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Dialogue 2: Menu of options for development financing: Need to
focus on strengthening fiscal and policy space for socio-economic
transformation

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MOVENDI INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT**11/02/20****CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING – FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA
OF COVID-19 AND BEYOND**

Thank you for the opportunity.

Movendi International stands with our civil society colleagues, especially regarding global tax justice and the binding treaty to hold corporations accountable for their Human Rights abuses.

In the context of financing development, we call for the inclusion of health promotion taxation, such as alcohol and tobacco taxes, into the menu of options.

There is a gaping hole in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: while it includes tobacco taxation, it omits alcohol taxes. This omission comes at great costs to communities and societies.

Make no mistake, this is not a fringe issue. Consider these two facts:

1. Already in 2010 the World Health Report stated that raising taxes on alcohol could have [a big] impact. Estimates for 12 low-income countries project that tax revenues would more than triple to a level amounting to 38% of total health spending in those countries – an awesome figure showing the potential of alcohol taxation, especially in the context of the current public health crisis.
2. More recently the Task Force on Fiscal Policy for Health reported that an alcohol tax increase raising alcohol prices by 20% over current levels could generate almost US\$9 trillion in additional revenues over 50 years.

These resources are too precious to remain overlooked and ignored.

Therefore we are calling on UN and government policy makers, but also on civil society colleagues to include health taxes as key elements to finance and advance development.

Addressing these issues promises significant returns on investment, especially for the build back better efforts.

Thank you.

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