

We urge world leaders to implement policies of global redistribution!

We urge world leaders to enact policies to end poverty, halt global warming, and reduce inequality.

To achieve the first Sustainable Development Goal and end extreme poverty by 2030, we need international transfers.¹ To foster decarbonization in lower-income countries, we need international transfers.² To allow a decent living for all, we need international transfers.

The chasm between the standards of living in high-income countries, where 1.2 billion people live, and low-income countries, home to 700 million people, is staggering. GDP per capita is 62 times higher in high-income countries than in low-income countries.³ In other words, a mere 1% of high-income countries' GDP redirected to low-income countries would mechanically double their national income. A transfer of this magnitude can be financed by a modest 2% tax on individual wealth over \$5 million, leaving 99.9% of the population unaffected.⁴

Overwhelming majorities around the world support global redistribution policies.⁵ Global South countries have put forward a range of proposals and demands for redistribution policies at the global level.⁶ Now is the time to act. The solutions are ripe:

First, we need an enforceable tax system. To crack down on tax evasion, tax authorities must intensify cooperation through automatic exchange of information and the creation of a global asset registry, facilitating the identification of asset owners.⁷ To thwart tax dumping, minimum tax rates must be established, particularly on corporate profits. Corporate taxation must be structured fairly for low-income countries, and the apportionment of a multinational company's profits must take into account the location of its employees at least as much as the location of its sales.⁸

Second, we need an inclusive financial system. Access to financing remains a formidable challenge for lower-income nations, hamstrung by prohibitively high borrowing rates. The Bridgetown 2.0 initiative, put forward by the UN Secretary-General and the Prime Minister of Barbados, offers a suite of solutions.⁹ To de-risk sustainable projects, we need public guarantees on credit and foreign exchange.¹⁰ To scale up development finance, Multilateral Development

¹ World Bank (2022), [World Bank Group President David Malpass: Foreword to the Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022 Report](#)

² IEA (2023), [Net Zero Roadmap](#)

³ In nominal terms. World Bank, [Indicator NY.GDP.PCAP.CD](#)

⁴ Chancel et al. (2022), [World Wealth Tax Simulator](#)

⁵ Fabre et al. (2023), [International Attitudes Toward Global Policies](#)

⁶ E.g. African Union (2023), [Nairobi declaration](#)

⁷ ICRIT (2020), [A Roadmap for a Global Asset Registry](#)

⁸ ICRIT (2019), [International Corporate Tax Reform](#)

⁹ UN Secretariat General (2023), [Bridgetown Initiative 2.0](#)

¹⁰ Green Climate Fund (2021), [Scaling Climate Finance](#)

Banks should be recapitalized and granted Special Drawing Rights; lower-income countries' public debt should be restructured; and official development lending should be expanded to reach \$500 billion per year (a long-overdue stimulus for the Sustainable Development Goals).

Third, we need an international tax system. To meet the climate target universally adopted in the Paris Agreement, we should create a global carbon taxation regime, as called for by the African Union.¹¹ Ultimately, this could take the form of a global emissions trading system, with revenues financing a global basic income.¹² As a first step, we should introduce carbon taxes on shipping and aviation.¹³ We also need a Financial Transactions Tax to generate revenue quickly, and wealth taxes to combat inequality.¹⁴ At least a third of the revenues from these new taxes should be allocated to lower-income countries according to the principle: the poorer the country, the more it should receive.¹⁵

Fourth, we need democratic global governance. Global redistribution also applies to decision-making. To make decisions that pertain to the global level, we should move towards a directly elected UN Parliamentary Assembly with binding power.¹⁶ In the short term, we could experiment with world federalism using global assemblies limited to a consultative role, either elected¹⁷ or drawn by lot.¹⁸ In all cases, world citizens must benefit from proportional representation.

We call on world leaders to examine global redistribution policies such as those outlined above at the UN, G20, and COPs. We urge policymakers to implement global policies redistributing at least \$1 trillion per year (i.e., 1% of global income) from higher-income countries to lower-income countries. This would only be a first step towards a less unequal world.

We are a diverse group of civil society organizations, scholars, politicians, trade unions, religious groups, celebrities, and world citizens. Anyone is welcome to join our movement by endorsing this open letter,¹⁹ spreading its message, campaigning for global redistribution, or donating to the cause. We will demonstrate our strength and determination one year from now, on Thursday, October 17th, 2024, for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Mark this date on your calendars, for it shall be a defining moment in the global quest for justice and equity.

¹¹ African Union (2023), [Nairobi declaration](#)

¹² Global Redistribution Advocates (2023), [A Global Climate Plan](#)

¹³ Chancel et al. (2023), [World Inequality Report](#)

¹⁴ Oxfam (2023), [Survival of the richest](#)

¹⁵ Global Redistribution Advocates (2023), [A Global Wealth Tax](#)

¹⁶ [unpacampaign.org](#)

¹⁷ Global Redistribution Advocates (2023), [A Global Climate Assembly](#)

¹⁸ [globalassembly.org](#)

¹⁹ [global-redistribution-advocates.org/sign-petitions](#)