

## **G-20: Take Action on Financial Transaction Taxes**

### ***International Civil Society Statement to the G-20 Leaders Summit in Seoul***

We, ***the undersigned 183 civil society organizations from 42 countries collectively representing over 200 million people***, urge G-20 leaders to make concrete progress towards the introduction of an internationally coordinated financial transactions tax (FTT) at the upcoming summit in Seoul.

Our organizations have long advocated that such taxes are a practical way to generate revenues needed to fill domestic and international financing gaps, discourage the type of short-term financial speculation that has little social value but poses high risks to the economy and serve as a desperately-needed and sustainable source of financing for health and development. In recent months, the case for an FTT has been strengthened with new inputs from sometimes unexpected sources. Several developments have contributed to building a solid foundation for going beyond discussion of options to implementation:

#### **IMF research commissioned by the G-20 recognizes technical feasibility of FTTs**

At the 2009 Summit in Pittsburgh, the G-20 charged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with preparing a report on various financial sector taxation options. While the IMF report delivered in June 2010 favored an alternative approach (devoting only 3 of its 74 pages to FTTs), it did confirm the administrative feasibility of this option.<sup>1</sup> A follow-up IMF technical paper has pointed out that most G20 countries have already implemented some form of transaction tax, and offered useful information on how to design the taxes to make them most effective. The paper also confirmed that such taxes can generate substantial revenues.<sup>2</sup>

#### **A report by the 'Leading Group on Innovative Financing' endorses one form of FTT**

In July 2010, a group of international finance experts confirmed the feasibility of taxing financial transactions, with a view to financing international commitments for health and development made to developing countries. The experts had been commissioned to produce a feasibility study for a group of 12 governments -- Germany, UK, Japan, France, Belgium, Korea, Norway, Senegal, Brazil, Spain, Austria and Chile. These countries are part of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, comprised of 60 nations (including 75% of G20 member states). In their report, the experts point to foreign exchange transactions between banks as the easiest option for collecting a solidarity tax. They calculated that an extremely small tax of only 0.005% on such transactions would generate 33 billion USD per year.<sup>3</sup>

#### **European Union and UN High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing consider FTT**

Meanwhile, the European Commission is considering the possibility of introducing an FTT at European level, following the support shown by the European Parliament earlier this year. A European Commission report notes that, depending on the rate and coverage, an FTT could potentially generate more than \$1 trillion per year.<sup>4</sup> The FTT is also being addressed by a workstream of the High Level Advisory Group of the UN Secretary General on Climate Change Financing (AGF). The Group, made up of heads of state, high-level officials from ministries and central banks, and other finance experts, is expected to release a report on climate finance options this week.

## **The need for FTTs has grown more urgent**

FTTs are one of the few available options that could generate the enormous financial resources required to pay for the continuing costs of the global financial and economic crisis, including reducing the unacceptably high rate of job loss, and to achieve key development, health, education and climate change objectives in developing countries. Several hundred billion dollars worth of untapped revenue could potentially be harnessed. This new financing is required in addition to official development assistance in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Alternative financial sector taxes as proposed by the IMF would fall far short of the volume required. At the same time, the potential benefit of FTTs to enhance market stability is of equal interest as the world has become more aware of the dangers posed by automated high-frequency trading that increasingly predominates in financial markets. Even extremely low transactions tax rates would reduce the incentive for such speculative activities.

At the recent UN Summit on Millennium Development Goals, French President Nicolas Sarkozy made a very welcome vow to press for an international agreement on FTTs during his term as G-20 chair in 2011. There is, however, no reason to delay. We call for G-20 action on this critical issue to begin in Seoul.

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<sup>1</sup> International Monetary Fund, "A Fair and Substantial Contribution by the Financial Sector: Final Report for the G20," June 2010. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/062710b.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> International Monetary Fund, "Taxing Financial Transactions: Issues and Evidence," Chapter 8 of *Financial Sector Taxation: The IMF's Report to the G-20 and Background Material*, September 2010. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2010/paris/pdf/090110.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Committee of Experts to the Taskforce on International Financial Transactions and Development, "Globalizing Solidarity: The Case for Financial Levies," July 16, 2010. <http://www.leadinggroup.org/article668.html>

<sup>4</sup> Commission Staff Working Document, "Innovative financing at a global level," Brussels, January 4, 2010.

[http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/articles/international/documents/innovative\\_financing\\_global\\_level\\_sec2010\\_409en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/articles/international/documents/innovative_financing_global_level_sec2010_409en.pdf)

## **Signatories:**

### **International/Regional:**

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)  
Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)  
European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)  
Public Services International (PSI)  
WWF International  
Education International (EI)  
Global Campaign for Education (GCE)  
International HIV/AIDS Alliance  
Feminist Task Force (GCAP)  
International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied  
Workers' Association (IUF)  
Tax Justice Network (TJN)  
ActionAid International (AAI)  
Oxfam  
Health Poverty Action  
Greenpeace  
Emmaus International  
PLUS, Coalition Internationale Sida  
Third World Network (TWN)  
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)  
Federación Internacional Fe y Alegría

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European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)  
Global Union Federation Building and Wood Workers International (BWI).  
Friends of the Earth International  
The African Campaign for Education for All (ANCEFA), Senegal, for African continent  
European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD)  
International Metalworkers' Federation  
PSI Asia Pacific Regional Organization (PSI-APRO)  
Economic Governance for Health (EG4Health)  
La Red Latinoamericana sobre Deuda, Desarrollo y Derechos (LATINODAD)  
European Attac Network

**National:**

AFL-CIO, US  
WEED - Weltwirtschaft, Ökologie & Entwicklung, Germany  
Make Poverty History, Canada  
Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project, US  
Dutch Platform on Sustainable and Solidarity Economy, the Netherlands  
Oikos Foundation (Dutch member, Tax Justice Network), the Netherlands  
RESULTS, Canada  
World Development Movement, UK  
Both ENDS, the Netherlands  
The National Union of Public and General Employees, Canada  
War on Want, UK  
CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development, France  
Norwegian Church Aid, Norway  
CRBM, Italy  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU), US  
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), Australia  
New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi, New Zealand  
African Initiatives, UK  
Article 12 in Scotland, UK  
University and College Union (UCU), UK  
Grassroots International, US  
Friends of the Earth, US  
Bond, UK  
Treatment Action Group (TAG), US  
General Secretary National Union of Teachers. UK  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society, US  
Share The World's Resources (STWR), UK  
Public Citizen, US  
Italian General Confederation of Labour, Italy  
Ecologistas en Acción, Spain  
Health GAP (Global Access Project), US  
KAIROS Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Canada  
Victoria AIDS Resource & Community Service Society, Canada  
The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Canada  
Nationwide Group Staff Union, UK  
Friends of the Earth, Sierra Leone  
Africa Europe Faith Justice Network, UK  
TB Alert, UK  
UNI-Korea Liaison Council, South Korea  
Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development (NDWPD), Nigeria

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INDIAN SOCIAL ACTION FORUM - INSAF, India  
UNISON, UK  
NASUWT, UK  
The Zacchaeus 2000 Trust, UK  
Housing Justice, UK  
Worldview The Gambia  
Action for Southern Africa ACTSA, UK  
CS de Comisiones Obreras (CS CCOO), Spain  
Lokoj Institute, Bangladesh  
Instituto del Tercer Mundo, Uruguay  
Jubilee, Australia  
IBON, Philippines  
Trades Union Congress (TUC), UK  
KRuHA-People's Coalition for the Right to Water, Indonesia  
The National Union of Journalists, UK  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Canada  
Halifax Initiative, Canada  
ABVV/FGTB, Belgium  
Alliance Sud--the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations, Switzerland  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, US  
Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development, Norway  
Aktionsbündnis gegen AIDS, Germany  
The International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK  
The Stop AIDS Alliance, Belgium  
Spire, the Development Fund's Youth, Norway  
Robin Hood Tax Campaign, UK  
Stamp out Poverty, UK  
ATTAC, France  
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), England and Wales  
International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK  
CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium  
World Federalist Movement, Canada  
AITEC / IPAM, France  
RESULTS, UK  
Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), Indonesia  
Global Health Advocates (Avocats pour la Santé dans le monde), France  
ATTAC, Denmark  
Lunaria, Italy  
ATTAC Québec, Canada  
Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC), Mexico  
Alianza Mexicana por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos (AMAP), Mexico  
Bia'lii, Asesoría e Investigación, A.C, México  
The Christian Socialist Movement (CSM), UK  
Kepa, Service Centre for Development Cooperation, Finland  
Fundación Primero de Mayo (First of May Foundation), Spain  
FOCO -Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos, Argentina  
Fair, Italy  
Grupo Tacuba, A. C., Mexico  
Consejo de Investigaciones e Información en Desarrollo CIID, Guatemala  
Comisión Independiente de Derechos Humanos de Morelos, Mexico  
Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores, Mexico

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Pacto por la Soberanía Alimentaria Energetica, los derechos de los Trabajadores y las Garantías  
Constitucionales en Morelos, Mexico

ATTAC, Spain

Movimiento Rural Cristiano de AC, Spain

Asociación de Defensa de la Vida, ADEVI, Perú

Veterinarians Without Borders (VSF), Spain

MUNDUBAT, Spain

Fiare Banca Ética de Sabadell, Spain

CNPL, Brazil

ATTAC, Norway

Otros Mundos AC - Amigos de la Tierra (Friends of the Earth), México

German Campaign "Tax Against Poverty", Germany

ATTAC, Germany

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), Belgium

Confederación Revolucionaria de Obreros y Campesinos, (CROC), México

ASDE Scouts de España, Spain

Comité Nacional de la Confederación de Trabajadores, México

Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), India

ATTAC- Hellas, Greece

Jubilee Debt Campaign, UK

Grupo de Tecnología Alternativa SC, Mexico

NKOTA-netzwerk, Germany

Mujer y Medio Ambiente AC, Mexico

Red de Genero y Medio Ambiente, Mexico

Jubilee USA Network, US

Civil Society Forum for Climate Change, Tanzania

Secretariado Social Mexicano, A.C., Mexico

The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, Russia

Secours Catholique / Caritas, France

Intersindical Valenciana, Spain

Altermond, Japan

Coalición española de la Campaña Mundial por la Educación ( Ayuda en Acción, Educación sin  
Fronteras, Entreculturas), Spain

Mexicanos Contra La Desigualdad, Coalición Nacional Mexicana del GCAP, Mexico

Comisión Nacional de Enlace (CNE), Costa Rica

World Democratic Governance Project Association (apGDM-WDGpa), Spain

Health Alliance International, US

ACV-CSC, Belgium

Observatori del Deute en la Globalització, Catalunya, Spain

ATTAC, Austria

AFRICANDO de Gran Canaria, Spain

Mirada Solidaria, Spain

Federation of Trade Unions, Ukraine

Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), National Trade Union Centre, India

Partners in Health, US

Association of Citizens for International Solidarity Taxes, Japan

International Solidarity Tax Joint Campaign, Japan

RESULTS Japan

Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO), Japan

Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE), Japan

Health, Pharmaceutical and Social Care Workers' Trade Union, Georgia

RESULTS, US

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Unión Sindical Obrera (USO), Spain  
World Federalist Movement of Japan  
Attac, Finland  
Stop AIDS Campaign, UK  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, US  
Plataforma 2015 y más, Spain  
Medicus Mundi, Spain  
General Union of Workers, UGT-P, Portugal  
Confederación Intersindical, Spain  
Ugoku/Ugokasu / Global Call to Action against Poverty –(GCAP), Japan  
Greenpeace, Spain  
Observatorio RSC, Spain  
Hunger Free World, Japan  
Council for NGOs in Malawi (CONGOMA), Malawi  
Fe y Alegría, Guatemala  
Americans for Financial Reform, US  
Fiare Zona Centro, Spain  
Positive Vibes, Namibia  
Network Institute for Global Democratisation (NIGD), Finland.  
Fundacion PROCLADE, Spain  
Solidaridad Internacional - Spain  
CONGDE - Coordinadora de ONG Spain  
Fundación IPADE - Spain  
Inspiracion – Spain  
National Education Association (NEA), US  
SPEAK Network, UK  
The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility, UK  
Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW), UK  
Educational Institute of Scotland, UK  
Ekklesia, UK  
Terræ Organização da Sociedade Civil, Brazil  
ITEREI- Refugio Particular de Animais Nativos, Brazil  
Centro de Referencia do Movimento da Cidadania pelas Águas Florestas e Montanhas Iguassu  
Iterei, Brazil  
Tearfund, UK  
Christian Socialist Movement, UK  
General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, UK  
ATD Fourth World, UK  
Community the Union, UK

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## Country-specific breakdown

### 16/G20 countries and EU, 117 organizations:

UK – 33 national orgs, plus UK-based international/regional

Mexico - 14 orgs

US – 18 orgs

Canada – 10 orgs

Japan - 9 orgs

Belgium, France, Germany – 5 orgs each

Brazil, Italy – 4 orgs

India – 3 orgs

Indonesia, Australia – 2 orgs each

Argentina – 1, this and all following:

Russia

South Korea

### 25 additional countries/66 organizations:

Spain - 27

Belgium - 5

Norway – 4

the Netherlands, Finland – 3

Guatemala - 2

Denmark – 1, this and all following:

Georgia

Ukraine

Austria

Costa Rica

Senegal

Tanzania

Greece

Peru

Switzerland

Philippines

Uruguay

Bangladesh

the Gambia

Nigeria

Sierra Leone

New Zealand

Malawi

Namibia

Portugal

## **ALPHABETIC LISTING**

### **INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL**

- ActionAid International (AAI)

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- Economic Governance for Health (EG4Health)
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  - Third World Network (TWN)
  - Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)
  - WWF International

### **NATIONAL/LOCAL**

- ABVV/FGTB, Belgium
- Action for Southern Africa ACTSA, UK
- ACV-CSC, Belgium
- AFL-CIO, US
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- African Initiatives, UK
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  - Housing Justice, UK
  - Hunger Free World, Japan
  - IBON, Philippines
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  - INDIAN SOCIAL ACTION FORUM - INSAF, India
  - INKOTA-netzwerk, Germany
  - Inspiracion, Spain
  - Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, US
  - Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project, US
  - Instituto del Tercer Mundo, Uruguay
  - International Solidarity Tax Joint Campaign, Japan
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  - Jubilee, Australia
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  - KRuHA-People's Coalition for the Right to Water, Indonesia
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  - Mujer y Medio Ambiente AC, México
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  - New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi, New Zealand
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  - Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development, Norway
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  - Observatorio RSC, Spain
  - Oikos Foundation (Dutch member, Tax Justice Network), the Netherlands
  - Ongd AFRICANDO de Gran Canaria, Spain
  - Otros Mundos AC - Amigos de le Tierra (Friends of the Earth), México
  - Pacto por la Soberanía Alimentaria Energética, los derechos de los Trabajadores y las Garantías Constitucionales en Morelos, México

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- Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores, México
  - Partners in Health, US
  - Plataforma 2015 y más, Spain
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  - Public Citizen, US
  - Red de Genero y Medio Ambiente, México
  - Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC), México
  - RESULTS, Canada
  - RESULTS, Japan
  - RESULTS, UK
  - RESULTS, US
  - Robin Hood Tax Campaign, UK
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  - Service Employees International Union (SEIU), US
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  - Tearfund, UK
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  - World Federalist Movement, Canada
  - World Federalist Movement of Japan
  - Worldview, the Gambia