



global alliance for tax justice



Side-event during the meeting of the UN Committee of
Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Strengthening the Global South's Voice in Global Tax Governance

Thursday, October 30, 2014 | 13-15h

Restaurant des Délégués, 8th Floor, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Invitation

The international cooperation in tax matters has intensified in the last few years. Processes under the anti-BEPS framework at the OECD or G20 are proof of that. Nevertheless, countries in the Global South that are suffering from the results of tax evasion and avoidance the most (at least in relative terms as recent papers by IMF and OECD show) are to a great deal excluded from this increasing cooperation. This means losing vast amounts of resources, where they could have been allocated to sustainable development. While countries of the Global South that are not part of the G20 are periodically “consulted”, the actual intergovernmental negotiations and decision-making have been taking place behind closed doors and without any tangible links to more inclusive processes. Once again, global standards are being developed without equal representation of developing countries, and with the majority of the world’s countries excluded from the decision-making processes.

At the same time, the Intergovernmental Commission of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance concludes that *«a participatory and broad based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters should be strengthened»*. But how to foster such dialogue and cooperation without marginalizing a majority of governments? We believe there is space outside the exclusive clubs of the OECD or the G20 to come to meaningful norms and mechanisms to strengthen tax governance at all levels. The UN appears to be the natural place for this. Concrete next steps could be an upgrade of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. But even more visionary solutions are conceivable.

We would kindly like to invite you to join us for a panel discussion around these issues and share your views with experts in the fields of international financial and tax cooperation.

Programme

Welcome: *Hubert Schillinger*, Director, FES Geneva Office

Panel discussion with contributions by

- » *Manuel Montes*, Senior Advisor, Finance and Development, South Centre
- » *Tove Maria Ryding*, Senior Policy Analyst, Eurodad
- » *Dereje Alemayehu*, Chair of the Coordinating Committee, Global Alliance for Tax Justice

Moderator: Wolfgang Obenland, Program Coordinator, Global Policy Forum

Snacks will be served. Please indicate your participation by sending an e-mail to woob@globalpolicy.org until October 19th.