



African Tax *Online*

ATAF Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1, July 2009

CONTENTS

- » New Direction for African Tax
- » The Draft ATAF Agreement
- » Donor Partners commit to uplift development of ATAF:
 - African Development Bank
 - German Technical Co-operation (GTZ)
 - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- » Meet the Steering Group

New issue, New dawn

Welcome to the first edition of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) newsletter. *ATAF-Online*, to be distributed on a quarterly basis, aims to bring the ATAF community together by keeping the member countries up-to-date on the activities and happenings of the forum.

In this edition, meet the members of the Steering Group and read more about the activities of the Morocco meeting that took place on 31 March, where support for ATAF by the various donor partners was confirmed.

As this is our first issue, we rely on the constructive feedback that you may have on the content and format of the newsletter.

Enjoy the read!

New Direction for African Tax

The development of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) comes at a crucial time for tax administrations in Africa. With the global financial crisis threatening to close down businesses, tax administrators are confronted with the challenge of finding alternative and viable means of effectively managing the collection of tax revenue and customs duties in their countries.



The establishment of ATAF was inspired by the deliberations at the international conference on "Taxation, State Building and Capacity Development in Africa", held in Pretoria, South Africa in August 2008.

Commissioners, Senior Tax Administrators and Policy Makers from 39 African countries agreed to work towards the establishment of the Forum as a platform for sharing best practices on taxation matters in the region.

"The Forum endeavours to bring together Tax agencies in Africa to allow us the opportunity to improve on our performance strategies in our respective countries. We look forward to sharing ideas and engaging on a level that will yield positive outcomes for our respective organisations" said Mr. Oupa Magashula, Acting Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service.

The Forum aims to become a platform to allow African administrators to articulate African tax priorities, anchor good practices, and build capacity in African tax policy and administration through peer learning and knowledge development.

Click on the link, [International Conference on Taxation - Pretoria Communiqué](#), for more on the development of and rationale behind ATAF.

»» [Back to top](#)

The Draft ATAF Agreement

The ATAF Steering Group and Technical Task Team met on several occasions since the African Tax Conference that was held in August 2008 (Pretoria, South Africa) to develop a draft ATAF Agreement in line with the requirements set by this Conference.

The Agreement covers aspects such as the ATAF vision and mission statements, objectives, responsibilities of its General Assembly, Council and Secretariat. A set of ATAF rules and procedures has been developed in tandem with the Agreement.

The draft ATAF Agreement was presented by the ATAF Interim Secretariat to the Steering Group at its meeting in Ghana on 18 and 19 June 2009.

Once agreed upon by the Steering Group, the Agreement will be distributed to Tax Administrations of all African countries for further comment.

»» [Back to top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- » [Implementation of Transfer Pricing: Uganda, 21 - 23 July 2009](#)
- » [The Taxation of Natural Resources: October 2009 \(venue TBA\)](#)
- » [ATAF Launch: 19 - 20 November 2009 \(venue TBA\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Governance, Taxation and
Accountability - Issues and
Practices (English)

Gouvernance, Fiscalité et
Responsabilité - Enjeux et
Pratiques (French)

International Conference
on Taxation - Pretoria
Communiqué

5th Meeting of the OECD -
FTA Communiqué

1st Steering Group
Meeting - Cape Town
Communiqué

2nd Steering Group
Meeting - Accra
Communiqué

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- » [African Development Bank \(AfDB\)](#)
- » [Canadian Trust Funds](#)
- » [Department of International Dialogue \(DFID\)](#)
- » [Development Bank of Southern Africa \(DBSA\)](#)
- » [Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(Buitenlandse Zanak\)](#)
- » [German Technical Co-operation \(GTZ\)](#)
- » [International Tax Dialogue \(ITD\)](#)
- » [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#)

Donor partners commit to uplift development of ATAF

African Development Bank (AfDB)

The African Development Bank (AfDB) confirmed its commitment to supporting the Forum with its plans to establish itself as an international institution.

At a meeting of the ATAF Technical Task Team in Morocco on 31 March 2009, Mr. Carlos Santiso, representing AfDB, reiterated the bank's support for the ATAF process, emphasising the importance of formally establishing (and positioning) ATAF within the Tax Administration arena.



German Technical Co-operation (GTZ)



The German Technical Corporation (GTZ) and the ATAF Interim Secretariat have been working together for the last few months on joint co-operation proposals. Details of the scope of the co-operation are currently being finalised.

Organisation For Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD, at the last Forum on Tax Administration (FTA) conference held in Paris on 28 and 29 May 2009, reconfirmed its support to Tax Administrations in Africa for the establishment of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) and the work currently being carried out towards the establishment of an International Tax Centre in Africa.



»» [Back to top](#)

Meet the Steering Group



[Botswana Unified Revenue Service \(BURS\)](#)

Mr. Freddy Modise became Botswana's first Commissioner General in 2005 following the establishment of the Unified Revenue Service in 2004. Prior to taking up this position, he acted as the Secretary of Financial Affairs until his permanent appointment 1995 until 2005, in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

Click on [link](#) to read more about Freddy Modise.



[General Directorate of Taxes in Cameroon](#)

Mr. Alfred Bagueka Assobo was appointed as the Director General of Taxes in Cameroon on 19 February 2009. Prior to that, he was Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Committee as of July 2005, and Chairman of the Technical Committee for Rehabilitation of Companies since March 2006. Read more [here](#).

» [Irish Aid](#)

» [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#)

» [Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency \(SIDA\)](#)

ATAF IN THE NEWS

» [A New Direction for African Tax Policy](#)

» [African Tax Administration Forum ends in Accra](#)

» [Africa Tax Centre on the way](#)

» [Bank Support to Tax Policy and Administration in Africa](#)

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[Internal Revenue Service of Ghana](#)

With a degree in Science Administration (BSc Admin) and another in Accounting, both from the University of Ghana Business School of the University of Ghana (Legon), **Mr. Daniel Ablorh-Quarcoo** is tasked with the management of the effective running of the Internal Revenue Service of Ghana.

Ablorh-Quarcoo enlisted in the Ghana Armed Forces as an Officer Cadet and was commissioned Lieutenant in November 1975. Thereafter, he trained at the Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC) Training School in the UK... Click [here](#) for more.



[Federal Inland Revenue Service \(FIRS\)](#)

Ms. Ifueko Omoigui Okauru is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Accountants of Nigeria, a Member of the Order of the Niger. She is also currently the Chairman of the Federal Board of Inland Revenue and Chairman of the Joint Tax Board, a position she assumed with effect from 3 May 2004.

Since her appointment, Ifueko has championed tax reform at both Federal and State levels. [Read more...](#)



[Rwanda Revenue Authority \(RRA\)](#)

Ms. Mary Baine is the Commissioner General of the Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA), a position she has held since May 2006. Prior to that, she was the Commissioner of Customs and Excise from August 2002. She held that position as well as the position of Deputy Commissioner General of the RRA until her appointment as Commissioner General. More on Mary Baine [here](#).



[South African Revenue Service \(SARS\)](#)

Before being appointed as Acting Commissioner in May 2009, **Mr. Oupa Magashula** headed the Business Enabling and Delivery Services unit as Chief Officer, responsible for the management of SARS's Contact and Processing Centres. A major part of his mandate in this role was also to ensure that the organisation continuously finds innovative ways to enhance processes and information solutions. [Read more...](#)



[Uganda Revenue Authority](#)

Ms. Allen Kagina has been the Commissioner General of the Uganda Revenue Authority since 2004. Prior to that, she worked as a Revenue Officer at various levels between 1992 and 2001, before taking up the position of Commissioner for Customs between 2001 and 2004. Click [here](#) for more.

»» [Back to top](#)

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) was established to create a central platform for African countries to share and benchmark best practices on regional tax administration. For queries regarding this newsletter and more on ATAF, please send e-mail to the

ATAF Interim Secretariat on ATAFInterimSecretariat@sars.gov.za