

Permanent Mission of India to the UN

New York

Adoption of the Draft Terms of Reference for a UN framework convention on international tax cooperation

16 August 2024

Explanation of Vote delivered by Ms Petal Gahlot, First Secretary

Chair,

What we have achieved today is truly historic – the first ever formal attempt by countries to draft a constitutive document to guide international tax cooperation. India welcomes the adoption of the Terms of Reference for a UN framework convention on international tax cooperation and has therefore voted in favour of these Terms of Reference.

Chair,

We also wish to thank you for your leadership of this process, which we recognize has been challenging at times. We also thank the Secretariat for its consistent support to this process, and the bureau of the ad hoc committee that has worked tirelessly to guide our negotiations.

Finally, and most importantly, we commend representatives from various Member States as well as other intergovernmental and civil society organisations, who have contributed to this process through constructive interventions and written inputs. These contributions have enriched our negotiations and added to the robustness of their outcome.

On a subject as complex as taxation, there were understandably some differences in positions. However, our experience over the last 8 months has demonstrated the effectiveness of a truly Member-State led process. We hope that this would set the template and momentum for all future efforts in international tax cooperation, honouring the spirit of GA Resolution 78/230, that made such efforts possible.

While historic, this is only the first step in a long journey. We remain committed to engage constructively in the drafting of the framework convention and its protocols, attempting to find middle ground, wherever possible. We are sure that other Member States would also proactively engage in this process, with the shared aim of preparing a document that lays the foundation for fully inclusive and more effective international tax cooperation in the 21st century.

I thank you.
