



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Concept Note

Towards an Ecosystem of Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity

*High-level Africa regional consultation co-hosted by the
High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and
Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda and the
Economic Commission for Africa*

18 November 2020, 13:00 - 15:00 (UTC), via WebEx Event, registration is required*

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has made achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both more urgent and more elusive. The shortfall in public resources needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is set to widen, while poverty is increasing. Against this background, the imperative to strengthen systems of accountability, transparency and integrity assumes greater importance than ever.

The High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel) was therefore convened by the 74th President of the United Nations General Assembly and the 75th President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Panel includes 17 high-level members from policy making, academia, civil society and the private sector. The work of the Panel is organized in three areas: cooperation in tax matters; accountability, public reporting and anti-corruption; and international cooperation and settling disputes.

On 24 September 2020, the FACTI Panel launched its [interim report](#), which analyzes the gaps, vulnerabilities and impediments present in the current international systems related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity issues. It finds that these systems can help countries prevent the drain of resources from development, contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda, but that they lack co-ordination, leave gaps and may overlap and even conflict with each other. The Panel therefore calls for total acceptance that the shortcomings are systemic and require systemic responses.

Objectives

In the high-level regional consultation, the Panel would like to hear from the region's leaders on their preferred means to address the shortcomings in the existing frameworks.

The aim is to help develop political consensus on joint actions by the international community to promote financial accountability, transparency and integrity across all three areas of the Panel's work: cooperation in tax matters; accountability, public reporting and anti-corruption; and international cooperation and settling disputes. The inputs will feed into the FACTI Panel's determination of technically feasible and politically viable recommendations to be made in its final report, which will be published in February 2021.

Format/Programme

The virtual event will bring together high-level representatives from Member States, along with leaders from the private sector, civil society and academia. A series of issues papers will provide guiding questions for the discussion.

Opening remarks (10 min)

- H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, former Prime Minister of Niger and FACTI Panel Co-chair
- Dr. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Keynote speakers (30 min)

Open discussion (70 min)

- Ms. Irene Ovonji-Odida, former member of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, FACTI Panel Member
- Mr. Bolaji Owasanoye, Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, FACTI Panel Member
- Ms. Annet Wanyana Oguttu, professor of tax law in the Department of Taxation and the African Tax Institute at the University of Pretoria, FACTI Panel Member

Closing Remarks (10 min)

- H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki