

ADVOCATING FOR A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX (FTT) FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HIV/AIDS' FIGHT



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Background

The 2008 financial crisis has deepened richer nation's budgets deficits which led to a drastic reduction of their contributions to development aid. A Kaiser/UNAIDS study indicated that **donors contributions to the AIDS response in poorer countries dropped by 10%** in 2010 compared to 2009. This alarming situation has revived innovative financing solutions like the FTT. In the light of this observation, Coalition PLUS, an international coalition of HIV/AIDS NGOs, engaged in the FTT campaign.

Methods

Our advocacy strategy focused on three levels:

- French level (i), as President Sarkozy became the 2011 G20 FTT champion;
- Coalition of pioneering countries level (ii), focusing on emerging economies (e.g. Brazil) to secure allocation to development;
- European Union (EU) level (iii), following the European Commission's (EC) draft FTT proposal.

Key activities we have conducted for each level of advocacy:

- Level (i) included meetings with President Sarkozy, his cabinet, MPs' and relevant ministries.
- At level (ii) support to foster FTT advocacy health groups in emerging countries was provided. Media work, petitions and stunts targeting G20 meetings were also conducted.
- At level (iii), meetings were held with the EC services seeking to improve the EC FTT proposal and overcome the unanimity deadlock promoting the enhanced cooperation procedure.

Advocacy Activities Facts and Figures:

- **8 meetings with President Sarkozy in 2011**
- **4 FTT Stunts in 2011** aiming at G8 and G20 Leaders
- Coalition PLUS contributed to a High-Level Steering Committee lead by UNITAID that produced a **FTT how-to-use Guide**
- **Draft Amendments on FTT** issued by both left and right wing parties



The advocacy program of Coalition PLUS aims at influencing international policy makers and national public authorities to improve decision making which positively impacts the fight against AIDS.

The program works in the following three areas:

1. Full funding of the global fight against HIV/AIDS through the Tax on Financial Transactions or "Robin Hood Tax".
2. Lower drug prices for patients.
3. Improving the fight against HIV/AIDS and the effectiveness of implemented measures.

Results

- France (i) created a unilateral FTT in its revised 2012 Budget Bill, yet the allocation to development was not included.
- On level (ii) a coalition of FTT supporters emerged at the G20 summit with Brazil, Argentina and South Africa voicing their FTT support.
- On level (iii), a group of 9 Member States asked the EU Presidency to accelerate FTT negotiations in 2012.

Conclusions

- Forthcoming challenges ahead are to amend the legislations in the making (French and EU Level) to broaden the FTT tax base and ensure its allocation to development.
- Besides, momentum must be sustained from the success of the G20 and leveraged thanks to forthcoming major international events where FTT will be on the agenda.

500 Million is the number of citizens that signed the Robin Hood Tax Petition that was delivered to President Sarkozy during G20

Acknowledgments



Coalition PLUS is an international union of 10 NGOs fighting the AIDS pandemic in their respective country (Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, France, Mali, Morocco, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Romania, Switzerland). They decided to join forces to promote together community-based approach in the fight against HIV through advocacy, research and technical support programs. Coalition PLUS is an active member of the French Robin Hood Tax Campaign along with its French member AIDES and its partner Oxfam France.

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