

# Concept Note

## FACTI Panel meeting with interested members of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

14 May 2020, 14:00 – 15:00 (UTC)

via Zoom (connection details will be sent by email)

### 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.

In their first meeting held on 31 March 2020, Panel members considered a [background paper](#) and agreed to organize their work plan around three main 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. These consultation 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 video of the consultations can be found at the [Panel's website](#).

In this meeting, the FACTI Panel would like to hear from members of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (UN Tax Committee) what they view as the priority actions for the work of the FACTI Panel's tax cluster.

## Objectives

The specific objectives of this virtual consultation are:

1. Apprise UN Tax Committee members of the main areas of focus of the Panel in the area of international tax cooperation;
2. Solicit inputs and get feedback 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 meeting will be structured as an open discussion.

Opening remarks (7 min)

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

Open discussion (50 min)

Closing remarks (3 min)

## Guiding questions

1. What are the key impediments to universal participation in international tax norm setting, and what is the impact on different countries from non-universal tax norm setting? What is the practical way forward to universal participation in tax norm setting?
2. What are the effective international tax policy and institutional responses to address the global rise of tax avoidance and tax evasion, including related to allocation of taxing rights and tax in the context of digitalizing economies? What are your views on a possible UN Tax Convention? How should data and information compilation, exchange and publication be managed?
3. What role can tax policy or tax administrations play in combatting corruption, money-laundering, and other financial crimes?
4. What are your views on ways to expand asset and ownership registries to improve transparency and compliance? How do you see the feasibility of a global asset registry?
5. What are your views on dispute settlement in the tax arena, and do you have relevant experiences of international arbitration under international investment agreements?
6. Is there a role for international frameworks to link gender, social and environmental issues to tax norms? What are the ideal approaches that the FACTI Panel might recommend?
7. How can the FACTI Panel help in generating sufficient political support for the proposals to tackle the challenges the world is facing in relation to tax cooperation? Is there anything specific that the Panel can do for the Committee?