



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

30 June 2020

Excellencies,

We have the pleasure to invite you to a virtual side event of High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on 10 July 2020, from 12:15 to 13:30 p.m., entitled “Mobilizing and Retaining Resources to Build Back Better: Financial Integrity in Post-COVID World”.

On 2 March 2020, we jointly launched the High-level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel), to explore what further action is needed by the international community to strengthen global cooperation on financial accountability, integrity and transparency to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Panel’s work is also of high relevance to the global efforts on SDG financing in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, including the discussions launched in New York by the Group of Friends on SDG Financing.

This event will update the international community on the progress the FACTI Panel has made and the tentative findings from the analytical work of the Panel. It will provide a forum for reflections on the future direction of the Panel, particularly in light of the current status of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Attached is the concept note this event, which will explore challenges and priority actions for promoting international financial accountability, transparency and integrity. Please also be noted that it will take place in advance of a FACTI Panel-organized interactive consultation with Member States on 21 July 2020.

We look forward to your constructive participation and engagement in this event. In the meantime, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest regards.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

Mona Juul

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



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## **Concept Note**

### **Mobilizing and Retaining Resources to Build Back Better: Financial Integrity in Post-COVID World**

**An Update on the Work of the High-Level Panel on International Financial  
Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda**

*High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Side Event, Convened by the  
President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social  
Council*

10 July 2020 12:15 – 13:30 p.m. (EDT), via WebEx Event, [registration](#) is required\*

### **Background**

As the world is taking stock of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is still a large gap between public resources available and the financing needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The COVID-19 crisis threatens to derail implementation of the 2030 Agenda even further, as the pandemic creates devastating health impacts as well as socio-economic and financial consequences.

Insufficient financial accountability, transparency and integrity has been eroding the ability of Member States to generate resources and directly undermines the efforts of the global community to successfully achieve the SDGs. It also creates uneven playing fields that harm small- and medium-sized businesses and undermine equity and inclusiveness in our economies. The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognize the scale and urgency of the challenge and stresses the need for advancing global cooperation on financial accountability, transparency and integrity. Our common goal, as set out in SDG 16, is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

In this context, in early March 2020, we jointly launched the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel). The Panel was 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 is reviewing existing international institutional and legal frameworks related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity, with a view to

identify any gaps, impediments and vulnerabilities in their design and implementation. The Panel is expected to publish its interim report by September 2020 and final report by February 2021.

The COVID-19 crisis has made the panel's work even more relevant. There is a looming risk that the vast amount of money involved in the economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be an attractive target for misappropriation and the misallocation of funds meant for essential public expenditures.

## **Objective and scope**

The event is being convened by the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the United Nations General Assembly on the margin of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to update the international community on the progress the FACTI Panel has made and the tentative findings from the analytical work of the Panel. It will provide a forum for reflections on the future direction of the Panel, particularly in light of the current status of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The event will bring together high-level representatives from civil society, academia Member States, and the business sector to explore challenges and priority actions for promoting international financial accountability, transparency and integrity. It will take place in advance of a FACTI Panel-organized interactive consultation with Member States on 21 July 2020 (tbc).

## **Format and programme**

The high-level event will feature opening remarks by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, followed by presentation of work by the FACTI Panel co-chairs and keynote addresses. This will be followed by a moderated discussion among the invited speakers.

Opening remarks (10 min)

- H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th session of the General Assembly
- H.E. Ms. Mona Juul, 75th President of the Economic and Social Council

Keynote remarks (10 min)

- speaker tbc

Presentation of the FACTI Panel's work: (20 min)

- H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, former Prime Minister of Niger, FACTI Panel Co-chair
- H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė, former President of Lithuania, FACTI Panel Co-chair

Respondent: (10 min, moderated by Ms. Alicia Ortega, Noticias Sin, Dominican Republic)

- speaker tbc

Moderated discussion: (30 min, moderated by Ms. Alicia Ortega, Noticias Sin, Dominican Republic)

- select Member State representatives
- Ms. Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation
- private sector representative

Closing Remarks (10 min)

- H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th session of the General Assembly
- H.E. Ms. Mona Juul, 75th President of the Economic and Social Council

### **Follow the Event Online**

Web cast: The event will be livestreamed through YouTube and on the FACTI Panel website <https://www.factipanel.org/events>.