



## Concept Note

# Combating Illicit Financial Flows in Asia Pacific and Beyond

### *FACTI Panel Dialogue with Civil Society*

18 February 2021, 12:00 - 13:30 (UTC), via WebEx Events, registration is required \*

## **Background**

The High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (FACTI Panel) was launched by the 74th President of the United Nations General Assembly and the 75th President of ECOSOC in March 2020 to explore further actions that may be needed by the international community to combat illicit financial flows and thus help in mobilizing further resources needed for vital investments for sustainable development.

Cross-border corruption, money laundering, tax evasion and tax avoidance limit countries' ability to provide basic services, erodes public trust and negatively impact the integrity of institutions and the rule of law within and across borders. Although these challenges are reflected across the globe, they have more impact on developing countries as they exacerbate inequalities, including gender inequality, and worsen poverty.

The launch of the Final Report of the FACTI Panel on 25 February will provide evidence-based recommendations and priority actions for addressing the identified challenges for tax cooperation, anti-corruption, and anti-money laundering.

The Secretariat of the FACTI Panel has been working hard to prepare awareness raising activities to break the ground before the publication of the report. As part of these activities, the Panel will engage in a series of meetings and events with all stakeholders before and after the launch of the Panel's Report. The main objective is to maximize the visibility of the Panel's work in capitals around the world and increase the buy-in of Member States and other stakeholders to the Panel's process and final recommendations.

At this meeting, the Panel would like to engage with members of the Civil Society and Academia to introduce them to the work of the Panel and discuss concrete actions to bring

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\* Please register to the event by filling the form at: [Registration form](#)

awareness and promote the endorsement of the FACTI Panel's key recommendations in each country.

The active participation of Civil Society would be vital to reinforce the urgent message to the United Nations Member States and all other stakeholders that transforming the global financial architecture to combat illicit financial flows is necessary to achieve the ambitious and transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda and shape our collective future for the better.

## **Objectives**

The Panel will discuss with civil society and thought leaders about their views on priority actions that can generate political momentum for promoting financial accountability, transparency and integrity for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The main objectives for this meeting are to:

1. Familiarize stakeholders with FACTI Panel's work and discuss its relevance in the region in order to fortify the commitment of Member States to realize the 2030 Agenda;
2. Solicit inputs on how to take advantage of the FACTI Panel's work, including identifying key individuals and organizations that would be interested in hearing and promoting the FACTI Panel's findings and framing the messages that would resonate with policymakers and other stakeholders; and
3. Discuss strategies and next steps to follow to ensure that the work of FACTI Panel becomes known in the region and to promote implementation of its recommendations.

## **Format/Programme**

The virtual event will bring together representatives from the civil society and academia and will be structured as an interactive dialogue.

*Welcoming remarks and presentation of the FACTI Panel (10 Min)*

- Karim Daher
- Yu Yongding

*Presentations (6-8 minutes each)*

- Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation
- Indonesia's Anti-Corruption Commission
- Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh
- South Centre
- Open Government Partnership

*Open discussion (35 min). Invitation is open to organizations and individuals working on financial integrity issues in the region*

*Closing Remarks (5 min)*

- FACTI Panelist