

Tax Justice – Human Rights – Future Justice

International Conference

27 November 2012, 9:00

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Hiroshimastraße 28 (House 2)

Conference room 2

10785 Berlin

Dear Sir/Madam,

The debate around „tax justice“ is currently concentrated on combatting tax evasion and avoidance as well as on the dismantling of the underlying structures that enable those practices.

In development policy oriented circles discussions focus on the precarious state of public finance in many countries in the South as well as around the issue of domestic resource mobilization through means of more effective tax systems and more efficient tax administrations. Problems here are domestic elites not paying their fair share; a good part of economic activity is happening informally; transnational corporations are evading effective taxation by using tax incentives and manipulative transfer pricing methods.

In the human rights arena the issue of „maximum available resources“ in combination with extraterritorial obligations of states is gaining increasing attention.

In the middle of the financial and sovereign debt crises, taxation is receiving more and more attention in Europe and Germany as one way out of the mess: wealth taxes, bank levies and a European financial transaction tax are shifting into the focus of policy makers.

Parallel to this, the evolution of the discourse around eco-social tax and fiscal reform is progressing as instruments to curb environmental degradation, climate change and limiting the consumption of finite and rare natural resources.

Tax Justice, Future Justice and the fulfillment of Human Rights need to be advanced in combination. At our international conference, we want to learn from renowned experts on how to achieve this and debate their proposals.

The conference is a joint initiative by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the Global Policy Forum Europe, MISEREOR, and terre des hommes in cooperation with the Tax Justice Network Germany.



ZEIT FÜR GERECHTIGKEIT!
Eine internationale Themenwoche der FES
26.-29. NOV 2012

Please register:
by sending an e-mail to
europe@globalpolicy.org until 19
November.

Contact:
Wolfgang Obenland
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Program

The conference will be simultaneously interpreted in English and German (unless otherwise indicated).

09:00

Registration

09:30

Part 1: Introduction to the concept of „tax justice“

Welcome

Klaus Schilder, MISEREOR; Hubert Schillinger, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

09:45

The global tax justice agenda: Issues – Links – Challenges

Mark Herkenrath, Alliance Sud (Switzerland)

10:30

Coffee break

11:00

Part 2: Three cross-cutting themes: Human rights, eco-social fiscal reform, public finance

The importance of tax justice for the fulfillment of human rights

Attiya Waris, University of Nairobi/TJN Africa

11:40

Eco-Social tax justice – synergies and trade-offs

Damian Ludewig, Director, Green Budget Germany

12:20

Tax justice as an alternative to the downsizing of government services

Mehrdad Payandeh, Head of Department for Economic, Financial and Tax Policies, German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)

13:00

Lunch

14:00

Part 3: In depth parallel roundtables

1 – Tax justice as a prerequisite for the fulfillment of human rights (English only)

Inputs: *Pooja Parvati*, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (India); *Diane Elson*, University of Essex and Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University; Chair UK Women's Budget Group

Moderator: *Klaus Schilder, MISEREOR*

2 – Eco-social tax reform as a way towards future justice? (with interpretation)

Inputs: *David Nguyen-Thanh*, GIZ; *Dereje Alemayehu*, Christian Aid/TJN-Africa; *Erika Siu*, UNDP

Moderator: *Jens Martens, Global Policy Forum Europe*

3 – Tax Justice as an alternative to „debt break“ and spending cuts

Inputs: *Nicola Liebert*, attac; *Raoul Didier*, DGB

Moderator: *Hubert Schillinger, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung*

16:30

Coffee break

17:00

Part 4: Public Debate

Changing course towards tax justice in a globalized world

Attiya Waris, TJN Africa; *Carsten Sieling, MP, SPD*; *Ralph Brinkhaus, MP, CDU*; *Damian Ludewig*, Green Budget Germany; *Danuta Sacher*, terre des hommes

Moderator: *Ulrike Herrmann, taz*

19:00

Reception

20:00

Sneak Preview „Stealing Africa – How much profit is fair?“

Rüschlikon is a village in Switzerland with a very low tax rate and very wealthy residents. But it receives more tax revenue than it can use. This is largely thanks to one resident - Ivan Glasenberg, CEO of Glencore – 60min. ([find a trailer here](#)).

* tbc