

**Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions,
the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**
14 April 2008, New York

Sub-theme 5: Financing of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Intervention on behalf of Civil Society by David Hillman of Stamp Out Poverty, a network of UK NGOs working on Innovative Financing, and representing the European Network on Finance and Development.

Mr President,

According to the UN Inter-Governmental panel on Climate Change costs of climate change adaptation and mitigation will run into tens of billions of dollars each year. NGOs such as Oxfam state a figure of at least \$50 billion, Christian Aid claim as much \$100 billion per annum.

As things stand, this money will come out of ODA. The choice is literally - do we save forests or do we build schools? But we need to protect the environment and educate young people. *Additional finance* is absolutely critical or we will only make differences in respect of climate change at the expense of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. I am, therefore, happy to hear - just now - my Minister of International Development, Douglas Alexander, specifically state that *additional* finance to combat climate change will be brought on stream.

Mr President, not only is it necessary that climate change finance is *additional* to ODA, we NGOs support the position of the G77 (as just stated by Ambassador Blake) that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is the true international location from where climate change costs need to be financed. Any legitimate effort to increase the amount of resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation, must be placed within this genuine multilateral framework which provides for adequate representation for both developing and developed countries.

Mr President, we welcome the appointment of Philippe Douste-Blazy to the role of Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Innovative Finance, as an important sign of the significance of new streams of revenue to create *additional* funds to meet the MDGs. As well, we welcome the Secretary-General's note for this ECOSOC session where he states (I quote): "there is renewed interest in a possible currency-transaction development levy....to generate billions of dollars that can be allocated to development."

We are, of course, delighted that Monsieur Douste-Blazy stated in this morning's session on 'New Initiatives to Finance Development' that "we must have taxes on currency transactions" - a statement with which we strongly agree.

Finally, we recommend that there is explicit reference in the Doha Outcome Document of the need for Innovative Mechanisms, such as a currency transaction levy, to generate substantial *new* revenue, most specifically because of the vast extra costs to the international community of climate change.

I thank you, Mr President.