



## 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Africa Initiative

25-26 July 2018 – Accra, Ghana

### Statement of Outcomes

1. On 25-26 July 2018, 63 delegates from 21 African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo and Uganda), the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), the West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF), the African Union Commission (AU Commission), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs came together in Accra, Ghana, for the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Africa Initiative.
2. The Africa Initiative was launched for a period of three years (2015-2017) by the Global Forum at its plenary meeting in Berlin in 2014 along with its African members and the ATAF, the Cercle de Réflexion et d'Échange des Dirigeants des Administrations fiscales (CREDAF), the OECD, the World Bank Group, the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development. It was renewed for a further period of three years (2018-2020) at the Global Forum plenary meeting in Yaoundé in November 2017.
3. Emphasising the scale of the illicit financial flows issue in Africa as illustrated in the report from the AU and UNECA's High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa (High Level Panel), Delegates discussed the African tax transparency agenda in detail. They stressed that the High Level Panel's recommendations to tackle illicit financial flows from Africa and improve domestic resource mobilisation include increasing tax transparency and exchange of information (EOI). In this context, they recognised that the implementation of the international standards would address a number of the High Level Panel's recommendations. They commended the African Union for advancing the transparency agenda in Africa and highlighting the importance of beneficial ownership register, automatic exchange of information (AEOI) and the abolishment of bank secrecy at their 31<sup>st</sup> African Union Summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania.<sup>1</sup>
4. Delegates welcomed the growing support for the Yaoundé Declaration which was initially signed by four African Countries during the 4<sup>th</sup> Africa Initiative meeting and is now adhered to by 21 African Countries (Annex 1). All African countries were encouraged to sign on to this Declaration.
5. Delegates shared information on their progress towards the specific targets they have committed to, including expanding their EOI networks, making more EOI requests, ensuring availability of beneficial ownership information and taking steps to participate in AEOI. They also discussed the challenges faced by African countries in implementing the international tax transparency standards and shared experiences in addressing them.

---

<sup>1</sup> Decisions of the Executive Council of the African Union on 29 June 2018 and Decisions of the Assembly of the African Union on 2 July 2018.



6. To raise public and political awareness and inform decisions at national, regional or continental level, Delegates agreed that the progress they achieve in improving tax transparency in Africa should be reflected in an annual report of the Africa Initiative to be approved by the Africa Initiative. This will include progress made by countries in meeting individual country targets.
7. Delegates commended the broadening of the Africa Initiative and welcomed the first participation of the AU Commission, the UNECA, the WATAF and one non-Global Forum member (Mali). They welcomed the work on beneficial ownership, which is now underway with the Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires (OHADA), and requested that similar regional projects in Africa be explored to support the African tax transparency and domestic resource mobilisation agenda. They called for the strengthening of the collaboration between the Africa Initiative framework and other key organisations in Africa to enhance domestic revenue mobilisation through improved transparency and exchange of information.
8. Acknowledging that the Africa Initiative framework provides for concrete steps and targets in the implementation of international tax transparency standards, as well as technical assistance programmes aimed at building capacity in coordination with key organisations in Africa, the Global Forum Secretariat was mandated to explore with the UNECA and the AU Commission putting in place a process to jointly ensure that progress made by African countries in implementing the common objectives of fighting tax evasion and illicit financial flows through the implementation of the international tax transparency standards is monitored and measured.
9. Delegates finally agreed that the statements of outcomes of the Africa Initiative should be made public.



## Annex 1 - List of Signatories of the Yaoundé Declaration (as of 26 July 2018)

	Country	Representative	Date
1.	Cameroon	H.E. Alamine Ousmane Mey, Minister of Finance	15/11/2017
2.	Liberia	H.E. Adolphus Forkpa, Deputy Minister of Finance and Development Planning	15/11/2017
3.	Uganda	H.E. Haruna Kasolo Kyeyune, Minister of State, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	15/11/2017
4.	Benin	Mr. Servais Adjovi, Chief of Staff, Representing the Minister of Economy and Finance	15/11/2017
5.	Togo	H.E. Sani Yaya, Minister of Economy and Finance	19/01/2018
6.	Ghana	H.E. KEN OFORI – ATTA, Minister of Finance	22/02/2018
7.	Seychelles	H.E. Peter Larose, Minister of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning	22/02/2018
8.	Chad	H. E. Dr Abdoulaye Sabre Fadoul, Minister of Finance and Budget	26/03/2018
9.	Madagascar	H.E. Andriambololona Vonintsalama, Minister of Finance and Budget	04/04/2018
10.	Niger	H. E. Massoudou Hassoumi, Minister of Finance	09/04/2018
11.	Gabon	H. E. Régis Immongault, Minister of Economy, Prospective and Sustainable Development Planning	10/04/2018
12.	Burkina Faso	H. E. Edith Clémence YAKA, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy, Finance and Development	13/04/2018
13.	Congo	H. E. Calixte NGANONGO, Minister of Finance and Budget	13/04/2018
14.	Guinea Bissau	H.E. João Alage Mamadu FADIA, Minister of Economy and Finance	13/04/2018
15.	Mali	H.E. Bakary Bocar MAIGA, Ambassador of Mali in Congo, Representing the Minister of Economy and Finance	13/04/2018
16.	Senegal	H.E. Amadou BA, Minister of Finance and Planning	17/04/2018
17.	Mauritius	H.E. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister	28/05/2018
18.	Mauritania	H.E. Mohamed OULD KEMBOU, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, with special responsibility for Budget	04/06/2018
19.	Comoros	H.E. Said Ali Said CHAYHANE, Minister of Finance and Budget	05/06/2018
20.	Côte d'Ivoire	H.E. Moussa SANOGO, Secretary of State to the Prime Minister, in charge of Budget and State Portfolio	21/06/2018
21.	Lesotho	H.E. Moeketsi MAJORO, Minister of Finance	19/07/2018