

## **Statement to Thematic Roundtable A by the Civil Society FfD Group (including the Women's Working Group on FfD)**

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***Delivered by Everline Aketch, Public Services International (PSI), on May 24, 2017  
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### **1 – We need global solutions to achieve tax justice and making sure that multinationals pay their fair share**

One fundamental dimension of the FfD process since its inception was the overt attempt to strengthen the role of the United Nations – with its universal membership, inclusive nature and human rights foundations – in global economic governance. This would increase and re-balance the role of developing countries, promoting a more democratic global system. To ensure international tax cooperation, one of the most important priorities of developing countries, the FfD outcome should therefore not include any encouragement for countries to invest in strengthening existing not-inclusive institutions as opposed to establishing institutions that are better fit for purpose, including an intergovernmental UN tax body with universal membership.

Similarly, the Global Infrastructure Forum should be clearly accountable to and guided by the FfD Follow-up process. Against this, the reference to “adequate voice of developing countries” is a regressive expression if compared to the AAAA commitment “to increasing the voice of developing countries” in the reform of IFIs.

### **2 – Tax systems should be progressive instead of regressive - VAT dependent tax systems are NOT the way to go. Consumption taxes which are regressive put more burden on the poor while exemptions are provided to corporations. This perpetuates inequalities especially towards women.**

### **3 – We want best practices to be promoted – not shifting money from the public to the private sector through PPPs**

Evidence shows that PPPs are an expensive and inefficient way of financing infrastructure and services, since they conceal public borrowing, while providing long-term state guarantees for profits to private companies. Implementing PPPs poses important capacity constraints to the public sector. PPPs also suffer from low transparency and limited public scrutiny, which undermines democratic accountability and favours corruption.

In the developing world, where the push for PPPs and privatization means that universal access to health, education, water and sanitation will remain a distant dream for the vast majority of people. What is the use of special funds to be used in case of pandemics while public health systems are being dismantled? Liberia is a sad example of what can happen in such cases. Nevertheless, both in health and education, PPPs continue to be pursued there.

### **4 – Quality public services are key to development; and cannot be handed over to the hands of the profiteers.**

**5 - Anti-corruption and good governance:** a good chunk of available revenue in the public coffers tend to be misappropriated or out rightly embezzled in the absence of strong democratic institutions for good governance. To ensure improved revenue from taxation does not end up in private pockets, we must also be concerned with fighting corruption therefore we also call for an international standard for the protection of whistleblowers – any country that claims to be serious about corruption MUST protect whistleblowers.