



# France's Pioneering Solidarity: The Power of Community and Civil Society Advocacy and Political Leadership

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# 1. Origins & Design of the Solidarity Levies in France

## A — Origins

- ▶ Two innovative fiscal tools created in France to fund international solidarity & global health
- ▶ 2004: Landau Report explores new international financing mechanisms
- ▶ 2006: Solidarity Tax on Airline Tickets created by President Chirac
- ▶ 2012: Financial transaction tax (FTT) created by President Sarkozy
- ▶ Both feed the Solidarity Fund for Development (FSD), channeling funds to UNITAID, Global Fund, GAVI, Green Climate Fund & GPE

## B — Principle

- ▶ A 'Robin Hood' logic: taxing the flows of globalization — aviation & finance — to fund international solidarity
- ▶ Aviation: a major emitter of greenhouse gases contributing to sustainable development
- ▶ Finance: the great winner of globalization contributing to the most vulnerable populations

## C — Design & Current Status

- ▶ Solidarity Tax on Airline Tickets: add-on on every ticket departing France
- ▶ FTT: tax on purchases of French listed shares above €1bn market cap
- ▶ The Solidarity Fund for Development : managed by AFD, under joint oversight of French MOFA & MoF
- ▶ French model promoted internationally
- ▶ 2025: Direct allocation to removed

## 2. Role of Civil Society, Communities & Political Leadership

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### Role of Civil Society & Communities

- ▶ Levies born from activist demand to fund UNITAID and the Global Fund
- ▶ Advocacy by CSO also launched at EU level from the early 2010s
- ▶ International mobilization to replicate the model in other countries
- ▶ French CSO role during annual budget examinations
- ▶ MP Guillaume Gouffier-Valente draft organic bill to restore direct allocation

### Political Leadership

- ▶ Support transcending political divides: supported by French Presidents across the political spectrum
- ▶ Cross-party consensus maintained for nearly 20 years
- ▶ Political consensus alone is not enough: executive power can override parliamentary majority
- ▶ The legal strength of the mechanism is as important as political support

# 3. Key Lessons for the Asia-Pacific Region

## A — A Model Worth Promoting

- ▶ Long-term protection of global public goods: predictable, sustainable revenues
- ▶ A painless system: no demonstrated negative effect on the economy or air travel
- ▶ Proven effectiveness: lives saved documented through annual impact reports

### Concerning the model to highlight :

- ▶ Establish a direct allocation mechanism: tax revenues must not be fungible with the general budget
- ▶ Put in place secure and transparent taxation mechanisms
- ▶ Transparency & accountability: annual budget annexes published by the Ministry of Finance, transmitted to Parliament and made public
- ▶ Limit earmarking to a small number of beneficiaries for better visibility and impact

## B — On Advocacy

- ▶ Engage in the international movement
- ▶ But this advocacy should be also be done at national level : because international agreements are not binding, and because taxes are a matter that touches too closely to countries' sovereignty.
- ▶ Key lesson from France: build mechanisms that are legally robust and politically defended enough to withstand crises