



24.11.2022

<u>Civil Society's Call for Excess Profit Taxes on Oil, Mining and Gas</u> Companies

Environics Trust and the Mineral Inheritors Rights Association join the Global Days of Action for Tax Justice in the Extractive Industry 2022, initiated by the Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ) along with its regional networks Tax and Fiscal Justice Asia (TAFJA), Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA), and Red de Justicia Fiscal de América Latina y Caribe (RJFALC), calling specifically for excess profits taxes on oil, mining and gas companies.

The continuing impacts of the global pandemic and the climate crisis have spawned a glaring gap between a tiny set of winners and the majority of the world's population. In 2022, net profits of the 40 largest mining corporations grew by 127% from the previous year, surpassing their pre-pandemic revenues by more than double. However, few people benefited from the boom: research shows that there was a 130% rise in dividend payments and rewards for top executives, whereas many lost their homes, incomes and livelihoods. **Sreedhar Ramamurthi from Environics Trust shared, "Mining corporations in Asia have taken cover under COVID-19 to benefit from lax regulation and additional tax incentives. Governments must address tax leaks in extractives to fund peoples' needs!"**

Reports by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) expose that mining corporations systematically shift profits and wealth through corporate manoeuvring and shell companies registered in low-tax jurisdictions. On top of these illicit financial flows, they reveal the extent of regulatory capture by mining interests, involving patronage and corruption in processes of securing mining licences.

Social movements, particularly in climate, labour and gender justice, have been raising proposals for the extractive sector to operate responsibly with communities and the environment. Building connections with these demands, this campaign brings the perspectives of tax justice and the broader economic justice movement, calling for a rights-based economy that puts people and the planet at the centre of discussions and decision-making. "We demand for an increase in tax and royalty on mining companies that, to some extent, ensure justice to mining affected communities and the environment. Less taxation on mining companies is directly proportional to high taxation on our earth and all life forms", said Indu Netam, Convenor of Adivasi Jan Van Adhikar Manch.

The global tax justice movement calls on governments and multilateral institutions to:

- Stop illicit financial flows and tax abuses in the extractives sector;
- Tax the super profits of extractives corporations by instituting windfall profit taxes;
- Curb tax incentives granted to the extractives industry;
- Make extractives companies pay their share in taxes and immediate costs of rehabilitation and rebuilding;
- Use taxes for peoples' needs, especially for the needs of communities affected by social and environmental damage; and
- Protect and uphold the rights of workers and women affected by mining, including their rights to defend their communities.