

8 February 2021

RE: Launch of the final report of the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda

Excellency,

On behalf of the High-level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda, it is our pleasure to invite you to attend the launch of the final report of the Panel, to be held virtually on 25 February 2021, from 8:00 to 10:30 (EST).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action to shift the world to a sustainable and resilient path. However, six years after Member States pledged that no one will be left behind, we continue to fall short in making the needed investments in the future we want. Mobilizing sufficient resources for implementing the 2030 Agenda remains a major challenge, more critical than ever at this moment of economic uncertainty. Insufficient financial accountability, transparency and integrity erodes the ability of States to raise revenue and directly undermines the efforts of the global community.

For this reason, the FACTI Panel was convened jointly by the 74th President of the United Nations General Assembly and the 75th President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on March 2020.

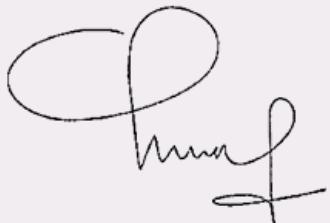
There are existing mechanisms of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows, both within the United Nations and outside of it. Yet, in the view of many Member States and other stakeholders, there is room for improvements in the implementation, inclusiveness, and design of the international institutional architecture and related commitments. This is a global problem that requires global cooperation.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

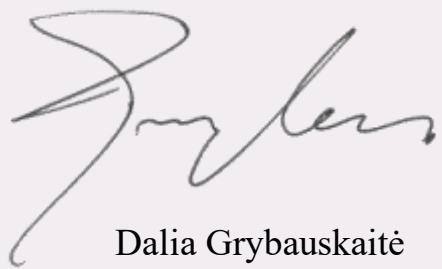
The Panel's final report will provide evidence-based recommendations and priority actions on these topics, building on the successes and ongoing work of existing mechanisms. The final report focuses on 14 recommendations that the Panel finds are technically feasible, politically viable, and have a direct contribution to the overall efforts undertaken by Member States to implement the ambitious and transformational vision of the 2030 Agenda.

We look forward to you, and relevant colleagues in your mission and in your capital, attending the launch event to learn about our Panel's final recommendations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest regards.



Ibrahim Assane Mayaki



Dalia Grybauskaitė

Concept Note

Launch of the Report of the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda

High-Level Launch Event and Panel Discussion,

25 February 2021 8.00 – 10.30 a.m. (EST)

Simultaneous interpretation for Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish will be available

Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Mobilizing sufficient financing for implementing the 2030 Agenda remains a major challenge. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this both more urgent and more elusive. The shortfall in public resources is set to widen, as countries marshal vast sums toward an effective response to the crisis and rebuilding their economies. Against this background, the imperative to strengthen systems of accountability, transparency and integrity assumes even greater importance.

The High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (FACTI Panel) was launched by the President of the United Nations General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC in March 2020. The Panel was mandated to explore further actions that may be needed by the international community in the following areas: financial and beneficial ownership transparency, tax matters, bribery and corruption, money laundering, confiscation and disposal of the proceeds of crime and the recovery and return of stolen assets.

The FACTI Panel consulted with Member States, international organizations, experts, business and civil society. It commissioned background papers from subject matter experts and took inputs from all external stakeholders to inform its views. The Panel's interim report, published in September 2020, analyzed the vulnerabilities and impediments present in the current international systems related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity issues. It found that these systems can help countries prevent the drain of resources from development, contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda, but that they lack co-ordination, leave gaps, overlap and even conflict with each other.

Objective and scope

The event is being convened to present the report of the FACTI Panel to United Nations Member States and all other stakeholders. The report will provide evidence-based recommendations, building on the successes and ongoing work of existing mechanisms, and priority actions for addressing the identified challenges for tax cooperation, anti-corruption, and anti-money laundering.

The report is expected to contribute to the overall efforts undertaken by Member States to implement the ambitious and transformational vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Format and programme

The event will bring the FACTI Panel chairs together with high-level representatives from Member States.

The event will consist of two parts: a high-level segment and a moderated panel discussion among invited speakers.

- Host: Ms. Maryam Nemazee, Al-Jazeera English

High-level segment (40 min max, including transitions and overruns)

Opening remarks (3 min)

- H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations (TBC)
- H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, 75th President of the General Assembly
- H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, 76th President of the Economic and Social Council

Presentation of the FACTI Panel's report: (10 min)

- H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, former Prime Minister of Niger, FACTI Panel Co-chair
- H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaite, former President of Lithuania, FACTI Panel Co-chair

Selected High-Level Speakers: (30 min – 4-5 min each, introduced by host)

- H.E. Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (TBC)
- H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- H.E. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa (TBC)
- H.E. Mr. Francisco Sagasti, President of the Republic of Peru (TBC)
- H.E. Ms. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados (TBC)
- H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway

Moderated segment (65 min, including 20 min Q&A)

Moderated panel discussion, based on prepared questions drawn from report's key findings.

- Opening by the host (2-3 min)
- Panel discussion with proposed panelists (~5 min. each)
 - Prof. Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia University and Nobel Prize recipient (TBC)
 - H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Daouda Diallo, Minister of Finance and Budget, Senegal (TBC)

- Ms. Gabriela Bucher, Executive Director, Oxfam International
- Ms. Ann Cairns, Executive Vice Chair, Mastercard
- H.E. Ms. Irma Eréndira Sandoval, Minister for Public Administration, Mexico
- H.E. Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister, India (TBC)
- Mr. Sternford Moyo, President of the International Bar Association
- Mr. Marcus Pleyer, President of the Financial Action Task Force
- H.E. Mr. Nigel Clarke, Minister of Finance and Public Service of Jamaica (TBC)

Closing Remarks (5 min)