

Statement of Outcomes of the 8th Punta del Este Declaration Meeting

Asunción, Paraguay

27-28 June 2023

1. On 27 and 28 June 2023, 60 delegates, including representatives from 12 signatories, one observer country and 5 partners of the Punta Del Este Declaration came together for the 8th Punta Del Este Declaration – Latin America Initiative meeting in Asunción, Paraguay (see **Annex A**). In addition to the onsite attendance, 357 participants attended the public session online.
2. Initially signed by four Ministers of Finance of Latin American countries in 2018, the [Punta Del Este Declaration](#) has now been endorsed by the 15 Latin American members of the Global Forum and is supported by 4 development partners (see **Annex B**). In the Declaration, signatories agreed in particular to (i) fully and effectively implement the international standards of transparency and exchange of information (EOI); (ii) maximise the effective use of the information exchanged, including by considering a wider use of treaty-exchanged information for non-tax purposes, to tackle corruption and other financial crimes and improve international tax co-operation. The Declaration aims to ensure that jurisdictions in the region can fully and swiftly benefit from transparency and EOI for tax purposes and translate it into effective domestic revenue mobilisation.
3. The 8th meeting was hosted by Mr Oscar Orué Ortiz, Vice Minister of Taxation of the Under Secretariat of State of Taxation on Paraguay and Chair of the Punta del Este Declaration. The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr Mario Abdo, President of the Republic of Paraguay, and H.E. Mr Oscar Llamosas, Minister of Finance of Paraguay.
4. **On the first day of the meeting**, which was broadcast and open to the press and civil society organisations, the [Tax Transparency in Latin America 2023: Punta del Este Declaration Progress Report](#) was launched and its findings were discussed by the participants. They welcomed this third edition of the report that shows that Latin American countries continue progressing in implementing the tax transparency and exchange of information (EOI) standards although the situation remains uneven in the region.
 - Since 2009 until 2022, the Latin American countries have identified at least EUR 27.8 billion thanks to exchange of information on request (EOIR), automatic exchange of financial account information (AEOI), including voluntary disclosure programmes and offshore tax investigations.
 - Most Latin American countries have a wide EOI network and a solid EOI infrastructure, which lay the foundation for EOI to take off in the region. However, not all countries are yet taking full advantage of tax transparency in their fight against tax evasion and other illicit financial flows (IFFs). The number of requests sent under EOIR remains concentrated in few countries. Two third of the Latin American Global Forum members are participating in AEOI, but many of them are still in early stage in the use of the financial accounts information automatically received.
5. A key achievement made during 2022 was the concrete steps taken to widen the use of the information exchanged through tax-treaty channels for non-tax purposes, such as crimes and/or offenses related to money laundering, terrorism financing, corruption, and to customs to support the whole-of-government approach in fighting IFFs. A milestone was reached with the approval of a wider use framework and the subsequent signature of a pilot project for the wider use by three Latin American countries (Argentina, Costa Rica and Paraguay). The participants highlighted the importance of this initiative to address the practical challenges they faced in using this form of co-operation and to support a whole-of-

government approach. They also welcomed the announcement made by Brazil and Colombia to join the [pilot project on wider use](#), bringing the number of participating jurisdictions to five. They encouraged other countries to join this important pilot project to take advantage of the synergies of collaboration between tax and non-tax authorities.

6. The Chair of the Latin America Initiative reported on the discussions held during the high-level working dinner organised in the eve of the meeting to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Punta del Este Declaration. The participants deliberated on the progress achieved during the last five years and the remaining challenges. The consolidation of the implementation of the tax transparency standards has been considered a priority so that all Latin American members can fully benefit from it in terms of domestic revenue mobilisation and the effective tackling of all forms of IFFs, for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Tax transparency is considered a pillar for good governance and for the building of trust in tax systems to strengthen tax morale and compliance. Taking into account the findings of the Tax Transparency in Latin America Report, the participants:

- Stressed the importance of the effective use of the data exchanged under the AEOI standard and its use for promoting tax compliance
- Underscored the need for continuing capacity building and the sharing of experiences and peer learning
- Praised the multiplier effect of new capacity building initiatives, such as the [Training the Trainer programme](#), which aims to support sustainable capacity building in the region, and the [Women Leaders in Tax Transparency](#), which is building a network of women officials championing tax transparency in their jurisdictions
- Mentioned the need to help address emerging tax transparency challenges such as crypto currencies.

7. **On the second day**, the participants reflected on the technical aspects of the tax transparency agenda. They discussed how countries in the region are adapting their legal frameworks to fully implement and ensure compliance with the standards. They shared experiences and highlighted the importance of promoting the use of EOIR within Latin American tax administrations and implementing and continuously improving the use of AEOI. They also discussed the challenges and positive approaches to ensure compliance of financial institutions with their due diligence and reporting obligations under the Common Reporting Standard. Finally, the participants discussed the reasons why enhanced forms of co-operation such as tax examination abroad, simultaneous tax examination or cross-border assistance in tax collection, have not been explored yet in the region.

8. The delegates thanked Paraguay and Mr Oscar Orué, the Chair of the Latin America Initiative, for the splendid organisation and for hosting and welcoming the participants to the 8th Punta del Este Initiative meeting and for his leadership in the Latin American Initiative.

9. The delegates agreed to meet again in November 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, in the margins of the Global Forum plenary meeting to reflect on the progress made in the implementation of the Punta del Este Declaration.

Annexes**Annex A. List of participants of the 8th Punta Del Este Declaration meeting****Latin American Countries**

Argentina • Bolivia* • Brazil • Colombia • Costa Rica • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • El Salvador • Honduras • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Uruguay

* *Non-member of the Global Forum and observer to the Latin America Initiative*

Partners of the Punta del Este Declaration

Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations • Inter-American Development Bank • International Finance Corporation • World Bank Group • Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Other organisations

Embassy of Spain in Paraguay • Institute of Fiscal Studies • International Monetary Fund • Tax Justice Network

Annex B. List of members and partners of the Punta Del Este Declaration**Signatories of the Punta del Este Declaration**

Argentina • Brazil • Chile • Colombia • Costa Rica • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • El Salvador • Guatemala • Honduras • Mexico • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Uruguay

Partners of the Punta del Este Declaration

Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations • Inter-American Development Bank • International Finance Corporation • World Bank Group