

Statement on behalf of the CS FfD Group for the session “SDGs in focus: SDGs 3, 10, 16, 17
and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs”

Thank you, Madam Moderator. My name is Tove Maria Ryding and I speak on behalf of the civil society group on financing for development.

We would like to flag an issue which is exacerbating inequalities within and between countries, and causing hundreds of billions of dollars in illicit financial flows every year, thus linking SDG 10, 16 and the means of implementation for all the SDGs.

The issue is international tax dodging by the world’s wealthiest corporations and individuals, including those that have benefited greatly from the global crisis.

There is broad agreement among governments that we need new global tax rules, but we still do not have an inclusive body where those rules can be negotiated. Instead, the decision making on global tax rules is being led by G7, G20, and the OECD, also known as the rich countries club. This is resulting in rules that do not reflect the interests of the world’s poorest countries and do not effectively ensure that the world’s richest corporations and individuals pay their share of tax.

The high-level panel known as the FACTI panel has called for a new tax convention to be negotiated through an intergovernmental body under the auspices of the United Nations, where all countries can participate as equals. We call on governments and the UN General Assembly to follow up this proposal and show us the urgent action that we need.