NETWORK FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN GHANA (NETRIGHT)
(Mobilizing for Women's Rights in Ghana)

CONCEPT NOTE

WEBINAR ON BUILDING CSO CAPACITY ON THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TAX COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION

The Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) has, over the years, played a pivotal role in advancing economic justice and gender equality through its work on tax justice, gender-responsive budgeting, and fiscal policy advocacy. Under the Scaling Up Tax Justice (SCUT IV) Project, NETRIGHT continues to deepen its engagement in promoting fair, transparent, and inclusive tax systems that respond to the needs of women and marginalized groups. This work recognizes that equitable taxation is central to domestic resource mobilisation and the provision of quality public services that can address structural inequalities. Building on previous SCUT work, this new phase (2026-2028) seeks to influence policy reforms and strengthen accountability mechanisms to ensure Ghana retains resources critical to drive its development.

BACKGROUND

At the global level, tax governance is undergoing a significant shift, with increasing calls for a more inclusive, transparent, and equitable international tax system. For many years, international tax rules have largely been shaped by institutions such as the OECD, often limiting the participation and influence of Global South countries. This has contributed to persistent challenges such as illicit financial flows, aggressive tax avoidance by multinational corporations, and limited domestic resource mobilisation in developing countries such as Ghana. In response, the United Nations initiated a formal negotiation process in 2023 towards establishing a Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation (UN Tax Convention) after the adoption of a resolution tabled by the Africa Group at the UN . The proposed UN Tax Convention seeks to address the imbalances in tax governance by creating a more democratic and inclusive platform where all countries have an equal voice in setting global tax standards.

The Convention intends to establish a more inclusive, transparent, and effective framework for international tax cooperation in which all Member States participate on equal grounds. Ultimately, it aims to strengthen international cooperation on tax matters, improve domestic resource mobilisation, combat tax abuse and illicit financial flows, and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

For Ghana, these developments intersect with national priorities around increasing domestic revenue, addressing tax inequalities, strengthening fiscal policy, and advancing gender-responsive budgeting. However, the technical nature of international tax negotiations and limited access to timely information pose challenges for meaningful engagement by non-state actors.

TAX JUSTICE NETWORK AFRICA

RATIONALE

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in influencing national policy positions, promoting transparency and accountability, and advocating for fair and progressive tax systems. They are also key actors in amplifying citizen voices and ensuring that global policy processes reflect local realities, including gendered impacts of tax policies.

However, many CSOs in Ghana face capacity gaps in understanding the complexities of international tax systems, the UN Tax Convention process, and the strategic entry points for engagement at national and global levels. Without this knowledge, opportunities for meaningful participation and influence may be limited.

This webinar is therefore designed to bridge these gaps by equipping CSOs with the necessary knowledge, tools, and strategies to engage effectively in the UN Tax Convention process and advocate for equitable, inclusive, and gender-responsive tax outcomes. The webinar will provide participants with a foundational understanding of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, the status of the negotiations, and their implications for Ghana's domestic resource mobilisation, tax justice, and sustainable development agenda.

OBJECTIVES

The webinar seeks to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to understand the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and its implications for sustainable development in Ghana.

Specifically, it seeks to:

- Increase CSOs' understanding of the UN Tax Convention, its processes, and key issues under negotiation.
- Strengthen CSOs' capacity to analyse the implications of global tax rules for Ghana's development and gender equality outcomes.
- Identify entry points for CSO engagement and influence at national, regional, and global levels.
- Promote collaboration and collective advocacy among CSOs on tax justice issues.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the end of the webinar, it is expected that CSOs will have:

- Improved awareness and technical understanding of the UN Tax Convention among participating CSOs.
- Increased capacity of CSOs to engage in tax policy advocacy and global tax governance processes.
- Strengthened coordination and networking among CSOs working on tax justice and economic governance.
- Clear action points and strategies for CSO engagement in the UN Tax Convention process.

METHODOLOGY

The webinar will be interactive and participatory and will combine presentations, interactive discussions, plenary sessions, and knowledge-sharing among participants.

PARTICIPANTS

The webinar will bring together thirty (30) participants from civil society organisations (CSOs).

DATE AND VENUE

The webinar will take place on 25th August 2026 via Zoom.