



**AFRICAN TAX ADMINISTRATION FORUM:
INAUGURAL CONFERENCE**

KAMPALA COMMUNIQUÉ

We, the Heads and senior officials of 31 African Tax Administrations, met in Kampala, Uganda from 18 to 20 November 2009. There, 25 African Tax Administrations signed an Agreement, formally establishing the African Tax Administration Forum. We set out on this journey with representatives of 9 development partner countries and 18 development partner organizations. This marks a crucial milestone in the realization of our dream of creating a platform to promote and facilitate mutual cooperation among tax administrations in Africa, and between Africa and the rest of the world.

The Forum was officially launched by the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, and was given further impetus by the support of the Ugandan Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Honourable Mrs Syda Bumba, and the Ugandan State Minister for Finance (Investment), Mr Aston Kajara and the Ugandan State Minister for Finance (Micro Finance), Mrs Ruth Nankabirwa.

Our shared experiences over the three days once again demonstrated that efficient and effective tax administration is key to building capable states. The establishment of ATAF will directly contribute to economic development and good governance on the African continent.

ATAF is African led, managed and supported primarily through the expertise, resources and financial contributions of its Members. As an African initiative, it will work towards achieving increased financial independence for African countries.

To make ATAF a functioning entity, we elected South Africa as the Chair of the ATAF Council; and Botswana, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and

Zimbabwe as Council members. The North African countries of Mauritania, Morocco and Sudan have recommended that Morocco joins the Council as their representative. The Council will submit this recommendation to the presiding electoral officer of PWC for endorsement and will inform the members of the North African region of the outcome. We also unanimously agreed that South Africa will host the ATAF Secretariat.

In order to enable the ATAF Council to discharge its functions, we passed necessary resolutions regarding the ATAF Agreement, procedures, transitional arrangements, staffing, and the budget and work programme for 2010.

As a result of our dialogue with development partners, we recognize the significance of their support as they accompany us on the road to turning our ATAF vision into a reality. In this regard, our proposal for cooperation establishes a strong relationship and we acknowledge their support through financial assistance and the sharing of technical expertise.

The establishment of ATAF is but the beginning. While our work programme is already underway, the journey in pursuit of our objectives will be a long one as we, together with our development partners, actively promote improvements in tax administration through sharing experiences, benchmarking, and peer reviewing best practices. Together we will develop our database of African tax systems and methodologies, and deliver capacity development events on international and domestic policy and administration issues. In order to facilitate our work programme in the longer term, we resolved to establish an African Tax Centre.

Above all, our mission is to mobilize domestic resources more effectively and increase the accountability of our states to our citizens. We resolved that the next meeting of the ATAF Council will be held in March 2010, where a date for the first General Assembly will be decided.

We take pride in ATAF's achievements so far, particularly the foundation already developed which this conference is built on, as well as the technical events delivered with the assistance of development partners.

We wish to express our deep appreciation for the insight and leadership of the ATAF Steering Group, for the commitment by the members of the Technical Task Team and the skills and efforts of the Interim Secretariat based at the South African Revenue Service for having brought us this far. We are humbled by the commitment and enthusiasm shown by all delegates at the conference.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to the Commissioner General of the Ugandan Revenue Authority, her staff and the Ugandan Government for their gracious hospitality, excellent organization and hard work in ensuring the success of this conference.

Kampala, Uganda

20 November 2009

Appendix

ATAF MEMBER STATES:

Botswana, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

PARTICIPATING AFRICAN TAX ADMINISTRATIONS:

Benin, Cameroon, Congo (Democratic Republic), Mozambique, Swaziland and Tanzania.

PARTICIPATING DEVELOPMENT PARTNER COUNTRIES:

France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

ADB, ATI, CERDI, CMI / ISS, DFID, EU - RT VAT, GTZ, IMF, IDS, IRISH AID, JICA, KFW, NORAD, OECD, SADC, SAICA, SDC and USAID.