is the procedure adopted in this in many fora, and we are supportive of the procedure. And if there is no verbal objection at this point, we would move to proceed with the adoption. Thank you.

[00:22:20] Okay, as I hear no objections, so can I take this that the committee would like to approve alliance suit for Switzerland?

[00:22:28] Okay. So it's as I hear no objections, so it's so decided. So alliance suit is approved.

[00:22:35] The committee now will consider the application of the European Economic and Social Committee Eco section. Are there any comments on the application? The floor to the distinguished delegate of Russian Federation

[00:22:51] is a.

[00:22:52] of the European Economic and Social Committee. Our concern in [00:23:00] this matter is purely technical. The request for accreditation was submitted by the organization section.

[00:23:10] As I, I don't see any other comments or requests for the floor so, okay, we're going to consult with the secretariat and revert back to you this afternoon and, and is this application. So action will be taken in the next session. It's afternoon session on this application.

[00:23:28] The committee now considers application of. Funders sent through the analysis investigation, Mexico. Are there any comments on the application of, of this organization or this application?

[00:23:45] The, the floor to the distinguished representative of Mexico. Thank you, thank you very much Mr. Chair. My delegation fully supports the endorsement of this organization to be incorporated into the list of accredited participate. Thank [00:24:00] you.

[00:24:01] Okay, so any other comments? Actually, the objection to this were by Turkey, so if Turkey wish to take the floor, or any other member would have any comments?

[00:24:13] The floor to the distinguished representative of Turkey. Thank you so much, Mr. Chair, and good morning to everyone. We were following the meeting, but we didn't know that we have to, for the NGOs and objected also. Formally as well. We have objected three and jewels yesterday, and that's what we thought would be valid.

[00:24:35] As far as I know, one has already passed, but we had objections to three of them, and one seems to be overruled. So if possible, we would like to go back to the other agenda item. That we had checked with the secretariat. They said they don't have to take formal action on here as well. Verbal action in here.

[00:24:57] So we might have been misguided on that [00:25:00] matters, too. So I'm in your hands. Thank you, Mr. So

[00:25:03] I think Turkey is asking for the floor back again. Thank you, Mr. Chair. If Secretary could explain us the procedure for this matter for clarification we could go even more appropriately how to handle this issue. We might not have full knowledge of the process specific to tax because all intergovernmental processes have different ways of handling this matter.

[00:25:26] So if secretary is really have some clarification on how to address this issue, the objections we can then continue maybe in the afternoon. Once we have the full knowledge of this process, because we have just been informed by the secretary at that, just write an email to, to the secretariat and that's what we know only.

[00:25:48] Okay. So

[00:25:49] the floor now to the secretariat to give more explanation on the process. Thank you, Chair. This is the process according to the modalities for multi stakeholder [00:26:00] engagement adopted in Annex 2 to the organizational session report of the committee. These requests for accreditation from other relevant stakeholders are subject to a non objection procedure, which is by email.

[00:26:15] However, final action is with this committee and takes place in this committee. So when there has been objection to a specific application that is noted, floor is open for comment. If the delegation that made the objection does not take the floor, the chair then informs where the objection came from.

[00:26:42] Floor is open for comments from other delegations, and then depending on those comments, the action is taken. This is the mandate for this committee that final approval on the accreditation request happens in the committee session. I hope that clarifies. Thank [00:27:00] you.

[00:27:00] Okay. I will, I will give the floor back to Turkey, but just, I think we, we are, we are left now opened with one organization from from Mexico and just, we need to To close the status of this organization before, then we will continue in the discussion. So if, and I think here the objection was from Turkey.

[00:27:23] So the objection for the Mexican organization is from Turkey. So do you have any comments on this organization? The funders funders central analyze analysis investigation. Again, I'm sorry for my Spanish is not good, but So if you have any comment on this, please take the floor. So, distinguished representative of Turkey, the floor is yours.

[00:27:48] Thank you, Mr. Chair. The problem in here is that I might have missed some part of the meeting, but we don't know who have mentioned about Turkey have objected. First of all, it shouldn't have been said in this meeting. It has to be anonymous. [00:28:00] And I think this rule has been breached. If there is any other way to handle it.

[00:28:04] That was a highly problematic at this stage, and you are putting us on that one is supposed to be done in a silent way. You shouldn't have put us not you, but the secretariat or some others shouldn't have to put us on this table as such. That is the thing. So we would like to reconsider this agenda as a whole.

[00:28:21] It may be in the afternoon. Just a point of clarification. I don't think that's chair, what you enable position. We check these procedures. It's a UN procedures.

[00:28:32] and we check it before the session and we are following the procedures. I'm not inventing any new procedure for the UN. So I'm using the current procedures. So this is how it works. And I think also the delegate from Canada just clarified. It has been the same in other. events, I mean, or committees.

[00:28:52] So it's something not new. So maybe I would invite all the members that they can read and check the procedures [00:29:00] of the UN. So it is not the chair who taking any position. We just, for it's organizational session and I'm following the procedures. That's it.

[00:29:10] The floor to the distinguished representative of Turkey. Thank you very much Mr. President, it was not to you, but it was in general that the name shouldn't have been mentioned. I don't think also in the other processes, the names are also mentioned. This is not how we follow the process.

[00:29:25] And by the way, each intergovernmental process have different way of dealing with the, the NGOs. That's the first thing. And that's how we negotiate in the modalities resolution. So each intergovernmental. Process have different modalities for the NGOs but for the report please reflect that and a country has rejected to three of these NGOs.

[00:29:45] Thank you.

[00:29:46] So first of all, I, I don't think we are now in, in, in, in a point to discuss the UN procedures. Anyway, I think now we under the item four, the Mexican organization So if it's any [00:30:00] objection for the Mexican organization, please, someone takes the floor. If no, we'll proceed.

[00:30:09] Distinguished representative of Turkey. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually this is not about sex only, but this is about the whole UN system as well and how we are handling this NGO related matters. The thing is that according to the rules as far as I know, if you object it and if there is no country who have said we want to do, to keep it, then it should be objected.

[00:30:29] So I don't know if that was the, if that was, if that was the, the case for this process as well. We object it. That was it. It's a non objection basis, so if you could clarify that as well. Thank you so much

[00:30:43] of Mexico.

[00:30:45] Okay. As I see from, from the interventions, it's, it's all about the stating the name of the country, which objected. We check this in the morning before the session, and it was [00:31:00] mainly this specific item. So with the secretariat, so we are sure about this. But anyway, we can also delay the adoption of this organization to the second half of the day in the second session where we are going to consult with the member states and we're going to consult with together with the secretariat.

[00:31:19] So I'm going to invite all the countries that objected to any of the NGOs just after this session. Please come to the podium and we're gonna consult with the secretariat and talk about it. And we're gonna delay the adoption of the NGOs till the second half of the day.

[00:31:39] Okay, the floor to the distinguished representative of Turkey. Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is for the morning, my last time to to taking the the floor for this matter. Thank you very much for postponing it. We will look thoroughly on the process, and we want the process to be in order.

[00:31:55] Implemented the properly for the the three of the, the NGOs. Now we [00:32:00] hear that Mexico have an in a, in a way to objection to keep it and for the others in the morning. We did not hear anything for the, the other NGOs. I just want to remind you of that matter. Thank you so much.

[00:32:11] We'll come back to you in the afternoon,

[00:32:14] the floor to first of all just to make clarification. We're, we're gonna convene or meet in the, in the lunch break after, after this committee, before we're leaving this room. We are gonna talk about the procedures. We are not gonna discuss the NGOs itself. We are just to make everyone sure about the procedures so it will be only discussing whether we should announce the name or not.

[00:32:39] That's it. Nothing more but the same procedure and we are gonna So, it is not discussion for any NGO whether we should accept or reject. It is discussion about and clarifying the procedure for the delegates. Nothing more. Now the floor to [00:33:00] the distinguished representative of Spain. Muchas gracias, señor presidente.

[00:33:06] Given that, according to our notes, there is only one organization that has requested accreditation and that has been the subject of an objection by a member state, in order not to be delaying the whole procedure and accumulating too much work in the afternoon session, And since the previous ones have already been evaluated by the committee, we would like to request that it be the only one that remains pending.

[00:33:39] It is not necessary on the part of Spain to indicate which country has presented the objection, since it is a Spanish organization, but we would like the point not to be closed and that it be the accreditation of the organization in this morning session. very much. Distinguished Representative of [00:34:00] Spain.

[00:34:00] Now to distinguish representative of Mexico.

[00:34:03] Thank you. Distinguished representative of Mexico. Now to the distinguished representative of Canada. Thank you again, Mr. Chair. So I know this is very confusing because it's always It's a little confusing when we're talking procedures, but maybe I can help by directing colleagues to the decision a slash AC dot 2 95 slash 2024 slash one and in particular in the modalities in the annexed.

[00:34:37] And if we read the modalities in the annexed under Article eight. I will skip the first part of the provision, but the committee at the beginning of each of its sessions shall consider and take decisions on new applications, including any in relation to which a member states [00:35:00] has raised an objection.

[00:35:02] Therefore, it is within the purview of this committee, indeed, to review the application for accreditations. Of organizations that have been objected to as for the timing of that. We will leave it to your discretion. Mr Chair.

[00:35:21] Thank you. Distinguished representative of Canada.

[00:35:24] I see a request for the floor, but before this, I just I'm going to give a proposal because now we are checking again with the secretariat. Here online and they confirm that the reason for objection need to be discussed and this is the approved procedures. But I think just to know that that. The difference is the space of difference that we have between us.

[00:35:45] I think that it's all about whether to name the country which objected or not. So my proposal is that we can proceed without naming the country and just, we will name [00:36:00] the organization and open the floor for any objection and for a country to justify without stating the name of who objected to this.

[00:36:09] Which may be a little bit not the normal procedures, but again, if no one will object to my proposal, we will proceed this way. So we're going to continue with approving the organizations and just I will not name the country. But again, I'm going to open the floor for any comments for everyone, but just I will not name the objection came from which country.

[00:36:37] If everyone agree and there is no objection for this, we are going to adopt and we're going to proceed within this session in this manner.

[00:36:46] So the floor to our distinguished representative of Turkey. Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you for bearing with me. Actually, we would like to set the process correct. That's our first and foremost [00:37:00] aim regardless of what we are doing here. First of all, the name shouldn't have been really given, and it's already been given.

[00:37:05] In that sense, the damage has been done in that respect. That's the first thing. From now on, whether you, it's said or not it has already passed anyway. The second thing is that a country has already So it's about process. It's not about the NGOs really, you know, we are we have made our objection and in here that's if any country doesn't support it, then the objection passes.

[00:37:27] Any country doesn't support it, then that's another process. And here, what I see from Mexico's proposal is that they supported it. So it can go in the other direction. But for the other two proposals, was there any country who have said, no, we want to keep these NGOs to to the non objection to the objection of the NGO, that's the thing.

[00:37:47] So we're only talking about the process itself, regardless of the NGOs in here. We would like to set the process correct in the way that the modalities resolution tells us to do. That's the thing. [00:38:00] Thank you very much, Mr. President. And thank you for your understanding.

[00:38:04] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Turkey. Now to the distinguished representative of Canada, followed by Switzerland. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, to clarify that on the first civil society organization that was proposed this morning. Canada did ask to move for adoption in the absence of objection, so that hope that would clarify the situation in terms of process.

[00:38:34] I just want to say that it remains the discretion of any member states from the floor in the procedure in next to the resolution to ask to the chair and the secretariat which country objected if there was such an objection. Thank you.

[00:38:52] Thanks. Distinguished representative of Canada. Now to the distinguished representative of Swaziland. [00:39:00] Thank you, chairman. Regarding the process, I think There should be a discussion regarding objections and, and basically also the, the grounds based on which an objection was made should be discussed in, in our forum.

[00:39:15] And secondly, for the case that it would matter, I expressed that Switzerland supports the participation of Allianz Süd, although Allianz Süd has already also criticized our government. Thank you.

[00:39:28] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Switzerland. Now to the distinguished representative of Turkey. Thank you very much. It was a good joke from Switzerland. Thank you for that one. And for Canada, thank you for being clarification that they have supported it. And now we hear that Switzerland and we didn't hear it when it was considered for adoption.

[00:39:49] So we just ask for the process to be followed. And that's the thing. And we follow the process and we would like to follow the process that was set by the resolution itself. Thank you very [00:40:00] much.

[00:40:00] So I think that the request from Turkey is very clear that we need to follow the process. I think we, we are following the right process and we confirmed this before we started the session and it's confirmed now with the legal team. So I think we are, we are not gonna delay. We're gonna proceed with the same process because I think we are following the right process.

[00:40:18] If otherwise I think it can be a discussion between the delegation of Turkey and the secretariat to discuss the process and clarify it. And this can be in my presence also if you wish, but if it's about following the process. So we confirm as a process twice in the morning and just immediately now with the legal team.

[00:40:37] So I think no need for, for, for delay because we are following the process and we are going to move forward with the rest of the organizations.

[00:40:45] So now we're going to continue. So we were, we stopped at the Mexican organization I'm going to name it again and excuse me for my Spanish. So, Central D Analysis Investigation, if it's right, Mexican [00:41:00] organization. Are there any comments on the application of this organization?

[00:41:05] As I see no objections. So this is a committee that approved the application of funder Central D Analysis Investigation Mexican organization. Thank you It is so decided. The

[00:41:21] committee will now consider the application of, it's a Spanish language, so Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spanish organization. Are there any comments on the application of this organization?

[00:41:40] The floor to the distinguished representative of Spain. very much, Mr. President. The Universidad Complutense de Madrid is a Spanish public university that enjoys recognized historical prestige. Therefore, Spain strongly supports the [00:42:00] participation of this university and therefore asks for all the missions that support its accreditation.

[00:42:10] very much.

[00:42:12] Complete completeness. The Madrid. It is so decided.

[00:42:18] Okay, so the committee has just concluded its program off working on agenda item one. And now we're gonna move to item four of the agenda, which is the general statements. I now invite the committee to turn to agenda item four in order to hear general statements. Delegations are kindly requested to limit their statements to four minutes when speaking on behalf of a group and to three minutes for individual statements.

[00:42:50] Delegations. We're asking to register in advance for their general statements. Speakers will be invited to take the floor in accordance with the [00:43:00] registration list that has been made available on eDelegates.

[00:43:06] Okay, so now under the item of general statements, I would like to invite the distinguished representative of Angular to take the floor.

[00:43:16] Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, The African Group appreciates the collaborative efforts of all partners that have brought us to this momentous stage. Today's first session of this Committee is critical because of our collective decisions we laid the foundation for a robust framework convention on international tax cooperation.

[00:43:41] We appreciate it. While we are not finalizing the framework itself at this stage, the development of the terms of reference is a fundamental step in setting the basis for our ongoing discussion and eventual [00:44:00] outcomes. Promoting an inclusive and effective international tax cooperation is a critical prerequisite to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Goals.

[00:44:11] As it enables countries to effectively mobilize their domestic resources. In our view, the current international tax governance structures require considerable improvements in such areas as inclusivity in decision making, combating illicit financial flows, equitable taxation, transparency and information sharing, and capacity building.

[00:44:40] We continue to stress the need for the application of the General Assembly's rule of procedure in this committee decision making process, particularly the simple majority rule. This method not only is aligned with the democratic tradition of the General Assembly, but [00:45:00] also ensures transparency and mutual respect in our deliberation, a fundamental key To a successful international cooperation.

[00:45:11] The African group is committed to strengthening the inclusiveness and the effectiveness of tax cooperation at the United Nations. In this context, we welcome the adoption by consensus of the outline and modalities of the work of the ad hoc committee. We look forward to the successful completion of this process.

[00:45:37] I'm the United Nations, leading to developing a UN framework convention on international tax cooperation, and call upon all countries to continue engaging constructively. In conclusion, we appeal to all delegations to negotiate in good faith, aiming at achieving an outcome that genuinely reflects our collective [00:46:00] commitment and resolve to an equitable and effective tax governance.

[00:46:06] Thanks

[00:46:09] to the distinguished representative of Anglo of Angola, on behalf of the African group. Now to the distinguished representative of Canada, on behalf of Cairns, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The floor is yours.

[00:46:25] Thank you, Mr. Chair,

[00:46:27] Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to deliver these remarks on behalf of Australia, New Zealand, and my own country, Canada. Let me first reiterate that our three countries agree on the importance of having an approach to international tax cooperation and policy discussions that is both inclusive and effective.

[00:46:49] We understand the concerns that have been raised in this respect and support efforts to address these concerns, in particular with respect to the call for capacity building. [00:47:00] We are engaging in the present discussions at the UN in good faith. And in a constructive manner, with the hope that a consensus will emerge on actions and initiatives that are based on a sound analysis of the gaps that may exist in international tax cooperation and of the actions that would best support domestic resource mobilization.

[00:47:23] The task of this committee is to draft the terms of reference that will be guiding the negotiation of the Firmware Convention. This is about process as much as of system. The process has to be right to successfully achieve the substantive outcomes that we aim for. It is our expectation that the committee will give priority to discussing procedural matters at this session in the committee plenary and that sufficient time will be allocated to these discussions.

[00:47:52] We identify in our written input that we have submitted in advance of this session a number of procedural matters that are of [00:48:00] importance to us and that were also identified by a number of other countries. I would like to emphasize a few of them. First, we remain of the view that seeking the broadest possible consensus on the text of the Framework Convention would be essential to support its adoption and implementation, and we would support including a statement to that effect in the terms of reference.

[00:48:22] Parties would not adhere to a convention unless they believe it reflects a reasonable balancing of interests. Achieving consensus among competing interests is challenging, and could indeed Take more time. Nevertheless, it is essential if the objective is to develop a convention that is broadly implemented.

[00:48:42] Second, we believe that priority should be given to finalizing the terms of reference followed by the negotiation of the framework convention. The convention will establish the conceptual and institutional frameworks that will guide the negotiation of protocols. As such, it would not be appropriate to develop [00:49:00] protocols while the design and substance of the conventions convention are being negotiated.

[00:49:05] We should also be mindful of the resource challenges that participating in multiple negotiations at once will represent for member states. Third, we propose that this committee mandate further research and analysis to be undertaken to support the negotiation of the convention and protocols. Several broad and complex issues were identified in the written inputs as potential topics for further international tax cooperation.

[00:49:31] To prioritize issues and identify the best courses of action, we need comprehensive analysis of existing international tax cooperation initiative and of the options available to improve domestic resource mobilization and capacity building. Lastly and related, it will be important that the negotiations be open, accessible, and transparent so that all member states can participate effectively and on the basis of the same information and analysis that is available to others.

[00:49:58] In this [00:50:00] respect, virtual participation should be considered. This is also a matter that should appropriately be addressed in the terms of reference. Turning now to substantive matter, we recommend that the terms of reference provide some direction as to the objective and scope of a convention. This will deserve careful consideration in light of the objective of ensuring that the convention is complementary to and consistent with other existing international tax instruments.

[00:50:27] We should also seek to have binding substantive commitments and protocols rather than the convention itself. Keeping the Convention focused on general objectives and principles could help support its broad adoption, while providing more flexibility in how specific issues are addressed through protocols.

[00:50:46] We expect our discussion of substantive issues at this session to be preliminary in nature, and only the first of many such discussions to come. We will welcome the close participation of the OECD, the IMF, and other international organizations [00:51:00] in these discussions, so that the Committee can benefit from their extensive experience And taxation matters throughout this process.

[00:51:07] I thank the committee in advance for taking these remarks into consideration and look, look forward to our fruitful discussions next week. Thank you. Thanks to the distinguished representative of MM-Hmm. Canada, representing cans now to the distinguished representative of the European Union.

[00:51:26] Thank you to the chair, to the secretariat. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member states. The European Union and its Member States remain a strong advocate of the effective, rules based international order founded on the UN Charter, and strive for a well functioning, reformed multilateral system with an effective and sustainably funded United Nations at its core.

[00:51:48] We wish to reiterate our sincere engagement to the objectives of inclusive, effective, and fair international tax cooperation. By leveraging its broad membership and strengths, the proposed UN Framework Convention on International Tax [00:52:00] Cooperation should aim to promote global dialogue and create policy synergies.

[00:52:04] In recognition of the call for more inclusive and effective international tax cooperation, international dialogue at the UN in relation to a future convention should aim to gather countries to exchange effective practices on mobilizing domestic resources through both tax policy formulation and the strengthening of enforcement mechanisms.

[00:52:22] This effort underscores the pivotal role of the U. N. in supporting U. N. member states to mobilize domestic resources and finance development strategies, aligning closely with the aspirations outlined in General Assembly Resolution 78 213. Consistency with ongoing work and consensus achieved in other international fora should be a guiding principle for any tax related international cooperation undertaken at the UN, aiming to build on these strengths and engage in effective cooperation to ensure a holistic approach to global tax challenges.

[00:52:54] To be effective and efficient, the Convention should be a valuable addition to the international tax [00:53:00] environment, avoiding inconsistent and competing lines of work. Discussions and potential early protocols should focus on the least controversial topics. The work should be underpinned by substantive technical analysis, in the first instance.

[00:53:13] This will ensure that any decisions made as part of this process are based on practical evidence, increasing the likelihood of achieving our desired outcomes. To promote inclusiveness and effectiveness, we are advocating a consensus based decision making process. International dialogue at the UN should also ensure that a future convention is aligned with and helps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting an equitable and sustainable approach to international tax cooperation.

[00:53:41] The work should therefore start with a thorough analysis of issues that can strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of international tax cooperation, and that can support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the mobilization of domestic resources. I thank you.

[00:53:54] Thanks to the Distinguished Representative of the European Union. I invite the Distinguished [00:54:00] Representative of Haiti, on behalf of CARICOM, to take the floor.

[00:54:06] Mr. President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. This first session of the Special Committee offers a platform for discussion. Transcript of the U. N. Resolution 78 230, Promotion of an International Fiscal Cooperation, Inclusive and Effective, to the Organization of the United Nations.

[00:54:34] Transcript of the U. N. Resolution 78 230, Promotion of an International Fiscal Cooperation, Inclusive and Effective, to the Organization of the United Nations. I'm a resident of the community international The CARICOM is firmly convinced that it is essential to strengthen international fiscal [00:55:00] cooperation with these elements to strengthen the legitimacy of the international order based on rules.

[00:55:07] Mr. President, Historically, the current system has always been intrinsically hostile to development. The geographical vulnerability and the limitations of the resources and capacities of the majority of countries in the South, in particular the challenges faced by the small developing island states, have been exponentially aggravated in recent years.

[00:55:29] This is not only due to an international financial architecture that does not go against the economic viability of the IEA, but also because of the fact that the IEA is not only responsible for the development of the IEA, I impact

[00:55:47] solution

[00:55:49] Exterior. It says, you know, sat.

[00:55:54] It is to say that it's necessary to address this issue [00:56:00] so that there is permanent development. The blacklist standard in the countries of our region, combined with the inhumane emphasis on strategies for the transfer of profits by the digital and technological forces, exacerbate our situation by worsening poverty, inequality, and the fallout of climate related disasters, Matt.

[00:56:25] Economic

[00:56:26] development, economic,

[00:56:28] international. The current fiscal framework has helped to remove from its substance the re education of developed states, which opposes the principles of international law in terms of development rights. In the context of the search for a more equitable distribution of resources worldwide, in particular in the context of GDP, the order of the day of international fiscal cooperation should include the assessment of fiscal strategies [00:57:00] according to economic capacity.

[00:57:02] The CARICOM affirms that the United Nations, as an organ, has the greatest power of Okay. In the context of the search for a more equitable distribution of resources worldwide, in particular in the context of the PYD, on the day of the International Fiscal Cooperation, the examination of fiscal strategies according to economic capacity should be included.

[00:57:24] The CARICOM affirms that the United Nations, as an organ, has the greatest power of Assembly look.

[00:57:31] Participation.

[00:57:33] In this regard, the UN General Political Consideration of Member States should not aim to reflect the fiscal regulation of the OECD, but, with wisdom, to create a fiscal framework that guarantees international cooperation in view of a fair global development platform, not only in the spirit, but also in the form.

[00:57:53] Mr. President, the great ambition of the OECD requires the political will of the people. The cons, the system, [00:58:00] international, transparent,

[00:58:02] are contributed international

[00:58:06] fiscal.

[00:58:08] Thanks to distinguished representative of hay. Just I'm gonna ask all the states just to start to the time limits. It's four minutes for the, when you are presenting on behalf of group and three minutes for the prostate. So just please to try to stick because like the allow few seconds after it's in the mic is cut off.

[00:58:34] So please try to stack to the time limits that we stated at the beginning of the session. Now the floor to,

[00:58:42] Sorry for this, it's like, technology error, so now it's, it's, it's the the floor to Belgium. Distinguished representative of Belgium on behalf of the EU member states. Sorry for this technology error. Mr. President. I make this [00:59:00] statement on behalf of the 26 other members of the European Union. The European Union and its Member States continue to fiercely defend the effective international order, based on rules that rely on the United Nations Charter and its efforts to set up a multi lateral, efficient and reformed system, centered on an organization of the United Nations, effective and endowed with sustainable financing.

[00:59:28] We intend to reaffirm our sincere commitment in favor of the objectives of an inclusive, efficient and equitable fiscal system. By drawing on these many adhesions and these strong points, the UN Convention on International Cooperation in Taxation should aim to promote dialogue worldwide and create political synergies.

[00:59:53] The United Nations has called for a more inclusive and more efficient international cooperation in [01:00:00] terms of taxation. The international dialogue held within the United Nations on a future convention should aim to bring together countries to exchange effective practices in terms of mobilization of national resources through the elaboration of fiscal policy and the strengthening of the mechanisms of application of law.

[01:00:20] This effort highlights the central role played by the United Nations to help Member States of the United Nations to mobilize internal resources and finance development strategies, by narrowly aligning themselves with the aspirations stated in Resolution 78 230 of the General Assembly. The coherence with the ongoing work and the clear consensus among other international agencies

[01:00:48] In order to promote inclusion and efficiency, we are in favor of a consensual decision making process. The International Dialogue within the United [01:01:00] Nations should also ensure that a future Convention is aligned on the objectives of sustainable development and contributes to its implementation by promoting a fair and sustainable approach to international cooperation in fiscal matters.

[01:01:16] Thanks

[01:01:18] to the distinguished representative of Belgium on behalf of the group of countries you are presenting. Now to the distinguished representative of Netherlands.

[01:01:27] We align ourselves with the intervention by the European Union on behalf of the EU and its member states. And in our national capacity, we have the following statement. The Kingdom of the Netherlands will support any effort to foster inclusive, effective, fair international fiscal cooperation. We believe the following elements are key.

[01:01:48] Firstly, the international dialogue at the United Nations should ensure that a future convention promotes an equitable and sustainable approach to international tax cooperation, [01:02:00] and must therefore be based on consensus and on consistency with ongoing work. Secondly, the international dialogue at the United Nations should contribute to the exchange of practices on mobilizing domestic resources through policy formulation, And through the strengthening of enforcement mechanisms, thirdly, and lastly, in formulating the terms of reference, the ad hoc committee should focus on structural and legal aspects of a possible framework.

[01:02:30] Convention resolution 78 slash 230 mentions the possibility of considering early protocols. If the ad hoc committee decides to do so, we urge that this is based on substantive technical analysis. And on practical evidence, we should prioritize issues on which consensus seems achievable and avoid spending valuable resources in this early phase on contentious subjects.[01:03:00]

[01:03:00] Mr. Chair, it is with this in mind that we remain committed to promote inclusive effective, fair and sustainable international tax cooperation. Thank you very much.

[01:03:10] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Netherlands. Now to the distinguished representative of Zambia to be followed by Ghana.

[01:03:19] The distinguished representative of Zambia.

[01:03:22] Moving to the distinguished representative of, of Ghana. The floor is yours.

[01:03:29] Distinguished delegates, Ghana aligns itself with the statement of the Africa group. Amidst the following additional remarks in its national capacity. During the organizational session of this committee in February, witnessed the beginnings of the real, the first real intergovernmental negotiations on international tax cooperation.

[01:03:48] As it should be, it was an open, transparent, and inclusive process with all member states participating on an equal footing. This was nothing short of revolutionary within the world of global tax [01:04:00] governance. Today, we continue the process of integrating the international tax system. to make it inclusive, equitable, fair, and effective for us.

[01:04:10] A system that does not cater for everyone cannot be a system that will deliver just equitable outcomes to all. That's why we continue to retreat that the United Nations, the appropriate forum to have these discussions. Excellencies welcome the focus of the committee's work on delivering on the Congress of the Addis Ababa action agenda.

[01:04:29] We cause on all the international committee, community to ensure that efforts in international task operation should be universal in approach. This process offers us a unique opportunity to converge around universal values and shared principles for setting out a common aspiration in international task operation.

[01:04:47] It is our belief that the outcome of this process will ensure a more equitable and inclusive global tax system, where all countries, regardless of size or economic power, have an equal seat at the table in setting [01:05:00] the agenda for international task operation. For Ghana, our ambition during these processes is triggered by resolution 78 slash 230 is to achieve and to achieve the established mandate, a term of reference in the UN Framework Convention on International Task Cooperation that aspires for more.

[01:05:18] If the TOS must, the TOS must therefore amongst others, reflect the word and spirit of resolution 78 slash 230. And they need to establish a holistic framework that ensures equity and fairness. To set out the need for clear objectives and principles for the Framework Convention and reinforce our commitment to fighting non taxation of illicit financial flows by requesting for procedures and systems that ensure that all diverted or hidden revenues are subject to tax within the relevant jurisdiction.

[01:05:46] Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we welcome the adoption by consensus of the outline and modulize of this committee. and reaffirm our support to the work of the committee. The world cannot afford delays in accomplishing this very important task of making the Transnational Task [01:06:00] Corporation more effective and fully inclusive.

[01:06:02] Let us therefore remind ourselves of the fierce agency of now. When we stand united in purpose, there is nothing we cannot achieve. So ensure that we set aside our suspicions and prejudices and work together towards this good cause, not forgetting that posterity will not forgive us It will let this chance to reinforce this plaudable opportunity for China cooperation slip by.

[01:06:21] Thank you for your kind attention. Thanks to the distinguished representative of Ghana. Now to the distinguished representative of Singapore.

[01:06:32] Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like to thank you for your leadership in this process and our gratitude to members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for the hard work thus far in preparing for this meeting. At the outset, participation in this committee is a commitment by all Member States to promote inclusive and effective international tax cooperation.

[01:06:50] Given the importance of such cooperation in our pursuit of sustainable and equitable growth, we owe it to each other to produce a draft terms of reference that meets the needs of all. [01:07:00] This means we need to first establish a clear and common understanding of the existing gaps in international tax cooperation.

[01:07:07] This will allow us to keep the discussions ahead focused and productive, and develop an outcome that is practical and useful. We should be able to find common ground which we can build on. Based on the inputs submitted by committee members thus far, enhancing domestic resource mobilization, such as through digitalization and diversification of tax bases, capacity building, and improving tax certainty are areas which have brought consensus.

[01:07:33] These could be priority areas we can work on. The UN has a natural connection to Global Sustainable Development Agenda, and we welcome the efforts of this committee to discuss ways to improve international tax cooperation. However, as noted in the Secretary General's report, existing international cooperation mechanisms have high technical capacity that can provide vital guidance to our discussions here.

[01:07:56] As other colleagues from the Netherlands, Canada and Belgium [01:08:00] have highlighted, we should therefore see existing international mechanisms and the UN as mutually reinforcing, not only to avoid duplicative work, but also to ensure a coherent and stable international tax system in the long term. economic pie for all.

[01:08:16] We have heard calls for fair, ambitious and effective international tax cooperation. Effective tax cooperation is predicated on the process being inclusive and having a consensual outcome. Ultimately, tax is a sovereign right of each member state. A framework convention that does not garner consensus will not be effective, as member states that disagree will simply choose not to be a part of it.

[01:08:40] Thus, it is important that we engage constructively. I work together towards an enduring solution that takes into account the needs and circumstances of all member states. We urge all member states to keep this in mind as we embark on the discussions in the coming days. Thank you.

[01:08:56] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Singapore. Now [01:09:00] to the distinguished representative of Jamaica.

[01:09:03] Thank you very much Chair, and Jamaica also extends its gratitude to you and the Bureau for the sterling leadership that has been displayed in leading this process. Chair, Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Republic on Haiti on behalf of the Caribbean community.

[01:09:23] Jamaica makes this general statement in the context of the work being carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee as steered by the elected members of the Bureau, and we also seek this opportunity to acknowledge the very productive relationship we have enjoyed with the OECD over the past 14 years. The OECD has been a valued partner to Jamaica, particularly in the areas of capacity building, technical assistance in legislative reform, and several times they have made themselves available.

[01:09:53] for face to face discussions in Jamaica with the political directorate, other government agencies, and the private sector [01:10:00] as we implemented various international tax standards. In our relationship with the OECD, discussions have always been frank and respectful, with Jamaica always ensuring that we would benefit in some way from the standards being introduced, particularly in the EOI TIWB program and transfer pricing.

[01:10:20] Mr. Chairman, we have also been frank and respectful in voicing our concerns to the OECD regarding their deficiencies in not addressing the growing discontent over the years among developing countries that incidentally formed the majority of their global forum and inclusive framework platforms. The reasons for that discontent has been when articulated.

[01:10:44] And those reasons have resulted in 125 countries, including Jamaica, voting in favor. of a resolution to establish an intergovernmental tax body in the UN. Even as we forge ahead with the mandate of that resolution, it [01:11:00] is also a time for reflection and action to change systemic inequalities and to make meaningful progress in the remaining six years to the 2030 Agenda and the processes that will contribute to its implementation.

[01:11:15] In order to leave no one behind, there must be equal footing in prioritizing the needs and interests of all countries rather than relegating the concerns of the majority of countries to the need for capacity building programs. And while capacity building programs are essential, the substantive matters also need to be addressed.

[01:11:34] Mr. Chair, it is evident that over the years the tax system developed was designed, negotiated on, and could only be implemented mainly by developed countries. Many of these initiatives were not even related or compatible with the domestic resource mobilization issues faced by developing countries struggling to find a sustainable path of growth and development by optimizing their tax systems, stemming the hemorrhage caused by [01:12:00] illicit financial flows.

[01:12:01] All while navigating an unequal global tax system, Jamaica emphasizes that an inclusive and effective international tax cooperation is a prerequisite for the achievement of SDGs and will give impetus to the mobilization of domestic resources, financial transparency, instruments and mechanism to benefit developing countries.

[01:12:22] For most countries who do not support the establishment of the intergovernmental tax body at the UN, Jamaica respects and honors your right to do so. For We also recognize that many countries who oppose the resolution have in fact offered delegates to serve. and provide a significant opportunity to forge this new chapter in international tax cooperation.

[01:12:43] It is our hope that these sessions will provide an opportunity for opposing sides to listen to one another, that discussions will be frank yet fruitful, that pronouncements of cooperation will be backed up by a willingness to compromise, that we will not only claim to want [01:13:00] international tax cooperation but will also recognize its fragility and its vulnerabilities.

[01:13:06] In conclusion, it is our hope that the work being carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee steered by the Bureau will not be seen as a threat or dismantling of the status quo. We propose that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee be viewed as a necessary course correction and refinement of the current system.

[01:13:24] This evolution is critical for a strengthened and sustainable international cooperation framework which will be mutually beneficial to developed and developing countries. Apologies for going over the time, Chair. Thanks

[01:13:39] to the distinguished representative of Jamaica. Now to the distinguished representative of Nigeria.

[01:13:45] Thank you, Mr. Chair. Excellencies, distinguished delegates. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Angola on behalf of the African group and wish to add the following remarks in our [01:14:00] national capacity. Nigeria has historically supported and has continued to advocate for multilateral actions as the basis for addressing the wide ranging issues of international taxation.

[01:14:13] We recognize that the complex complexities of international tax, not only across our borders, but demand collects the collective action and inclusivity, this belief led Nigeria to spearhead this initiative, mindful that our challenges are global. multilateral and inclusive solutions. The current international taxation platform, despite years of engagement, offer minimum benefits for developing countries like ours.

[01:14:46] The aftermath of initiatives against base erosion and profit shifting has left much to be desired. With tax incentives, Avoidance mechanisms and IFFs still on the rise [01:15:00] largely due to decision making processes that we think are skewed. Therefore, the need for significant improvement in the current international tax governance cannot be overemphasized.

[01:15:13] We underscore the importance of inclusivity in decision making, combating illicit financial flows, the assurance of equitable taxation. The enhancement of transparency and the strengthening of capacity building. Our goal is for a dynamic and responsive framework that acknowledges every nation's sovereign right to determine tax matters while promoting fair collaboration and the pooling of expertise for the development of superior tax models.

[01:15:49] Furthermore, we advocate for the application of the General Assembly's rules of procedure in our committee's decision making processes by upholding the simple [01:16:00] majority rule to reflect our democratic values and ensure transparency. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I'm anticipating the successful development of a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and Transparency.

[01:16:15] We call on all member states to engage constructively and negotiate in good faith. Our collective aim is to arrive at an outcome that truly embodies our joint commitment to equitable and effective tax governance. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

[01:16:34] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Nigeria. Now to the distinguished representative of India.

[01:16:42] Thank you, Chair. India looks forward to participating in the meeting of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for drafting terms of reference for the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. We believe that such international tax cooperation at the [01:17:00] intergovernmental level will establish a transparent process towards achieving an effective outcome while considering the needs, priorities, and capacities of all countries.

[01:17:09] India appreciates the initiatives taken so far in this process and assures the committee of its continued active and constructive participation. We are encouraged by the level of engagement shown so far by the member states and other stakeholders and hope that all the states work towards fulfilling the mandate of the committee within the designated time frame.

[01:17:30] India notes that the terms of reference should provide concise and appropriate indicators for drafting the Framework Convention through broad and high level commitments, while leaving space for further negotiations to achieve the objectives enshrined in UN General Assembly Resolutions 78 230, 77 244, and 69 313.

[01:17:55] The framework convention should lead to the establishment of a truly representative permanent [01:18:00] body that is procedurally and substantively effective for cooperation on international taxation. Such a body must also be supported by a well resourced Secretariat with balanced representation from developing and developed Member States of the United Nations.

[01:18:15] India believes that all Member States should work together for fair and equitable allocation of taxing rights, recognizing the realities of evolving business models and countering abuse of domestic, bilateral and multilateral tax provisions. Transcripts provided by Transcription Outsourcing, LLC. India is of the strong view that effective international tax cooperation is a critical element in meeting the requirements for attaining the sustainable development goals of member states who are at different stages of development.

[01:18:49] We look forward to the substantive discussions of the committee and believe that the outcome of this exercise would be an important milestone in furthering the goals of inclusiveness and efficiency in tax [01:19:00] matters, which would unlock meaningful additional revenues for countries to meet the needs and aspirations of their citizens.

[01:19:06] Thank you. Thanks to the distinguished representative of India. Proud to distinguish representative of Columbia.

[01:19:16] Colombia VOGA por unos términos de referencia que esclarezcan los asuntos procedimentales y sustantivos que deben ser atendidos en el proceso de negociación de la Convención Marco. At the procedural level, it is essential that the terms of reference address the need to ensure the significant participation of developing countries during the negotiation of the Framework Convention, including through the financing of their face to face assistance to the sessions.

[01:19:43] It will also be critical to achieve an understanding in the face of decision making to approve the Convention, which cannot go against the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. At the substantive level, the content of the [01:20:00] Convention must address both the establishment of the institutional arrangements of governance that are required for the periodic discussion of tax issues, as well as the operational issues that are intended to be regulated.

[01:20:14] With respect to the institutional arrangements, Colombia está convencida de la necesidad de establecer una conferencia de las partes como órgano tomador de decisiones sobre los asuntos relativos y emergentes de la tributación global. Dicha conferencia deberá contar con órganos subsidiarios que avancen su trabajo interseccional y que cuenten con el apoyo de instancias existentes.

[01:20:40] Progress I.

[01:20:43] LA.

[01:20:44] will be understood that the detail of the efforts to regulate is partial, and it will be necessary to identify early the areas where the development of protocols is desirable. Reference terms should also [01:21:00] indicate the need to discuss the principles on which the Convention is guided, its obligations, reporting mechanisms, and compliance.

[01:21:08] Synergies with other arrangements in existing tax matter

[01:21:12] Transparent, efficient, equitable, and effective. very much. Thanks

[01:21:19] to the distinguished representative of Colombia. Now to the distinguished representative of Philippines.

[01:21:26] Thank you, Chair. The Philippines welcomes this first session of the Ad Hoc Committee to draft terms of reference for United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. The Philippines reiterates its support for the promotion of inclusive and effective tax cooperation. Through the United Nations following the adoption of resolution 78 slash 23 0, which the Philippines supported.

[01:21:53] We thank Nigeria and African group for their leadership on this important topic. Crucial to the achievement of [01:22:00] the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and financing for development. The Philippines is committed to ensuring tax fairness among nations and recognizes that international cooperation is urgently needed to combat cross border tax evasion.

[01:22:16] Elicit financial flows, incessant base erosion and profit sharing, shifting and enclosing tax gaps and developing common measures to address international tax issues. We wish to take this opportunity to highlight the following principles, which we believe should be taken into account in deliberations on the terms of reference one Interdependence.

[01:22:40] It is imperative to acknowledge the interconnectedness of nations in addressing global tax challenges. Two. Two, equitable partnerships, prioritizing the establishment of equitable partnerships among nations, particularly between developed and developing countries. Three, capacity building, [01:23:00] recognizing the diverse capacities and needs of countries and their tax administrations and seeking to enhance capacity building, especially for developing countries.

[01:23:10] Four, inclusivity, ensuring the meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders and concretely addressing the concerns of developing countries. was a committee that has a number of members in areas of international taxation that are currently not addressed by ongoing proposals or current frameworks.

[01:23:27] We are firming multilateralism as a cornerstone of international tax cooperation. Five, sustainable development, contributing to the implementation of the sustainable development goals and serving as a catalyst for domestic resource mobilization, strengthening tax systems and advancing progress towards sustainable development, especially in developing countries.

[01:23:50] Six. Adaptability and flexibility. Our approach should be adaptable and flexible, allowing for periodic review to ensure relevance and effectiveness over [01:24:00] time. There must also be collaboration and synergies with existing bodies on international tax cooperation to achieve objectives without duplication.

[01:24:09] And seven, good practices. We hope this process will showcase national and international good practices and cooperation programs. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, we look forward to productive discussions during this session of the Ad Hoc Committee and hope that all delegations will engage in an open and constructive manner.

[01:24:28] Thank you. Thanks to the Distinguished Representative of Philippines. The floor is to the Distinguished Representative of Mauritius. Thank you, Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, good afternoon. Mauritius welcomes the work being undertaken by the ADOC committee to prepare the terms of reference for a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.

[01:24:59] And we would like to [01:25:00] thank the UN Secretariat for the effort put in so far in coordinating and making this session materialize. We believe that the new UN Framework Convention will be a landmark opportunity in Mauritius. To reform our current international tax architecture, and we will need to safeguard the interest of all members by taking into account their geographical and economic vulnerabilities, including climate change issues, in particular for small island developing state with the small tax base and limited natural resources like Mauritius.

[01:25:40] We fully subscribe to the idea that this convention should be fundamental in addressing the burning issues like climate change, illicit financing, and at the same time to accelerate our achievement of the sustainable development goals. The discussion and work to be undertaken on the terms [01:26:00] of reference should therefore consider the needs, priorities, and capacities of all member countries.

[01:26:07] and should also capitalize on the synergies already achieved in existing forum on international tax cooperation. We hope that the framework would have a broad scope to cover all aspects of international taxation, including the taxation of the digital economy. Further, we look forward for the rebalancing of taxing right between developed And developing countries.

[01:26:33] We therefore look forward for the active participation of all member countries in this historic negotiation. Thank you, Chair.

[01:26:42] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Mauritius. Now to the distinguished representative of Pakistan. Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. Chair. We welcome the convening of this first session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee. As we embark on this [01:27:00] process of drafting the terms of reference of the Framework Convention, allow us to reiterate our gratitude to the African group for their leadership.

[01:27:07] We will make some general remarks in, in the debate. We believe that we have as collectively in the first organizational session adopted by consensus the modalities of this committee in which it was decided that the General Assembly's rules of procedure apply in the work of this committee, particularly that of a simple majority.

[01:27:25] At this stage, we believe we should not spend more time on discussing or rehashing this agreement. Rather, now it is time to discuss substance, both controversial and non controversial, in order to build the broadest possible consensus. Starting discussions on substance as soon as possible will aid us in achieving the consensus we all desire in the time frame set out for this process.

[01:27:48] On substance, we believe that the terms of reference must include the objectives of the Framework Convention, which could include setting out the fundamental principles for international tax cooperation, such as equity, special and differential treatment for developing [01:28:00] countries, transparency, and sustainability.

[01:28:03] Key issues we believe which must be included is equitable taxation rights, exchange of information, addressing tax base erosion and profit shifting, Capacity building, taxation of the digital economy, as well as digitization of tax administrations tax trans transparency, and specific consideration for developing countries whose economies are particularly dependent on corporate income taxes.

[01:28:27] The governance structure should be detailed in the TOR. For example, one possibility is a conference of parties or its equivalent. We also believe that the TORs must recommend potential topics for consideration in a set of initial protocols. Lastly, we believe that provisions for capacity building and ensuring the participation of developing countries must also be included in the DORs.

[01:28:48] In conclusion, Mr. Chair, Pakistan is committed to strengthening the effectiveness and inclusiveness of international tax cooperation at the United Nations and look forward to engaging constructively with all countries [01:29:00] in this historic process for the successful completion within the allocated timeframe.

[01:29:04] Thank you.

[01:29:06] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Pakistan. The floor now to the distinguished representative of Lesotho. Thank you, Chair. And as the kingdom of Lesotho aligns itself to the remarks by the African group, and additionally, we want to make the following remarks. Lesotho is excited and honored to be part of this momentous occasion. When this erosion and profit shifting, perhaps in short, discussions emerged, Lesotho saw that as an opportunity in blessing, blessing, a blessing in disguise, as perhaps first countries, especially developed and big economies, to rethink their approaches and attitudes towards international tax cooperation.

[01:29:56] As part of that journey, [01:30:00] Lesotho was able to put in place a limited number of legal instruments and institutional reconfigurations so as to traverse the ever challenging international tax cooperation landscape. However, Lesotho, like many developing countries, could not optimize on the many different international cooperation initiatives.

[01:30:26] Initiatives that have been at the center stage for a variety of reasons, including limited time, limited financial resources, limited human and technical resources. This new initiative therefore comes at an opportune time when the sort is reeling from the consequences of first limited participation in global agenda.

[01:30:52] We hope that. The new framework will provide us with impetus to forge ahead and address the [01:31:00] massive fiscal and budgetary challenges that we face. We are looking forward to the solutions of the framework, especially on the issues that have been identified by the African region to which we fully subscribe and are part of.

[01:31:17] Lesotho is therefore looking forward to fruitful engagement and is fully. Prepared to make the most of this new initiative. Thank you, Chair. Thanks to the distinguished representative of Lesotho. Now to the distinguished representative of Costa Rica. Mr. President. Costa Rica is grateful for the invitation to this first session of the DOC Committee, which is in charge of drafting the terms of reference of a Framework Convention of the United Nations on International Tax Cooperation.

[01:31:52] We are honored to be part of this process with the purpose of approaching, as facilitators of international [01:32:00] cooperation in tax matters, countries that have worked and provided valuable experiences in this field. This space will allow states to make available to the membership their experience to collaborate in the didactic development of the creation of capacities in equal conditions to improve the benefits of international tax cooperation.

[01:32:24] Mr. President, With regard to the work we started today, my delegation wishes to make the following three points. First, We consider it essential to strengthen the international tax framework with a document that allows all countries to be part of a strong, inclusive, proactive and resilient community to face global challenges.

[01:32:47] Second, It is crucial to propose dynamic solutions to address these challenges. For the challenges that the digital economy poses, as well as to make information clear [01:33:00] for the end beneficiaries of societies and legal structures in developing countries. Third, it is necessary to create a mechanism of implementation that enables the establishment of efficient and direct policies, accompanied by improvements in the legal norms that contribute to the real execution of these issues.

[01:33:21] It is a proven fact that one of the most powerful tools to strengthen international cooperation is the exchange of information that is predictably pertinent to tax effects in its various modalities, which is why motivating its implementation could provide valuable benefits. Mr. President,

[01:33:42] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Costa Rica. Now to the distinguished representative of camera,

[01:33:51] please, I'm sorry. Make sure that the microphone is working.

[01:33:56] Sorry.

[01:33:57] Yes. Okay. Please start.

[01:33:59] So, [01:34:00] now use it. I think it's working now. The mic. Okay. Sure. The Cameroon Salih.

[01:34:15] Mr. Chair, almost 80 years ago, the founding fathers of this organization, the United Nations, agreed open to build a new world on the ruins and arches of the Second World War. Despite the resentment and sorrows, they managed to find points of convergence, common ground to secure the common interests should prevail.

[01:34:41] Cameroon is hopeful. We could be able to draw inspiration from this constructive spirit. throughout, throughout our session with a view to enabling the process we are undertaking to result in a United Nations Framework [01:35:00] Convention on International Tax Cooperation, which is fair, equitable, inclusive, relevant, and effective in order to result in Contributes to achieving sustainable development goals.

[01:35:13] Cameroon is also hopeful that this process will not extend indefinitely over time. Indeed, every day that passes without an effective instrument to combat tax evasion and illicit financial flows is one too many shying away from combating inequalities between countries and within countries, inequalities between rich and poor, between men and women.

[01:35:38] Therefore, Cameroon calls for solidarity and coherence between delegates and different stakeholders in order to establish a competent body with adequate resources for the benefit of all. Mr. Chair, may I recall that in 72, in Stockholm, we made excellent resolution to [01:36:00] ensure the protection of the environment was one of our top priorities.

[01:36:04] 52 years later, the environmental and climate situation is certainly more worrying today than it was then. Likewise, I would like to remind that in 2015, head of state and government, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, adopted the resolution 70 1 entitled Transforming Our World.

[01:36:30] 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has generated a lot of interest and lot and hope in the world and particularly among developing countries. Unfortunately, the situation in many aspects is probably worse than it was then. Right now, this is why we call for action. We call for compliance, renewed political will and leadership to make sure the terms of reference and outcomes from our session and are [01:37:00] relevant and subject to full implementation to shape a strong integral government.

[01:37:05] Intergovernmental body effective within the framework of international cooperation in tax matters. Mr. Chair, you can count on the constructive commitment of Cameroon to participate and actively contribute to this common aim and endeavor. Je vous remercie.

[01:37:23] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Cameroon, now to the distinguished representative of Algeria.

[01:37:30] Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[01:37:32] Mr. Chair, at the outset, I would like to express my delegates gratitude. I would like to start by expressing my deepest gratitude for convening this in the inaugural session of the adult committee. My delegation align itself with the statement delivered by Angola behalf on the African group. Mr. Chair, Algeria firmly support the work of the committee, which has the critical mission of developing [01:38:00] the terms of reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on international tax cooperation as highlighted by other delegations.

[01:38:09] The challenge lies in improving the existing framework for international taxation in a more inclusive and efficient manner, ensuring the representation of all states, particularly particularly developing countries in a clear, effective and equitable way. Algeria consider this UN framework convention as an important opportunity to promote inclusive, equitable, and efficient international tax cooperation for all member states, enabling everyone to practice, to participate in this, in decision making processes.

[01:38:45] I see the occasion to high point that for developing countries, the difficulty with international taxation lies in having to adhere to pre established rules to the detriment of mobilizing tax [01:39:00] resources. This difficulty is exacerbated by practices of tax evasion, fraud, and abuse of conventions, as well as As by the lack of resources within the tax administration of these countries, lacking the necessary knowledge and expertise to confront these harmful tax practices that undermine the resources of states and ultimately their sustainable developments.

[01:39:28] Furthermore, it is crucial to consider the needs, priorities and capacities of all countries, especially developing countries in the formulation of the term of reference. In this context, the technical issues that deserve priority attention in the protocols are as follows. Elicit financial flows, transparency and extend exchange of information for tax purposes, including wealth and real estate.

[01:39:58] Equitable distribution [01:40:00] of taxing rights between states and income from cross border transactions. Taxation of the digital economy, base erosion and profit shifting. Taxation of high net worth individuals, taxation of cross border services, digital or non digital, mutual and administrative assistance. Last but not least, the Framework Convention and its protocols must facilitate capacity building by supporting particularly developing countries in benefiting from technical cooperation aimed at sharing expertise and best practices,

[01:40:39] Cooperation in matters of international taxation. To conclude, let me affirm reaffirm Mr. Chair Algeria's full commitment to support the effort of the international committee to develop a convention on international tax cooperation that will help countries to implement the 2030 agenda in its [01:41:00] sustainable development goals.

[01:41:02] Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the distinguished representative of Algeria. Now to the distinguished representative of P Brazil.

[01:41:12] Thank you, Chair. Mr. Chair, we commend your efforts to help us establish terms of reference that can effectively guide our negotiations on a substantive and meaningful UN Convention on International Tax Cooperation. Over the past 15 years, the UN has played a significant role in increased international coordination on tax matters.

[01:41:37] It has helped us gain a broader perspective of the challenges faced by developing countries. Today, the UN is It is quite clear that they need intelligent tax policies that reduce inequalities and attract investments while avoiding harmful tax competition and negative spillovers. For this to happen, distortions and [01:42:00] gaps in the international tax system must be seriously addressed through intelligent, farsighted, and solidarity cooperation by developed countries.

[01:42:12] We urgently need an inclusive, balanced world. international tax system, one that embodies that kind of corporation. Our ultimate strategic objective should be to help generate the funds necessary to achieve the SDGs everywhere as fast as possible. For once, we must put the money where the mouth is. That is precisely why a U.

[01:42:40] N. convention should promote fair taxation, increased increased transparency, and increased transparency. I'm going to start with a brief introduction of my delegation. and curb tax evasion and illicit financial flows. The Brazilian G20 presidency is working to ensure that the group make a meaningful contribution to that end.

[01:42:59] In the upcoming [01:43:00] G20 meeting of finance ministers in July, we will discuss a declaration on international taxation. Mr. Chair, my delegation emphasizes the importance of negotiating early protocols alongside the governance structures of the convention, focusing on selected issues. While maintaining flexibility to incorporate new subjects, our proposed priority topics are taxation of a super rich individuals combating illicit financial flows and taxation of cross border services.

[01:43:36] In the following days, we suggest that we focus on areas of convergence. And progressively address the more controversial issues, thus creating the necessary momentum for our discussions to move forward. I thank you.

[01:43:52] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Brazil to the distinguished representative of Japan to be followed by Bahamas. Thank [01:44:00] you.

[01:44:00] Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair, Secretary, and the Bureau members for your dedicated effort. I'd like to outline the following four points as our basic approach to discussing the terms of terms of reference. First, we should record that the proposed purpose of the Framework Convention is promote inclusive and effective international tax cooperation.

[01:44:28] To this end, all specific topics should be discussed by tax expert from the member states in a new forum under the convention because taxation is such a highly technical field. Proper sequencing of discussion is crucial. Our initial aim should center the role of the terms of reference in providing high level direction for formulating the convention.

[01:44:56] Second, we should recognize that [01:45:00] taxation is an issue of sovereignty. Each country has its own right to tax and to decide what it adopt our new international tax rule. At the same time, the more countries that adapt the rule, the more robust that rule becomes. Therefore, consensus based decision making is needed to achieve inclusiveness on the effectiveness in international tax corporation.

[01:45:27] We would expect Mr. Chair and the Secretariat to guide us toward achieving consensus on the terms of reference with these aims in mind. Third, as we discuss the new framework, we should account for stability in the international tax system. Any new rules need to harmonize with existing tax architecture.

[01:45:53] We should also respect the expertise of other international organizations. And [01:46:00] in doing so, we can maximize our limited resources. Lastly, we understand that many countries support domestic resource mobilization as an objective of the Framework Convention. Japan, as a leader in providing assistance for capacity building to countries in the taxation area, is ready to support their efforts to enhance their domestic resource mobilization.

[01:46:28] Thank you.

[01:46:29] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Japan. And now the floor to the distinguished representative of Bahamas. Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Bahamas aligns itself with the statement delivered by Haiti on behalf of the Caribbean community. Today, as we convene for the first substantive session of the Ad Hoc Committee to draft terms of reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Task Cooperation.

[01:46:59] [01:47:00] We are entrusted with fulfilling the ambitions outlined in Resolution 78 230 entitled Promotion of Inclusive and Effective International Task Cooperation at the United Nations. Mr. Chair, The convention we hope to create must embody the principles of legitimacy, stability, resilience, and fairness in the international touch rules to build systems that are truly inclusive, diverse, and equitable.

[01:47:30] The minds that we build a UN tax convention that promotes international tax cooperation, tailored to the unique characteristics and development imperatives of the global South. The current distribution of tax and rights is inherently inequitable, favoring developed countries at the expense of the global south.

[01:47:50] Our UN Framework Convention must catalyze a shift towards, one, a collaborative and inclusive approach to international [01:48:00] tax policymaking, ensuring active participation from developing countries, two, a critical assessment of existing tax treaties between developed and developing nations, and Three, a dedicated focus on strengthening domestic tax policies in developing countries.

[01:48:17] And four, a heightened awareness of the impact of the climate crisis and the resources required to achieve the SDGs. The vulnerability of countries like the Bahamas, heavily reliant on tourism and financial services, to external economic shocks and the pernicious effects of the climate crisis underscores the urgent need for a more equitable international tax framework.

[01:48:43] The arbitrary blacklisting of vulnerable countries exacerbates their plight, perpetuating a cycle of economic disenfranchisement that is contrary to our right to development. Mr. Chair, the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee [01:49:00] signifies a renewed commitment to multilateralism, grounded in equity and representation, essential for addressing the systemic inequities in global governance, especially the international tax regime.

[01:49:13] We remain optimistic that this committee will foster equity and development capacity where it is lacking, including early warning, early protocols to combat illicit financial flows. Mr. Chair, the Bahamas reaffirms its commitment to building a fairer and more prosperous world. One that leaves no country or community behind and stands ready to play an integral role in shaping this crucial process, ensuring that our collective efforts lead to tangible progress and meaningful change.

[01:49:46] I thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks, Distinguished Representative of Bahamas. Now. To the distinguished representative of Stein to be followed by Spain. [01:50:00] Thank you, Mr. Chair. The strengthening of international cooperation on taxation matters has been a long standing priority for Liechtenstein, including through its membership of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, as well as the OECD G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

[01:50:24] Over the past years, Liechtenstein has consistently underlined that further efforts to advance international tax cooperation must be in accordance with and built on established multilateral frameworks, which have already delivered tangible results. A fragmentation of international tax cooperation could create legal uncertainty and might harm multilateralism as we have found light in our written submission for the terms of reference.

[01:50:51] The negotiation process of the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation needs to carefully consider the diverse aspirations [01:51:00] and legitimate concerns of the broader membership. For this process to be as inclusive and as transparent as possible, the terms of reference should clearly outline the objective, the timeline, as well as the drafting and decision making modalities.

[01:51:15] Of the proposed framework convention. In this regard, we particularly wish to emphasize the importance of the broadest possible agreement among member states. Let us also reiterate that all future steps should consider the individual limitations, especially in view of the resources, in particular of smaller jurisdictions, further uncertainty regarding the modalities and objectives is not in the interest of the overall process and particularly affects smaller jurisdictions.

[01:51:45] While it is certainly not limited to them, we are concerned that the current process seems not to fully adhere to some of the basic principles of the overarching resolution. In particular, it does not provide adequate assurance with [01:52:00] regard to its inclusivity and effectiveness. To conclude, You can count on our constructive engagement over the coming 10 days in what we hope to be fruitful, inclusive, and effective discussions that are informed by the existing global tax cooperation architecture.

[01:52:16] I thank you.

[01:52:18] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Lechtenstein. Now to the distinguished representative of Spain. Can you hear me? very much, Mr. President. Spain adheres to the declaration of the European Union and that of the Belgian presidency.

[01:52:36] In the name of all member countries, supporting the defense of an international order based on rules and based on the United Nations Charter, with the aim of achieving effective and sustainably financed United Nations. Spain considers that the Framework Agreement of the United Nations on International [01:53:00] Fiscal Cooperation proposed should aim to promote global dialogue on a more inclusive and more effective international fiscal cooperation.

[01:53:10] We must aspire to bring together all member countries with the aim of exchanging effective practices on the mobilization of national resources through both the formulation of fiscal policies and the reinforcement of the necessary mechanisms for their application. And all this in close consonance with the 78 230 resolution of the General Assembly.

[01:53:37] Spain believes in itself. Coherence with the ongoing work and the consensus achieved in other international forums should be the guiding principle for any international initiative related to the promotion of international fiscal cooperation, which would also ensure a [01:54:00] holistic approach to the global fiscal challenges.

[01:54:03] We understand that the work must begin with a substantive technical analysis of the needs in the field of international fiscal cooperation. In this sense, the contributions received from the different participants in this process can and should serve as a basis. This will ensure that the decisions that are adopted, In the framework of this process, they are based on proven facts.

[01:54:32] To promote inclusion and efficiency, Spain also advocates a decision making process based on consensus. Finally, we consider that international dialogue within the United Nations must ensure that this future Framework Agreement is adjusted to the Sustainable Development Goals and contributes to its execution.

[01:54:54] Spain is aware that we are in a world context [01:55:00] of inequality and distancing from the possibility of financing these goals and its execution for 2030. It is for this reason that Spain supports the proposals made by the G20 Presidency. Brazil in relation, above all, to the implementation of a global minimum tax on the wealth of multimillionaires.

[01:55:22] In short, Spain understands that work must begin with an exhaustive analysis of the issues that can reinforce this inclusion and the effectiveness of international fiscal cooperation and that can support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. and the mobilization of national resources and must continue debates and discussions that allow the decision making with the greatest possible consensus.

[01:55:49] Only in this way will the desired results be achieved. Finally, I want to emphasize that Spain is deeply committed to the work to [01:56:00] be carried out in this environment of the United Nations in an open, constructive and cooperative spirit. very much, Mr. President.

[01:56:09] Thanks to the distinguished representative of Spain. Now to the distinguished representative of Hungary, followed by Germany.

[01:56:18] Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hungary aligns itself with the respective statements delivered by the delegations of Belgium and European union. As this is the first time we take the floor in this process, please allow us to convey our great appreciation to you, Mr. Chair, and for the dedicated Bureau members. We are looking forward to a successful meeting under your wise and able leadership and your instructive guidance throughout this process.

[01:56:42] On a more substantive note, Hungary highlights the importance of inclusive, effective, and fair international tax cooperation, and in this vein, supports initiatives promoting these principles. Hungary agrees with the aim to promote an open global dialogue and the creation of policy synergies where [01:57:00] applicable.

[01:57:00] In this regard, we believe that consistency with ongoing other initiatives and consensus achieved in other multilateral fora. Should be used as a guiding principle for the text related international cooperation undertaken at the United Nations. This could contribute to a fruitful discussion on various topics of importance, and it could also enable us to focus on the available limited resources on specific issues for a global consensus could be realistically achieved.

[01:57:30] We are of the view that in depth technical analysis is also an undoubted matter of significance. Along with clear, transparent and timely procedural guidance for the work of this ad hoc committee. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, we are pleased to reiterate Hungary's readiness to participate constructively in our deliberations.

[01:57:49] I thank you for your attention.

[01:57:51] Dear Mr. Chair, dear distinguished representatives, Germany reaffirms its [01:58:00] commitment to the objectives of inclusive, fair and effective international tax cooperation, recognizing the pivotal role that such cooperation plays in fostering global equity and prosperity. Germany emphasizes the importance of international efforts to promote greater tax transparency as well as fair taxation on a global scale.

[01:58:23] Referring to the statement on the behalf of the EU, Germany would like to supplement it with a few further remarks. Germany considers that the terms of reference as the fundamental framework for the negotiation of the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. The terms of reference should contain clearly defined general aims, concrete decision making rules, and prudent timelines.

[01:58:51] We believe that consensus based decision making is paramount for the success in international negotiations if tax dossiers [01:59:00] In terms of substance, Germany deems it key to maintain stability and legal certainty by avoiding inconsistencies with established global standards. To ease the initial phase of this project and guarantee its efficiency, subjects for potential protocols should be chosen carefully.

[01:59:23] Measures to prevent tax evasion and avoidance could be relevant components of this initiative. Consideration might also be given to transitional provisions for low capacity countries regarding existing tax standards, as well as focusing on digitalization of tax administration and improving cooperation.

[01:59:46] These would be concrete steps to support the mobilization of domestic resources to finance sustainable development goals at the country level in a socially just manner and in line with [02:00:00] climate and environmental goals. Germany looks forward to constructive dialogue and collaboration with all jurisdictions to advance international tax cooperation for the collective benefit of global equity and prosperity.

[02:00:16] Thank you.

[02:00:17] Given that we reach the end of the first session. So we are going to pause the list for now. But before we close, I think the secretariat need just to have a reminder for everyone like housekeeping notes. Thank you, Chair. A reminder, please, for delegations. If you have sent a statement into eStatements but not yet inscribed in the list of speakers, if you could please inform the secretariat in the meeting room over here.

[02:00:50] Thank you so much.

[02:00:52] So the committee will reconvene again in the same room at 3 p. m. Thank [02:01:00] you. The meeting is adjourned.