

Guiding questions

Virtual briefing by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for FACTI Panel members

16 June 2020, 13:00 – 14:00 (UTC)

via Zoom

Background

Ensuring effective implementation of the Addis Agenda to realize the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals requires global cooperation on financial accountability, transparency and integrity. The High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel) was therefore convened by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The Panel includes 17 high-level people from policy making, academia, civil society and the private sector. The Panel is mandated to explore further actions that may be needed by the international community in the following areas: financial and beneficial ownership transparency, tax matters, bribery and corruption, money laundering, confiscation and disposal of the proceeds of crime and the recovery and return of stolen assets.

In their first meeting held on 31 March 2020, Panel members considered a [background paper](#) and agreed to organize their work in three areas: cooperation in tax matters; transparency, public reporting and anti-corruption measures; and cooperation and settling disputes. Since late April, the Panel has held consultations with interested stakeholders to solicit comments and suggestions. A [short issues note](#), built on the background paper, informed the consultations. Additional briefings have been held with various international institutions. These consultations and expert inputs will feed into an interim report of findings to be presented in September 2020 and the final report expected in February 2021. The videos of the public consultations can be found at the [Panel's website](#).

Objectives

In this meeting, the FACTI Panel would like to hear from FATF about its relevant work and findings in international financing accountability, integrity and transparency.

Guiding questions

1. The Panel has heard about the upcoming FATF strategic review. Could you provide more detail on the review, its objectives and timelines, and any early indications of which issues are likely to be addressed? Is there any evidence about which FATF standards have most effectively reduced the volume of laundered funds and which loopholes are most frequently being used for money-laundering?

2. The Panel has heard a suggestion to strengthen the definition of beneficial ownership? Could you comment on this suggestion, as well as the suggestion by others that implementation improvements are a higher priority?
3. There has been synergy between the Global Forum for Exchange of Information and the Financial Action Task Force in relation to beneficial ownership information. Do you think this synergy could be expanded across more areas or to forums with more universal participation?
4. What are your views on ways to expand asset and ownership registries to improve transparency and tax and regulatory compliance? How do you see the feasibility of a global asset registry?
5. Do you have views on how best to incentivize the private sector to combat money-laundering? What can be done to increase both the vigilance and cooperation of financial institutions in particular?
6. The Panel has heard about the need to tackle enablers of tax abuses and financial crimes. Could you comment on the effectiveness of the application of FATF standards to designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs)? Are there lessons learned about both the scope of the application and their implementation?
7. Are some FATF standards particularly onerous for transactions involving developing countries? Can you reflect on the possible costs and trade-offs in terms of a reduction in legitimate international trade, investment and other transfers?
8. How do you assess the effectiveness of international cooperation on money-laundering in addressing the specific circumstances of different kinds of countries? We have heard a perception that FATF's limited membership denies developing countries a voice in both standard setting and agreeing on sanctions. Can you comment on the inclusion of developing countries in FATF processes, and how those processes match developing country circumstances and capacities?