

Statement of the Participants to the Punta Del Este Declaration Ministerial Breakfast

26 November 2019, Paris, France

On 26 November a Ministerial-level breakfast meeting, hosted by the Secretary General of the OECD, was held in advance of the Global Forum 10th Anniversary Plenary Meeting. This meeting marked the first anniversary of the Punta Del Este Declaration calling to strengthen action against tax evasion and corruption and adopted in Uruguay on 18 November 2018 (the Declaration) and provided Ministers as well as high-level officials from signatory jurisdictions with an opportunity to:

- Reflect on progress made since the adoption of the Declaration;
- Present their National Action Plans to implement the commitments in the Declaration; and
- Discuss next steps for closer regional cooperation to increase tax transparency and tackle tax evasion.

The meeting reaffirmed the Latin American region's strong support and commitment for the tax transparency agenda and the work carried out by the Global Forum. The OECD Secretary General commended the progress already made and acknowledged the work done by the jurisdictions on elaborating their National Action Plans and encouraged them to continue with their implementation.

Participants also welcomed the two new signatories to the Declaration: Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, bringing the number of signatories to 10. This growing network will ensure further regional collaboration and engagement, increase awareness of the importance of exchange of information and enhance the overall impact of tax transparency in Latin America.

Participants stressed the need to intensify use of existing exchange instruments. In addition, they stressed the importance of continuous training for tax officials to enhance their practical knowledge on exchange of information and acknowledged the support from the Global Forum and the complementary efforts of regional partners such as the World Bank Group, Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations (CIAT) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

Participants agreed to continue working on the development and implementation of tools that could facilitate the wider use of information exchanged for tax purposes to tackle other criminal activities such as corruption and money laundering.

In this regard, Ecuador and Colombia agreed to explore the possibility of implementing a pilot project on the use of exchanged information for other purposes. The Global Forum and the OECD Secretariat agreed to provide technical assistance as needed.

Finally, participants agreed to hold a high-level meeting in the second half of 2020 at which they would: (i) report back on the actions contained in their National Action Plans; and (ii) explore further how to implement the objectives of the Declaration.

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9 Signatories of the Punta Del Este Declaration

Argentina – Colombia – Costa Rica – Dominican Republic – Ecuador – Panama – Paraguay – Peru – Uruguay

4 Non-signatories of the Punta Del Este Declaration

Brazil – El Salvador – Honduras – Mexico

2 International Organizations

Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT) – World Bank Group