

**PTLAC and South Centre Webinar: Recommendations of the African Union/UNECA High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows and its relevance in the context of the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation**

**Date:** March 7, 2024

**Local Time:** 9:00 am-10:30 am Colombian Time/ 15:00-17:30 CET

**Format:** Webinar with closed transmission

**Audience:** country representatives and officials from PTLAC and South Centre Member states

**Link to join:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvdeCvqzggGN1UeUsCsm76u10C1IDogluG>

The report of the African Union/United Nations Economic Commission for Africa High-Level Panel (HLP) on Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from Africa, chaired by former South African President Thabo Mbeki, was adopted in 2015 by the Assembly of the African Union. The report develops a novel methodology based on trade mispricing to estimate IFF in Africa and finds that between 2001 and 2010, USD 409 billion left Africa as IFF. Since then, IFF have been at the center of Africa's regional and international agenda, which led, among others, to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the inclusion of Target 16.4 to reduce IFFs in the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2022, as a result of these efforts and the leadership of Africa on this issue, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 77/244, initiating intergovernmental discussions on ways to strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of international tax cooperation. This led to the adoption of resolution 78/230 in 2023, which directed the General Assembly to create a Member State-led, open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee to draft the terms of reference for a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation. The resolution also mentions the possibility of the simultaneous negotiation of a protocol on tax-related illicit financial flows.

Given the upcoming first session to discuss the terms of reference for a framework convention on international tax cooperation, scheduled for April 26th to May 8th, the Platform for Taxation in Latin America and the Caribbean and the South Centre hve organized a closed webinar for delegates from PTLAC and South Centre member countries to present the main results of the HLP on IFF report and discuss its relevance and policy implications in the discussions of these terms of reference, which could impact the creation of a protocol on tax-related illicit financial flows.

**Agenda (Colombian Time, GMT-5)**

**9:00 am – 10:05 am:** Welcome Remarks by María Fernanda Valdés, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of Colombia (TBC).

**9:05 am – 9:25 am:** Intervention by Gamal Eltaib Ibrahim, Chief Economic Governance and Public Finance Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa: *Presentation of the African Union/UNECA High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows: methodology and results -*

**9:25 am – 9:45 am:** Intervention by Irene Ovonji-Odida, ICRICT commissioner and member of the High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI): *From the AU/UNECA HLP on IFF to UN FACTI to the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation: the impact of the HLP on IFF and its relevance today.*

**9:45 am -10:05 am:** Intervention by Abdul Muheet Chowdhary, Senior Programme Officer, South Centre: *International Tax Cooperation to curb illicit financial flows: policy recommendations in the context of the Terms of Reference UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation-*

**10:05 am – 10:25 am:** Questions from the audience.

**10:25 am -10:30 am:** Closing Remarks- Patrick Ndzana Olomo, Acting Head of Economic Policy and Sustainable Division, African Union Commission

**Moderator:** Daniel Titelman, Director of the Economic Development Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)