

# Concept Note

## Virtual Consultation Session - Improving Cooperation in Tax Matters

5 May 2020, 15:00 – 16:00 (UTC)

via Zoom, registration is required \*

### Background

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development emphasizes the importance of mobilizing sufficient financing, both at the domestic and international level, for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Insufficient financial accountability, transparency and integrity is eroding the ability of States to generate resources and directly undermines the efforts of the global community to successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenge will also be exacerbated by the economic downturn and financial turmoil due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

The Panel will hold a number of consultations, which will be held virtually due to COVID-19, to solicit comments and suggestions from interested stakeholders. Together, these deliberations and inputs will feed into an interim report of findings to be presented in September 2020 and the final report expected in February 2021. In this session, the FACTI Panel welcomes all suggestions and comments from experts in the field of international cooperation in tax matters. To guide the discussion, the first background paper prepared by the FACTI Secretariat, as well as a short issues note provide an initial review of some challenges and trends related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity. In their first meeting held on 31 March 2020, Panel members agreed to organize their work plan around three main areas, which will be discussed during three consecutive consultations with experts: cooperation in tax matters; transparency, public reporting and anti-corruption measures; and cooperation and settling disputes.

At this meeting the Panel would like to hear from experts what they view as the priority actions for fostering universal participation in international legal instruments on tax matters, further work on tax evasion and tax avoidance and preparing consistent and reliable global data on taxation. The Panel would also like to solicit ideas on which areas the Panel can help in generating sufficient political support to tackle the challenges the world is facing in relation to tax cooperation.

## Objectives

The specific objectives of this virtual consultation are:

1. Apprise participants of the main areas of focus that were discussed in the FACTI Panel's first virtual meeting and the Panel's draft work plan;
2. Solicit inputs and get feedback from experts on the key priority issues and challenges identified by the Panel, particularly in the area of international tax cooperation; and
3. Solicit ideas on generating political momentum for advancing actions on improving international tax cooperation.

## Format/Programme

The virtual consultation will be structured as an open discussion.

Opening remarks (7 min)

- *FACTI Panel Co-chairs*

Overview of work progress (7 min)

- *Jose Antonio Ocampo, FACTI Panel tax cluster coordinator*

Open discussion (40 min), initial interventions:

- *Kim Jacinto-Henares, Senior Advisor, Albright Stonebridge Group*
- *Logan Wort, Executive Secretary, African Tax Administration Forum*
- *Allison Christians, McGill University*
- *Irma Mosquera Valderrama, University of Leiden*

Closing remarks by FACTI Panel Co-chairs (5 min)

\* Invitations and instructions to join the Zoom meeting will be sent to participants included in the email distribution lists of the Secretariat. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE INVITATION CONTAINING THE LINK, PLEASE PROVIDE THE CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS on the [registration form](#).