REVIVING BEIJING'S NEGLECTED MACROECONOMIC AGENDA:
TAX JUSTICE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Make taxes work for women!

Friday, March 13
Summary

1. What are IFFs?
2. Inadequate funding of public services
3. Discriminatory tax laws and regressive taxes
4. Curbing IFFs and International tax rules
5. Recommendations & conclusion
Illicit financial flows

IFFs are defined as “money illegally earned, transferred or used” generated by methods, practices and crimes aiming to transfer financial capital out of a country in contravention of national or international laws.

They are in three categories

Commercial
Criminal or Corruption

USD 50-100 BILLION/YEAR
Why are we talking about IFFs in this forum?

Well…. simply because,

Women suffer the cost of IFFs. As a result of IFFs, they bear the burden of debt repayments, tax incentives, austerity measures and budget deficits generated through indirect taxes.

We want MNCs to pay their share and Govt to provide more public fundings and fight inequalities.
Inadequate funding of public services due to IFFs
The promises made to women and girls

The political declaration of the implementation of the Beijing declaration and Platform for action committed to (To name a few)

- Investing in education, training, science and technology for women and girls
- Strengthen and reposition gender machineries as key drivers for the implementation
- Scaling-up social protection and access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for women rights
- Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women
- Participation of women and girls in productive sectors
Security, justice, basic social services such as health, education, sanitation, housing, potable water etc are still under-funded and regressive taxation systems in developing countries are normalised.

Despite the above commitments….

1. Indirect tax > Direct tax

From the Fair Tax Minitor
- Uganda
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Malawi
- Zambia
- Cameroon
- Tunisia

2. Girls out of school > Boys out of school

- Poor infrastructure
- Pregnancy
- Early marriage

Two-thirds of African women are classified as functionally illiterate (2015)
Women’s health

3 Out of pocket payment for health

Limited access to health care due to lower capacity to pay

causes of death in SSA are communicable diseases

+ unmet need for family planning

+ unsafe abortions

+ maternal mortality

Women’s health
Poor public services and unpaid care work

Not included in labour force surveys nor is it included in the calculation of GDP

it contributes to 10-39% of GDP

Valued at USD 11 trillion/year, globally

In Uganda, women spent 18% more time in care giving than men and 17 percent less time on productive activities

Women spend a total of 16 million hours a day collecting water
Impact on society and women

Eg: Women use the bathroom on an average on 5 times a day vs 3 for men. In Dar Es Salaam, a woman pays more to access the toilet at her work place, the market. It makes it harder for women to become traders in the same space as men. It is expensive!
Discriminatory tax laws & regressive taxes
Governments use regressive taxation to fill the gap. The patriotisme taxe in Kenya is one example.
Zambia has lost USD17.7 million since 2007, when Associated British Foods took over Illovo sugar group. This amount is 14 times larger than the UK aid provided to Zambia in the same period.

The lost amount can put a child into primary school every 12 minutes.
International tax rules and curbing IFFs

IFFs are not only an African problem or a problem for just developing countries but a matter of global governance.

There is need to establish UN intergovernmental tax body which would ensure equal participation of all UN Member States on tax matters and the inclusion of clear and measurable goals and targets on curbing IFFs.

Governments need to review the enablers of IFFs and take action.
Conclusions and recommendations

Maximise resources to fund gender equality
- Progressive taxation
- Gender responsive budgeting
- Support the creation of a global tax body

STOP ALL FORMS OF IFF
- Ensure all corporations pay their fair share where they operate