

# Guiding questions

OECD-hosted virtual briefing on financial accountability, transparency and integrity issues with FACTI Panel members

29 May 2020, 13:00 – 15:00 (UTC)

via Zoom

## Background

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.

In their first meeting held on 31 March 2020, Panel members considered a [background paper](#) and agreed to organize their work in three areas: cooperation in tax matters; transparency, public reporting and anti-corruption measures; and cooperation and settling disputes. Since late April, the Panel has held consultations with interested stakeholders to solicit comments and suggestions. A [short issues note](#), built on the background paper, informed the consultations. These consultation and expert inputs will feed into an interim report of findings to be presented in September 2020 and the final report expected in February 2021. The video of the consultations can be found at the [Panel's website](#).

## Objectives

In this meeting, the FACTI Panel would like to hear from OECD about its relevant work and findings in international financing accountability, integrity and transparency.

## Guiding questions

1. What are the effective international tax policy and institutional responses to address the global rise of tax avoidance and tax evasion? What are the gaps or loopholes that are allowing tax avoidance and tax evasion to continue?

2. The Panel has heard complaints of a systematic locking out of developing countries from tax rule making and governance. How do you assess the effectiveness of international tax cooperation in addressing the needs of different kinds of countries? How matched are international tax norms to the developing country circumstances and capacities?
3. There has been synergy between the Global Forum for Exchange of Information and the Financial Action Task Force in relation to beneficial ownership information. Do you think this synergy could be expanded across more areas or to forums with more universal participation?
4. What are your views on ways to expand asset and ownership registries to improve transparency and tax and regulatory compliance? How do you see the feasibility of a global asset registry?
5. At domestic level there is still secrecy maintained by tax authorities around tax dispute settlement. Cross border settlements are even more secret, while mandatory binding arbitration is being proposed. Arbitration conducted under investment treaties have been described as opaque, costly, investor-biased and inconsistent with UN human rights principles. What is your assessment of arbitration and how it could be applied in tax matters?
6. What recommendations from the report of the OECD Secretary-Generals High Level Advisory Group on Anti-Corruption and Integrity have been implemented? Which have not been implemented? What lessons should the FACTI Panel take from their experience?
7. The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention is a leading instrument for combatting corruption. What has worked well with the convention and its peer review system? What could be improved? What lessons does this hold for more universal instruments such as UNCAC?
8. In the OECD Working Group on International Bribery's review of its recommendations, there is pressure for guidelines/standards on the use of non-trial resolutions; what is your view on the potential effectiveness of guidelines? Could similar standards be relevant to other instruments?
9. Do you have views on how best to incentivize the private sector to reduce bribery and corruption? Do you have recommendations on reducing recidivism of private actors?
10. In our consultations on corruption, asset recovery and bribery issues, many experts have raised the issue of victims' rights and compensation. What are your views on compensating victims and/or repairing the social damage caused by corruption and bribery?
11. What prospect is there for donors to provide a large increase in resource to address some of the capacity and implementation gaps that the FACTI Panel has heard about?
12. How can the FACTI Panel generate sufficient political support for any proposals to tackle the challenges the world is facing in relation to financial integrity?