

TACKLING ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS: TIME TO DROP FALSE SOLUTIONS AND EMBRACE REAL CHANGE

**SIDE-EVENT
MONDAY 23 APRIL, 18.30
CONFERENCE ROOM 5**



introduction

Dereje Alemayehu, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice

speakers

- Mr. Sameh Elkhishin, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of **Egypt** (chair of the G77) to the UN
- Arvinn Gadgil, Senior advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Norway**
- Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of **South Africa** to the UN
- Adam B. Elhiraika, Director, Macroeconomic Policy Division, Economic Commission for Africa (**UNECA**)

respondent

Towfiqul Islam Khan, Research fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, **Bangladesh**

moderator

Hannah Brejnholt Tranberg, ActionAid **Denmark**

This side-event aims to

- **Explore policy measures** which will narrow the implicit and explicit differences in definition and measurement of IFFs which undermine efforts to curtail IFFs
- **Share experiences** of how the national and continental level efforts in the Global South to enhance DRM are being impacted by IFFs and **discuss the main obstacles to progress**, with emphasis on the role of secrecy jurisdictions and tax havens
- **Problematicize** recent international initiatives and the dominance of certain institutions, and **map out concrete pathways** for the establishment of an UN inter-governmental tax commission.

Illicit financial flows (IFFs), with legalized tax avoidance as its major component, is the fundamental constraint to be addressed to ensure the fiscal space that is necessary to advance the 2030 Agenda. Major public scandals brought to light by the many recent leaks, the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers, exposed how many wealthy individuals and multinational companies are involved in illicit flows, and how a number of countries, including some major economies, are providing systemically institutionalized facilitation of IFFs.

No adequate measures are being undertaken in practical ways to combat IFFs. On the contrary, whereas the global agreement reached in the SDG process clearly covers tax avoidance by multinational companies, efforts seem underway to redefine IFFs to exclude tax avoidance from issues and measures to address IFFs.

Also on the point of tax cooperation, international agreements have not been followed up on. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is unequivocal in its "stress that efforts in international tax cooperation should be universal in approach and scope and should fully take into account the different needs and capacities of all countries". Despite this, there is still no consensus on establishing an intergovernmental tax commission under the auspices of the United Nations.

#FfD #DRM #TaxJustice #GlobalTaxBody #IFF #FfDForum

This side-event is organized under the umbrella of the Civil Society Financing for Development Group, including the Women's Working Group on FfD, and facilitated by the following organizations:



Society for International Development

