

Bali Declaration (Asia Initiative Declaration)

A CALL TO ENHANCE THE USE OF TAX TRANSPARENCY FOR A SUSTAINABLE MOBILISATION OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES

We, the undersigned Ministers of Asian members of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (Global Forum),

Recognising that the world has gone through an unprecedented crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic which has put a spotlight on equity challenges that existed well before the pandemic and hence intensified the public perception that tax evasion and other illicit financial flows are no longer acceptable;

Acknowledging that tax evasion and other illicit financial flows continue to plague governments worldwide and to hinder the financing of public goods and services as well as the sustainable and fair development;

Recalling the commitment of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to redouble efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion through strengthened national regulation and by scaling up international tax co-operation, including to support access to beneficial ownership information for competent authorities and progressively advance towards automatic exchange of tax information among tax authorities as appropriate;

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening domestic tax policy and administration for the benefit of the citizens by supplying governments with much needed resources and instruments for pursuing their respective development goals and sustaining economic growth to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

Emphasising the unprecedented efforts made by the international community to improve transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes through the internationally agreed standards of the Global Forum (tax transparency standards) which are a prerequisite for effectively tackling tax evasion and other illicit financial flows;

Recognising that the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters is the most comprehensive multilateral instrument available for administrative co-operation offering a wide range of possibilities for mutual assistance;

Underlining that regional initiatives on tax transparency have demonstrated their efficiency in promoting and advancing the tax transparency agenda locally taking into account the specific circumstances and needs of the jurisdictions in those regions; and **Stressing** that these initiatives create an invaluable regional dynamic and bring concrete and measurable progress while allowing their members to adopt flexible approaches to meet the tax transparency standards and the development goals;

Noting that participation of the Asian region needs improvement in implementing the tax transparency standards, while **Acknowledging** that for Asian jurisdictions to benefit from these standards, raising awareness, building knowledge and skills, and supporting the implementation and effective use of the tax transparency standards are critical;

We, the undersigned Ministers of Asian members of the Global Forum, declare that:

- 1.** We reaffirm the important role of the Global Forum in bringing about tax transparency and in assisting jurisdictions, in particular developing jurisdictions, in the implementation of the tax transparency standards and the use of the administrative co-operation instruments in their domestic resource mobilisation strategy.
- 2.** We reiterate our commitment to fully and effectively implement the internationally agreed tax transparency standards of the Global Forum (tax transparency standards);
- 3.** We welcome and join the Global Forum's Asia Initiative to facilitate the implementation of the tax transparency standards, maximise their effective use to tackle tax evasion and other illicit financial flows, and increase tax co-operation among Asian members;
- 4.** We encourage Asian jurisdictions to join the Global Forum and its Asia Initiative, and to become party to the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters to rapidly implement and fully benefit from tax transparency standards to support the fairness of their tax system and their domestic resource mobilisation strategy;
- 5.** We invite all global and regional development partners and technical partners to participate and contribute in the Asia Initiative and its capacity-building activities to promote tax transparency and support effective use of administrative co-operation instruments;
- 6.** We resolve to lead by example in effectively using the powerful global infrastructure which has been built in the past decade and to continuously improve our co-operation, both at the global and regional levels;
- 7.** We commit to explore the full range of possibilities for co-operation provided by the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, including, where relevant, through enhanced co-operation between interested Asia Initiative members.

Signed in Bali, Indonesia, on 14 July 2022

Signatories of the Bali Declaration and members of the Asia Initiative (as of 14 October 2022)

Jurisdictions		Starting date of membership
1.	Armenia	18/08/2022
2.	Brunei Darussalam	14/07/2022
3.	China (People's Republic of)	14/07/2022
4.	Hong Kong (China)	14/07/2022
5.	India	14/07/2022
6.	Indonesia	14/07/2022
7.	Japan	14/07/2022
8.	Kazakhstan	14/10/2022
9.	Korea	14/07/2022
10.	Macau (China)	14/07/2022
11.	Malaysia	14/07/2022
12.	Maldives	14/07/2022
13.	Mongolia	27/07/2022
14.	Pakistan	14/07/2022
15.	Singapore	14/07/2022
16.	Thailand	14/07/2022