





Concept Note

Implementing the Recommendations of the Final Report to Combat Illicit Financial Flows in Africa and Beyond

FACTI Panel Meeting with Civil Society 18 March 2021, 12:00 - 13:30 (UTC), via WebEx Events, registration is required *

Background

The High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (FACTI Panel) was launched by the 74th President of the United Nations General Assembly and the 75th President of ECOSOC in March 2020 to explore further actions that may be needed by the international community to combat illicit financial flows and thus help in mobilizing further resources needed for vital investments for sustainable development.

Cross-border corruption, money laundering, tax evasion and tax avoidance limit countries' ability to provide basic services, erodes public trust and negatively impact the integrity of institutions and the rule of law within and across borders. Although these challenges are reflected across the globe, they have more impact on developing countries as they exacerbate inequalities, including gender inequality, and worsen poverty.

The Final Report of the FACTI Panel was launched on 25 February 2021 with significant political support from many countries. The Report provides evidence-based recommendations and priority actions for addressing the identified challenges for tax cooperation, anti-corruption, and anti-money laundering.

The Secretariat of the FACTI Panel has engaged in a series of meetings and events with all stakeholders before and after the launch of the Panel's Report with the main objective of maximizing the visibility of the Panel's work in capitals around the world and increase the buyin of the Member States and other stakeholders to the Panel's process and final recommendations.

At this meeting, the Panel would like to engage with members of the Civil Society to discuss the implementation of the recommendations of the Report and the role they would play.

The active participation of Civil Society would be vital to reinforce the urgent message to the United Nations Member States and all other stakeholders that transforming the global financial architecture to combat illicit financial flows is necessary to achieve the ambitious and transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda and shape our collective future for the better.

^{*} Please register to the event by filling the form at: <u>Registration form</u>

Objectives

The main objective of this meeting is to discuss with the Civil Society regarding their views on priority actions that can lead to effective implementation of the recommendations of the Report. The specific objectives for this meeting are to:

- 1. To present the recommendations of the Final Report
- 2. To discuss challenges faced in implementing similar recommendations in the past and how to overcome them
- 3. To discuss the role of the Civil Society towards implementing the recommendations of the report
- 4. Solicit inputs and discuss strategies on how to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Final Report.

Format/Programme

The virtual event will bring together representatives from the Civil Society and will be structured as an interactive dialogue.

Welcoming remarks and presentation of the FACTI Panel Recommendations (15 Min)

• FACTI Panelist. Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye

Presentations (10 minutes each)

- Tax Justice Network Africa
- Oxfam Africa
- Tax Justice Network
- Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT)
- African Centre for Tax and Governance (ACTG)

Open discussion (30 min).

- Invitation is open to organizations and individuals working on financial integrity issues in the region.

Closing Remarks (5 min)

• FACTI Panelist