



Economic and Social Council
Special event on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
(New York, 14-15 March 2012)

At its organizational session held on 7 February 2012, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), recalling its resolution 2011/23, decided that the one-day meeting of the Council to consider the question of international cooperation in tax matters, including institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation, would be held at UN Headquarters on 15 March 2012, in conjunction with the special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 12-13 March 2012).

The discussion at the 15 March meeting of ECOSOC will be informed by a report of the Secretary-General on the role and work of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters in promoting international cooperation in tax matters, including further options to strengthen the work of the Committee and its cooperation with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional and subregional organizations, prepared in consultation with the Members of the Committee and major multilateral organizations and regional organizations active in international tax cooperation.

In preparation for the 15 March meeting of ECOSOC, the Financing for Development Office (FfDO) of UN-DESA and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) New York Office are jointly organizing an expert group meeting with a view to advancing the current priority areas of the work programme of the Committee. The expert group meeting will focus on practical transfer pricing issues for developing countries as a contribution to the Committee's current work on a Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries, to be adopted at its next annual session in October 2012. This useful tool will provide assistance to developing countries in practical application of the "arm's length" principle reflected in both the UN Model Tax Convention and the OECD Model Tax Convention. The second priority area to be addressed at the meeting will be capacity development programmes in developing countries, based on the 2011 Update of the UN Model Tax Convention and the forthcoming UN Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing.

The two-day event will also feature an official launch of the *United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries: 2011 Update*; and a launch of the FES Perspectives Brief, entitled *Transfer Pricing is a Financing for Development Issue*. It is expected that the event, comprising official and expert-level meetings, will create synergies in terms of securing participation of representatives of national tax authorities, international and regional organizations and other relevant experts, especially from developing countries.

Detailed background information and programmes for both meetings will be available shortly.