



**Submission by the GI-ESCR to Elisa Morgera, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change, and Astrid Puentes, Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment**

The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) would like to bring attention to the opportunities arising from the intersection between climate and economic justice in relation to the ongoing negotiations of a **United Nations Framework Convention on Tax Cooperation** and the **Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean (PTLAC)**.

Without a shred of doubt, climate finance is at the core of the most pressing urgencies that the climate crisis poses to current international demands. The scale, speed, and scope of the systemic change required to achieve emissions reductions and transformative adaptation to climate change can only be possible through human history's most unprecedented mobilisation of resources. According to some estimations, annual climate finance flows must increase by at least sixfold compared to current levels, reaching USD 8.5 trillion per year between now and 2030, and over USD 10 trillion per year from 2031 to 2050, if we are to achieve the 1.5°C target as set out in the Paris Agreement and avoid the most catastrophic effects of the climate emergency.

Thus, pivotal questions arise: *where can these essential resources be obtained from?* and, how can we ensure these resources are equitably and justly distributed?

In that regard, momentum is building towards the definition of the terms of reference of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation at the end of July in the UNGA, an initiative aiming at bridging the gap between budgetary needs and fiscal capabilities among the members of the international community. This platform—which strives to increase international cooperation on taxation matters, fight against fiscal evasion, and rediscuss the terms by which bilateral investment treaties should be celebrated among States and other pressing topics—presents a unique opportunity to push for the transformation of the international fiscal architecture. This is essential to bridge the ever-increasing gaps in climate finance, which become wider as time passes and the climate crisis escalates.



Promoting international cooperation to advance progressive fiscal policies can also provide an effective tool to operationalise normative obligations enshrined in environmental treaties, such as the principles of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities’ and the ‘polluter pays principle’, bearing in mind the current and historical contributions of developed States to the climate emergency. As well as the fact, that developed States are the main holders of the resources needed to redress those inequalities and ensure developing States can respond to the challenges posed by the climate breakdown.

To meet such crucial objectives, it is key that those championing climate action take an active role in the open global discussions on international taxation at the United Nations to ascertain that the resources gathered through this initiative are effectively allocated to tackle the climate emergency and achieve a just and equitable transition to sustainable societies. While a diverse range of stakeholders is already stressing the need to integrate a climate justice dimension into fiscal discussions, additional voices are needed to guarantee that the momentum is effectively met and that the opportunity to engrain climate justice within the terms of reference of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation is not missed.

At the regional level, a Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation (PTLAC) was established last year by the Latin American and Caribbean countries. This is a regional space to generate knowledge, share experiences, and contribute to constructing common positions and solutions that guide decision-making to address tax policy challenges in an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable manner. This space also provides an opportunity to stress that the public revenue generated through green and progressive fiscal policies should finance the response to the climate emergency and deliver on a just transition that contributes to the realisation of human rights and the effective protection of the environment.

In light of the aforementioned, GI-ESCR respectfully suggests the Special Rapporteurs:

1. Very concretely and in the short term, **issue an official statement to support the efforts to develop a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation** ahead of the next rounds of negotiations in late July. Additionally, consider the possibility of participating in person and delivering an **oral submission during the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Committee** that is **drafting the Terms of Reference** of the Convention.



2. Consider **calling on States to actively engage in the rounds of discussion of the terms of reference of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation** due to the great potential to increase States' resources to address the climate emergency.

3. Use every opportunity, including thematic and country reports and press statements, to **call on States to implement progressive and green tax policies to mobilise sufficient public resources to accelerate a just and equitable transition to sustainable societies.**

Similarly, the two mandates can also help call on States from Latin America and the Caribbean to join the PTLAC and bring issues related to climate financing into its debates.

The active involvement of these two mandates on issues related to climate finance could serve as key strategic milestones to embed the demands of the climate movement within fiscal circles often detached from our day-to-day work and the causes we move forward.

Rest assured, GI-ESCR is committed to providing any additional assistance or information needed, and we remain at your full disposal in this regard.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to advancing human rights and climate justice worldwide and within the United Nations framework.

---

For further information, please contact Ezequiel Steuermann, Associate on Economic Justice, at [ezequiel@gi-escr.org](mailto:ezequiel@gi-escr.org).