



**11th PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE
ON ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS
AND TAXATION**

22 - 24 November 2023 ★ Accra ★ Ghana

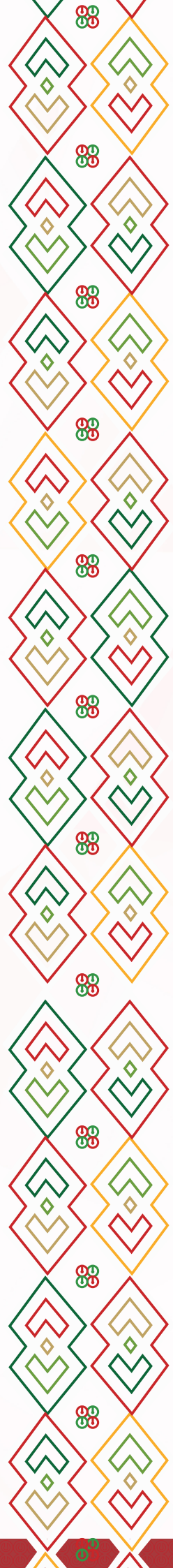
Make Global Tax Governance Work for Africa

Organised by



AD 1957

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE





Introduction

The Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA) and the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) are pleased to co-host the 11th Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation (PAC) conference from 22 to 24 November 2023 in Accra, Ghana.

The 11th PAC is a follow up from the 10th Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation that was held in Lusaka, Zambia under the theme 'Tax Justice Amid Multiple Crises.' The meeting was attended by 300 delegates from 21 countries and at the end of the conference, delegates made several commitments including a call for greater reforms of the global financial architecture, including through the establishment of a UN Tax Convention and a UN tax body to lead in global tax reforms to provide an inclusive and equitable participation of all countries.



The 2023 PAC will, therefore, explore the role that African countries have played and ought to play in international conversations that are beginning to have implications on African efforts to engage in domestic resource mobilisation and curb illicit financial flows from the Continent. Against this background, the theme of the 2023 PAC is **Making Global Tax Governance Work for Africa**. And in the spirit and tradition of the PAC, TJNA and ATAF will collaborate with other organisations to deliver a successful 11th PAC.



Background

In recent years, the global economy has reeled from the devastating after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the adverse effects of climate change and the conflicts taking place around the world. Against this background, the challenge of combatting IFFs is as relevant today as it was a few years ago, and the growth of outflows from Africa means that priority has to be given to implementing practical recommendations at a country level.

Africa's growth rate is projected to stabilise at 4.1 per cent in 2023/2024, up from 3.8 per cent in 2022. While this is a positive indicator of recovery, the pace of poverty reduction in Africa has been the slowest compared to other regions in the world with women bearing the heaviest burden. Africa's financial needs have been eroded by three concurrent crises: conflicts, climate and Covid-19. Conflicts have increased Africa's financing needs from USD 6 billion to 10 billion, while climate needs have increased from USD 127 billion to 127 billion per year until 2030, and the pandemic added USD 194 billion per year to the Agenda 2063 and SDG financing gap (IMF, 2022). The contrast is that while growth is predicted to pick up, the financing gaps have increased. This calls for a refocus on ongoing projects on revenue mobilisation while long-term plans to contribute to a changing financial architecture are equally important.

Against this background, over the years, Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA) and the Africa Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) have advocated for fit-for-purpose tax policies and systems that curb leakages and optimise domestic resource mobilisation in Africa in equitable ways that don't continue to escalate intersectional inequalities like gender, positionality in the economy (formal vs informal) etc. Achieving this requires a multi-pronged approach: while at the domestic level, countries need to put in place strong policies, institutions and mechanisms to curb IFFs, this needs to be supported by efforts at the international level. At the international level, there has been a growing recognition that international financial architecture is no longer fit for purpose and conversations highlighting this inequality have started to come to the fore.

At the international level, there has been a growing recognition that international financial architecture is no longer fit for purpose and conversations highlighting this inequality have started to come to the fore.



Context

Africa's major challenge is in the massive illicit financial flows that are draining the Continent's ability to utilise its massive resources to finance development.

Although the continent has shown notable resilience amid successive crises, the economic impacts have left an impact on the economic condition of the continent and the population in disproportional ways. These global crises have drastically reduced public resources needed to return Africa to a path of accelerated growth. The world is at a crossroads as the climate crisis rears its huge influence on the future development trajectory. Africa, therefore, lies at the nexus of sinking further into poverty with the heaviest burden on women and underdevelopment or emerging as a global leader in strong, intersectional, inclusive and sustainable growth.

To meet its development aspirations, Africa will need additional resources to respond to global crises and to realign with the priorities of both the SDGs and Agenda 2063. According to Africa Economic Outlook 2022, the continent's

additional financial needs for 2020-2022 were estimated at USD 432 billion. Africa's Annual Sustainable Development Goals financing gap is around USD 190 billion (African Union 2023). This gap can be bridged by developing regional value chains, improving equitable and fair entry to accessible markets through intra-Africa trade and revenue mobilisation

through effective and inclusive tax collection and combatting IFFs. Additionally, the continent will also look at efficient and innovative means to finance sustainable economic growth. Africa's major challenge, however, is not in the availability of these resources but in the massive illicit financial flows that are draining the Continent's ability to utilise its massive resources to finance development.

While IFFs are a global phenomenon, the situation in Africa is particularly dire, with the poorest populations and especially women bearing the heaviest burden. The continent experiences a high level of illicit financial outflows, exacerbating the economic challenges and hindering opportunities for development and poverty reduction.



Rationale

In order to address the above issues, there is a need for African countries to take the lead on issues pertaining to domestic resource mobilisation and illicit financial flows at both domestic and international levels.

At the international level, the current global tax system is unfavourable towards developing countries and, as such, requires reform. At the 2020 Extraordinary Specialised Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, the AU Briefing of the African Finance Ministers stated:

“ [...] developed countries are not listening to the concerns of developing countries and have no intention of redressing the balance of taxing rights in any significant way. Africa must mobilise itself at a political level to change the stance of developed countries and address these key tax issues.”

Therefore, reforming the international financial architecture is a significant priority in combating illicit financial flows. Due to the limited inclusion of African countries in OECD-led tax discussions and the limited relevance of these decisions, African states have long called for a more participatory and fair global tax system. In an effort to begin to address these issues, in October 2022, the G77 and China, a group of 134 developing countries, tabled a resolution at the United Nations calling for an intergovernmental tax body. The African Group also tabled a resolution calling for negotiations on a UN Convention on International Tax Cooperation. Both proposals saw no support from developed countries that have long dominated international tax rule-making processes through the OECD.

On 30 December 2022, following the tabling of a second resolution by the African Group, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 77/244, which looked at the advancement of inclusive and effective cooperation on tax matters. Following the adoption of the resolution, UN Member States called upon the UN Secretary-General to compile a report through consultations with relevant stakeholders and on 8 August 2023, the Secretary-General revealed an advanced preliminary version of the report, indicating a promising trajectory for its consideration by UN Member States before the year concludes.





As the continent also grapples with the global effects of climate change, financing will also be crucial for Africa to realise a just energy transition that is inclusive and also supports the continent's energy and development aspirations. There is, thus, a strong nexus between tax justice and climate justice, which centres on domestic resource mobilisation to address climate mitigation, adaption and loss and damage. It's, therefore, crucial for Africa to reflect and rethink its domestic and international financing options for a just energy transition that benefits the African Continent.





Meeting details

Objectives

The main objective of this year's PAC conference is to explore ways African countries can take the lead on international conversations that are beginning to have direct implications on issues relating to domestic resource mobilisation and illicit financial flows.

The 11th PAC will, therefore, seek to:

- Contribute to the development of a common African position on key international conversations that affect African countries' efforts to raise domestic resources
- Identify actions and solutions for actors such as African governments, parliamentarians, civil society organisations, the private sector and other policy players that are key in mobilising domestic resources within the context.
- Create opportunities for growing partnerships and collaborations between the different actors.

Target audiences

The PAC is targeted at officials working on tax issues from:

- Pan-African Organisations
- Civil Society Organisations
- Tax administrations
- Parliamentarians
- Ministries of Finance
- Academia/Researchers

Structure and sessions

The 11th PAC will be a 3-day event with plenty of opportunities for discussion, debate, and networking. The event will be held in both English and French and will be structured into the following sessions and activities:

- Opening ceremony
- Keynotes speeches
- Panel discussions and plenary sessions
- Consultation meetings, focus groups, and roundtables
- Exhibitions
- Gala Dinner
- Closing ceremony



For further information and details contact

.....
TJNA

Mr Felix Otiato
Tel: +974 5075 2179
Email: fotiato@taxjusticeafrica.net

.....
ATAF

Mr Ephraim Murenzi
Tel: +27 79 457 3097
Email: emurenzi@ataftax.org

Register your attendance at the Conference in Accra

[CLICK HERE](#)

