

# Concept Note

Virtual global townhall with civil society

28 April 2020 14:00 – 16:00 (UTC)

via Microsoft Teams Events, registration is required\*

## 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.

The Panel will hold a number of consultations, which will be held virtually due to COVID-19, to solicit comments and suggestions from interested stakeholders. Together, these deliberations and inputs will feed into an interim report of findings to be presented in September 2020 and the final report expected in February 2021. In this session, the FACTI Panel welcomes all suggestions and comments from civil society. To guide the discussion, the first background paper prepared by the FACTI Secretariat, as well as a short issues note provide an initial review of some challenges and trends related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity. In their first meeting held on 31 March 2020, Panel members agreed to organize their work plan around three main areas, which will be discussed during the consultations: cooperation in tax matters; transparency, public reporting and anti-corruption measures; and cooperation and settling disputes.

At this meeting, the Panel would like to hear from civil society organizations what they view as the priority actions for promoting financial accountability, transparency and integrity for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Panel would also like to solicit ideas on which areas the Panel can help in generating sufficient political support to tackle the challenges the world is facing in relation to financial accountability, transparency and integrity.

## Objectives

The specific objectives of this virtual consultation are:

1. Apprise civil society organizations of the main areas of focus that were discussed in the FACTI Panel's first virtual meeting and the Panel's draft work plan;
2. Solicit inputs and get feedback from civil society on the key priority issues and challenges proposed by the Panel in the area of financial accountability, transparency and integrity; and
3. Solicit ideas from civil society organizations on generating political momentum for advancing actions in these areas.

## Format/Programme

The virtual consultation will be structured as an interactive dialogue.

Opening remarks (10 min)

- *FACTI Panel Co-chairs*

Remarks by CSOs & responses by FACTI Panelists (30 min)

- *Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation*
- *Daniel Eriksson, Interim Managing Director, Transparency International*
- *Alvin Mosioma, Executive Director, Tax Justice Network Africa*

Remarks by CSO networks & responses by FACTI Panelists (30min)

- *Aida Jean Manipon, Asian People's Movement for Debt and Development, on behalf of Civil Society FfD Group*
- *Sargon Nissan, Director, Financial Transparency Coalition*
- *Mathias Huter, Coordinator, UNCAC Coalition*

Open discussion (45min)

Closing remarks by FACTI Panel co-chairs (5 min)

\* Invitations and instructions to join a Microsoft Teams Events will be sent to participants included in the email distribution lists of the Secretariat. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE INVITATION CONTAINING THE LINK, PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccj3H2X5LCQdFpdQRM922bKIUNlpSRVVUUloySTRKUFhWRkxUNVgyTFU0WC4u>.