



FACTI Panel Informal Meeting with Tax Authorities from Africa

Sharing experiences and fostering Financial Integrity to achieve the 2030 Agenda

June 3rd 2021, 14:00 – 15:30 PM UTC

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Simultaneous interpretation for English, French, and Portuguese will be available

Background

As the world is facing the worst health crisis in many decades, the need to recover the colossal funds lost to tax abuses, money laundering and corruption becomes ever more pressing. Beyond the socio-economic effects specific to the pandemic, the world has been grappling with critical challenges ranging from high levels of inequality and poverty to drastic climate change. Illicit financial flows exacerbate these challenges by depriving governments from the necessary resources to invest in sustainable development, e.g., education, healthcare systems and green energy.

Moreover, the transnational nature of harmful financial transactions and practices result in the shift of wealth out of developing countries, which face relatively larger impacts than developed countries. Ultimately, redesigning the global architecture of our financial and tax systems could stop the drain of public finances and promote prosperity, inclusiveness and trust in the rule of law.

The work of the United Nations FACTI Panel, which was convened in March 2020, has culminated in a launch of a report on February 25, 2021 to address these issues. The report articulates 14 progressive and feasible recommendations to address illicit financial flows, surrounding issues such as the taxation of the digital economy, cooperation on tax matters, a global minimum tax, beneficial ownership transparency, capacity building, and fostering asset recovery.

At its core, the report recognizes the need for more financial integrity and transparency as a systemic problem requiring a systemic solution and presented evidence-based recommendations and priority actions calling for more democratic and inclusive rules, institutions, and standards to benefit all countries. It also underlines the urgent need to mobilize more of these resources to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Against a backdrop of urgent need for greater resources for investment in sustainable development, the report identified that the global architecture is fragmented, in contrast with the identified needs for more enhanced transparency and stronger accountability, more robust institutions and cooperation both at the national and international level. The current

institutional arrangements to deal with damaging tax competition and tax abuse presents, at a minimum, challenges of coordination and burdens government capacities.

Building on insights gained through various regional consultations, existing frameworks, and previous experiences, the FACTI Panel is asking governments to agree to a “Global Pact for Financial Integrity for Sustainable Development”. The inadequacies of the present architecture suggest the urgency of a legitimate and coherent ecosystem of instruments and institutions invested in delivering financial integrity for sustainable development. And gaining political momentum for this legitimate and feasible set of measures and setting clear action plans to implement them has never been more decisive and urgent.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Objectives

The virtual briefing aims at raising the awareness of government officials about the FACTI Panel recommendations to reform and revitalize the frameworks, mechanisms, and tools for enhancing cooperation and, ultimately, promote more financial integrity and transparency to help mobilize more resources for Sustainable Development. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the role of national and regional mechanisms and to share experiences and best practices. This meeting aims to start a discussion towards the following objectives and informing the global tax and economic development debate in African context:

- Familiarize the tax officials with the FACTI Panel’s work and recommendations.
- Discuss the relevance of this work in the region, share the progress of the rich African experience on these issues and identify the systemic challenges faced.
- Address the advantages to further promote cooperation on international tax and financial transparency matters in Africa as well as future strategies for the region.

Agenda

The meeting has been designed as an interactive dialogue between tax authorities in Africa and the FACTI Panel.

Remarks by main speakers:

- Ms. Irene Ovonji-Odida, FACTI Panel member (15 mins)
- Mr. Logan Wort, Executive Secretary of African Tax Administration Forum (10 mins)
- Mr. Thabo Khasipe, Lesotho Revenue Authority Commissioner General (10 mins)
- Mr. Sam Shivute, Commissioner for Namibia Revenue Agency (10 mins)
- Mr. Gonzalo Arias, Director for International Cooperation and Taxation, Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT)

Interactive Dialogue with Tax Officials (35 mins)

Closing remarks (5 mins)