

## The Handbook on Carbon Taxation for Developing Countries: a tool to advance countries' decarbonization efforts and contribute to the commitments of the Paris Agreement

### Virtual Panel Discussion and Launch Event

25 October 2021, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (New York time)

#### Background

Carbon taxation is instrumental in combating climate change and its impacts at the global and local level and on ecosystems conservation. It also plays an important role in strengthening a global COVID-19 response that leaves no-one behind, as well as in building back better and creating more resilient and inclusive societies. While being relatively simple to implement and administer, carbon taxes have the potential to raise significant public revenues, and can generate a range of additional macroeconomic benefits, such as increased output and employment.

Carbon taxes are a policy option aimed at curbing carbon-based emissions responsible for climate change, in line with the commitments assumed by countries under the Paris Agreement. Carbon taxes put a price on the emission of greenhouse gases, thereby motivating companies to invest in cleaner technology or switch to more efficient practices. Likewise, consumers may be incentivized to invest in energy efficiency, change their lifestyle habits or, where options are available, switch to cleaner forms of energy. Moreover, additional revenues could be used to invest in sustainable development.

The UN Tax Committee, an expert body of the Economic and Social Council, is globally recognized for its work in providing practical guidance in the area of international tax cooperation, as well as for providing an inclusive space, for Member States and other stakeholders, in advancing norm- and policy-shaping in support of the achievement of the SDGs, including through strengthened international tax cooperation and enhanced mobilization of domestic resources.

The previous Committee membership (2017-2021), produced, among other guidance products, the UN Handbook on Carbon Taxation for Developing Countries. This new publication responds to country demand for clearer practical guidance on policy and administrative aspects of designing and implementing such a tax. It is meant as a practical guide, and it contains many real-world examples and practical tools. The generous support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and extra efforts by members of the Committee, its Subcommittee on Environmental Taxation Issues and Secretariat in the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has greatly accelerated the publication process of this important document.

The English version of the Handbook will be available in electronic format shortly before the launch event, with French and Spanish versions to follow in the first half of 2022. The launch of the Handbook will take place on the margins of the first session of the current Committee membership (2021-2025), the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Committee, which will be held virtually on 19–22 October and 25–28 October from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. New York Time.

#### Objective

UNDESA is organizing a panel discussion, on occasion of the launch of the new UN Handbook on Carbon Taxation for Developing Countries and in preparation of COP26. The event is framed in the broader discussion on the UN Tax Committee's contribution to advancing a Tax and SDGs approach to enhancing international tax cooperation for sustainable development. The panel will discuss how carbon taxation can be instrumental in the fight against climate change, and support countries' efforts in fostering economic recovery measures, as part of a global response to the current COVID-19 pandemic-induced multidimensional crisis. Panellists will also analyse the relevance of the Handbook in view of COP26 and how this publication can support countries at all levels of development – and in particular developing countries and countries in special situations – in advancing their decarbonization efforts and meeting their pledges under the Paris Agreement.

## Organization and Focus

The event will be opened by representatives from the UN and the donor community, followed by panel discussion among experts from a variety of stakeholders. The Panel will discuss the following questions:

- What is the role of carbon taxation, and other environmental taxation, in building back better after COVID-19, i.e. reducing inequalities and creating more resilient economies and societies?
- How can the UN Handbook on Carbon Taxation help countries (in particular developing countries and countries in special situations) in decarbonizing their economies in the medium- and long-term, in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement?
- In view of COP26, are there any lessons in the Handbook that can guide countries' discussion at this landmark event? What is the role of international cooperation and a multilateral approach in advancing tools such as carbon taxation?

This event will be held via Zoom and is open to all UN Member States and interested stakeholders.

Please register [here](#) for the event.



## AGENDA

TIME SLOT	SESSION
11:15 a.m. – 11:20 am	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Mr. Navid Hanif</b>, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)</li> </ul>
11:20 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Mr. Per Fredrik Pharo</b>, Director for the Department of Partnership and Shared Prosperity, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, NORAD</li> </ul>
11:25 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<b>LAUNCH OF HANDBOOK ON CARBON TAXATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Ms. Natalia Aristizabal Mora</b>, Former Coordinator of the Subcommittee on Environmental Taxation Issues, UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (2017-2021)</li> </ul>
11:30 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ What is the role of carbon taxation, and other environmental taxation, in building back better after COVID-19, i.e. reducing inequalities and creating more resilient economies and societies?</li> <li>■ How can the Handbook on Carbon Taxation help countries (in particular developing countries and countries in special situations) in decarbonizing their economies in the medium- and long-term, in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement?</li> <li>■ In view of COP26, are there any lessons in the Handbook that can guide countries' discussion? What is the role of international cooperation and a multilateral approach in advancing tools such as carbon taxation?</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Ms. Natalia Aristizabal Mora</b>, Former Coordinator of the Subcommittee on Environmental Taxation Issues, UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (2017-2021)</li> </ul> <p><u>Panellists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Ms. Marlene Patricia Nembhard-Parker</b>, Former Member of the UN Subcommittee on Environmental Taxation Issues; former and current Member of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters; and Chief Tax Counsel for Legislation, Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ)</li> <li>■ <b>Ms. Susanne Åkerfeldt</b>, Former Member of the UN Subcommittee on Environmental Taxation Issues; and Senior Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Sweden</li> <li>■ <b>Mr. Rodrigo Pizarro</b>, Technical Editor of the Handbook on Carbon Taxation; Former Member of the UN Subcommittee on Environmental Taxation Issues; and Consultant, COTA21</li> </ul>
11:55 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	<b>MODERATED Q&amp;A WITH PANELLISTS</b>
12:10 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Ms. Caroline Lombardo</b>, Head, International Tax and Development Cooperation Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)</li> </ul>

