

**13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AFRICA INITIATIVE**

Day 1 – Thursday, 6 July 2023

ALL TIMES ARE IN CEST TIME (UTC +2)

**WEBINAR SESSIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND MEDIA****09:00-09:45****Item 1. Opening**

- Opening remarks by **Mr Edward Chr Kieswetter**, Commissioner, South African Revenue Service (SARS), Co-chair of the Africa Initiative
- Opening remarks by **Dr Philippe Kokou B. Tchodie**, Commissioner General, Togolese Revenue Office (OTR), Co-chair of the Africa Initiative
- Welcome remarks by **Ms Manal Corwin**, Director of the OECD Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (recorded video)
- Welcome remarks by **Mr Gaël Perraud**, Chair of the Global Forum (recorded video)
- Welcome remarks by **Ms Zayda Manatta**, Head of the Global Forum Secretariat
- Keynote address by **Hon. Enoch Godongwana**, Minister of Finance, South Africa

**09:45-10:00****Item 2. Group photo***Coffee Break (10:00-10:15)***10:15-10:30****Item 3. Welcome of new members**

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> Africa Initiative meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2022, three African countries have joined the Global Forum and the Africa Initiative: Angola, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone.

This session will allow members of the Africa Initiative to welcome the new members who will be given the opportunity to share their motivations in joining the tax transparency work as well as their expectations.

- Welcome of new members by the **Co-Chairs** and the **Head of Secretariat**
- Brief remarks by **Angola, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe**

**10:30-11:30****Item 4. Launch of “Tax Transparency in Africa 2023: Africa Initiative Progress Report”**

*Tax Transparency in Africa 2023* is the fifth edition of the Africa Initiative Progress Report. It shows the progress of African countries in advancing the fight against tax evasion through improved tax transparency and exchange of information (EOI). The 2023 edition takes stock of the efforts made and

the results achieved on the continent during 2022 and highlights the remaining challenges on both the tax policy and the tax administration fronts.

- Presentation of the report and its main findings by **Ms Zayda Manatta**, Head of the Secretariat of the Global Forum
- Remarks on the report by **H.E. Mr Albert M. Muchanga**, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining, African Union Commission (recorded video)
- Remarks on the report by **Mr Logan Wort**, Executive Secretary, African Tax Administration Forum

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**11:30-12:55**

### **Item 5. High level panel - Progress and challenges of tax transparency in Africa: how do we ensure a collective move?**

Tax transparency and EOI is now well established as an effective tool to tackle tax evasion and other illicit financial flows (IFFs) which have been identified as one of the issues that hamper the development of African nations. Over years the *Tax Transparency in Africa* report has shown that progress is uneven, with some countries already reaping the benefits of tax transparency and EOI while the rest of the continent is yet to fully utilise this tool.

In this session, high-level panellists will discuss the key findings of *Transparency in Africa 2023* and elaborate on how they believe African countries could close the gaps, under the framework of the Africa Initiative.

#### **1. Conversation with ministers (11:30-12:00)**

*Moderators:*

- **Mr Louis-Paul Motaze**, Minister of Finance of Cameroon
- **Hon. Enoch Godongwana**, Minister of Finance, South Africa

#### **2. Panel discussion (12:00-12:55)**

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**12:55-13:00**

### **Item 6. Launch of the toolkit on establishing and managing a function for effective cross-border assistance in recovery of tax claims**

Following calls from African countries and other developing countries to strengthen the international tax co-operation framework by ensuring effective cross-border assistance in recovery of tax claims (CBAR), the Africa Initiative has been at the forefront of enhancing its members' knowledge on this form of international co-operation.

In this short session, the new *Toolkit on Establishing and Managing an Effective Function for Cross-Border Assistance in Recovery of Tax Claims* will be launched.

**END OF LIVE TRANSMISSION**