Concept Note

Launch of the Interim Report of the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda

High-Level Launch Event and Panel Discussion,

24 September 2020 8.00 – 10.30 a.m. (EDT), via WebEx Event, registration is required*

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has made achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both more urgent and more elusive. The shortfall in public resources needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is set to widen, as countries marshal and redirect vast sums toward an effective response to the crisis. Against this background, the imperative to strengthen systems of accountability, transparency and integrity assumes greater importance than ever.

The High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel) was launched by the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC in March 2020. 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. Since its launch, the Panel has been 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 consulted with Member States, international organizations, experts, business and and civil society. It commissioned background papers from subject matter experts in several areas. It took inputs from all external stakeholders to inform its views. The Panel has now completed an interim report – a precursor to the Panel's final report, which is expected to be delivered by February 2021.

Objective and scope

The event is being convened to present the interim report of the FACTI Panel, which identifies the major gaps in implementation and the systemic shortcomings of the existing international frameworks for tax cooperation, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering.

It will provide a high-level forum for discussing the priority actions for addressing the identified challenges, particularly in light of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

* Invitations to join the WebEx Event will be sent to participants included in the email distribution lists of the Secretariat. Please register to receive the link:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccJ3H2X5LCQdFpdQRM922bKlUMThFNzNQWEdEUjFOOUpRVkNNME0wQUdCMy4u

Format and programme

The event will bring the FACTI Panel chairs together with high-level representatives from Member States. It will also foster a discussion amongst civil society, international institutions, academia and the business sector to explore the issues highlighted in the FACTI Panel's interim report.

The event will consist of two parts: a high-level segment and a moderated panel discussion among invited speakers.

__High-level segment__ (40 min max, incl transitions and overruns)

Opening remarks by host (2-3 min)

Presentation of the FACTI Panel's interim report: (10 min)

      - H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, former Prime Minister of Niger, FACTI Panel Co-chair

      - H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaite, former President of Lithuania, FACTI Panel Co-chair

Selected high-level speakers: (24 min – 8 min each, introduced by host)

__Moderated segment__ (65 min, including 20 min Q&A)

Moderated panel discussion, based on prepared questions drawn from report's key findings. English only. Brief Q&A to follow.

Opening remarks by moderator (2-3 min)

Panel discussion with Q&A

Closing Remarks (6 min)

Follow the Event Online

Web cast: The event will be livestreamed through YouTube and on the FACTI Panel website https://www.factipanel.org/events/interim-report-launch.