

Statement by Ambassador Philip Odida, DPR of the Permanent Mission of Uganda at the FACTI Panel Virtual Consultation with UN Member States: 24th April 2020

The Co-Chairs;
Excellencies;
Distinguished delegates;

I wish to thank the Presidents of the General Assembly, and of ECOSOC for convening and facilitating this High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (FACTI Panel).

My delegation takes note, with satisfaction, that the Panel is now fully constituted and wish to congratulate the panel members for their appointment to this important process.

I take this opportunity to welcome the first virtual consultation of the Panel with UN Member States. Given the importance of the subject matter, and notwithstanding the disruptions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic on the present and future work of the panel within the context of a UN in lockdown, my delegation is of the view that such consultations with Member State are critical in the work of the United Nations and therefore should be held as often as possible, including at regional level and forums.

My delegation thanks the Co-Chairs for the work done so far in organizing the work and preparations of the Panel for this briefing especially for the background paper; the summary of the Panel's first video conference as well as the draft Work Program.

I wish to make the following brief remarks at today's virtual consultation meeting:

- Notwithstanding the current Coronavirus pandemic, we the Members of the United Nations must keep our focus on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing development which emphasizes the importance of mobilizing the financial resources for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals. COVID 19 may come and go, but the challenges that hamper sustainable development especially of the LDC's LLDC's and SIDS will remain with us if not even be further heightened.
- In this regard, we view the establishment of the FACTI Panel as an actualization of the multifaceted process of enhancement of global cooperation in the area of financial accountability, transparency and integrity which were identified as key ingredients of the Financing for Development Agenda. This discussion

should continue as an integral part of the intergovernmental processes. We therefore support the long-standing proposal to upgrade the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to an intergovernmental body with experts representing their respective Governments.

- The High-Level Panel Report on IFFs from Africa presented to the African Union Heads of States in January 2015 formed the basis for an African Union Special Declaration on IFF's and thus Africa's specific contribution to the outcome of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It is our wish therefore that the FACTI Panel should take full cognizance of the findings of the HLP on IFFs from Africa in its work and final outcome report.
- Finally we reiterate the imperative that all international tax cooperation efforts should be approached in an open, transparent and inclusive manner ensuring that no one is left behind. It's only in this manner that desired financial accountability, transparency and integrity can be achieved at a global level.

I thank you.