Tax systems that work for people and advance the Sustainable Development Goals

Addis
Tax Initiative

The Addis Tax Initiative

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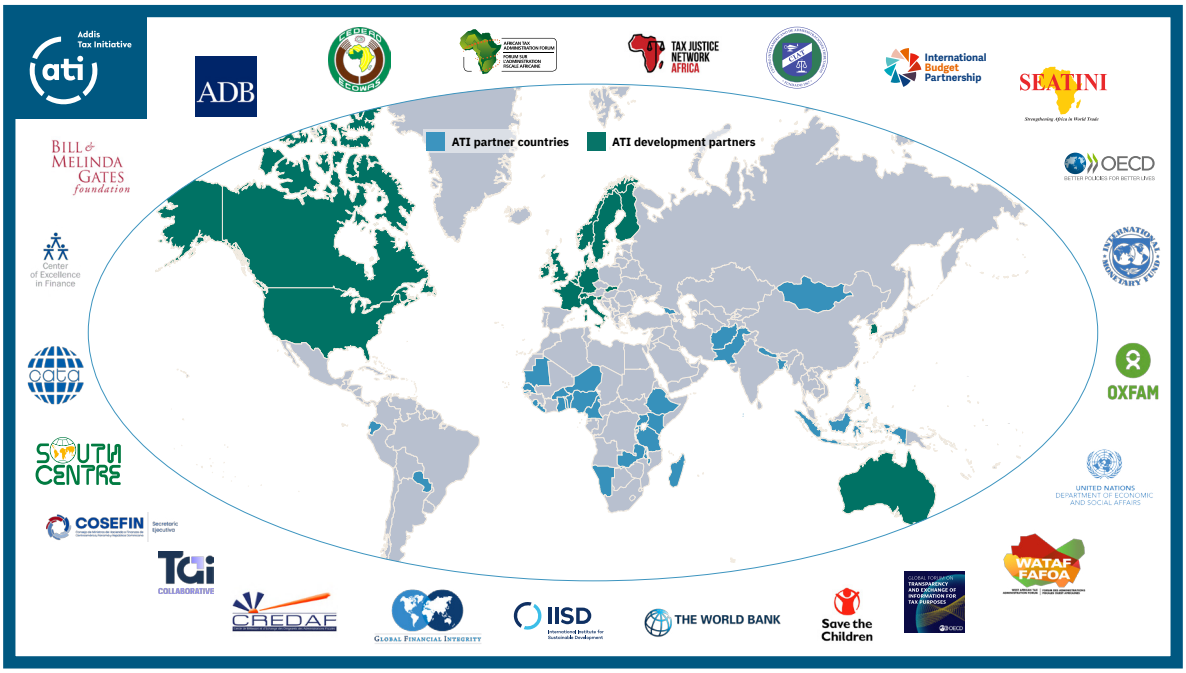
Who are we?

The Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) is a partnership of countries and organisations united by the vision of **tax systems that work for people and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** The ATI's mission is to **promote fair and effective domestic revenue mobilisation (DRM), policy coherence, and the social contract through partnerships and knowledge building.** These are essential for fostering collective action to improve tax systems in light of recognised gaps in development finance.

The initiative was launched in 2015 during the **Third International Conference on Financing for Development** to support the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). It makes important contributions to increasing available resources for financing sustainable development through **agenda setting, donor coordination, peer learning, and enhancing political commitment to promote DRM.**

The ATI currently has a membership of **33 partner countries, 20 development partners,** and **24 supporting organisations.**



ATI Declaration 2025

The **ATI Declaration 2025** is a milestone document that **guides ATI members in their efforts to finance the SDGs through domestic revenues** within the first half of the "Decade of Action". It comprises four commitments that were developed in a spirit of partnership and mutual accountability to enhance collective action and reach the ATI's shared vision. Each development partner and partner country adherent has the responsibility, consistent with its role and capacity, to attain the commitments by 2025.

Commitment 1: Partner countries commit to enhance DRM based on equitable tax policies as well as efficient, effective, and transparent revenue administrations. Development partners commit to support such reforms.

Commitment 2: Development partners collectively commit to maintain or surpass the 2020 global target level (USD 441.1 million) of DRM cooperation for country-owned tax reforms.

Commitment 3: Members commit to apply coherent and coordinated policies that foster DRM and combat tax-related illicit financial flows.

Commitment 4: Members commit to enhance space and capacity for accountability stakeholders in partner countries to engage in tax and revenue matters

As a multi-stakeholder partnership, the Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) lives off the vast experiences and variety of perspectives its members bring to the table. Therefore, **four ATI Consultative Groups** have been initiated in November 2020 to support the fulfilment of the ATI commitments in line with the ATI Declaration 2025. The overall objective of the ATI Consultative Groups is to promote peer learning, facilitate consultation, and the exchange of experiences, as well as to organise and execute activities to foster the implementation of the commitments.

Governance and management

The **ATI General Assembly** consists of all ATI members and meets annually. ATI members are responsible for policy advocacy, strategic development and positioning of the ATI. Members promote ownership by contributing to ATI activities and knowledge building by sharing good practices and engaging in peer-exchange on the implementation of the ATI commitments.

The ATI Steering Committee oversees all activities of the ATI, including monitoring of the progress made towards implementing the ATI Declaration 2025, provides strategic guidance, advocacy, and represents the partnership.

The ATI Secretariat is facilitated by the International Tax Compact (ITC), an impartial platform that facilitates results-oriented initiatives in the area of tax and development. As host to the ATI Secretariat, the ITC is responsible for the implementation of operational ATI activities, promoting knowledge exchange, networking, trend scouting, and others.

ATI Governance Document

What does the ATI provide for its members?

Access to a vast network of policymakers and practitioners in the tax and development field

An extensive database that gathers and visualises portfolio data of development cooperation in the area of DRM

The ATI Matchmaking Platform for **matching needs for support with available resources in the area of DRM**

Annual monitoring reports on the progress made against attaining the ATI commitments and fostering DRM reforms

Publications and webinars on relevant tax policy and administration issues

Opportunities for **open discussions on current tax and development topics** (e.g. conferences, consultative groups)

Why join the ATI?

ATI partner countries ...

- signal a high-level national commitment to DRM reforms with the endorsement of **the ATI Declaration 2025,** – and hence generate political buy-in and ownership
- have increased access to technical and financial official development assistance (ODA) support to DRM reforms and can request direct and targeted support for their DRM needs through the ATI Matchmaking Platform
- benefit from improved coordination among development partners and partner countries alike, including south-south cooperation initiatives
- have strengthened voices and needs in the global tax debate
- can connect with a broad network of development partners as well as tax and development stakeholders, including access to face-to-face ATI meetings
- can set joint work plans with other members through the ATI Consultative Groups, enhance cooperation, and participate in frank and open discussions on topics related to DRM and the implementation of the ATI commitments
- have the opportunity to jointly share best practices and lessons learnt, develop products (e.g., webinars, studies etc.) and benefit from them
- can showcase progress towards enhancing DRM and share experiences through the ATI Monitoring Report and regular consultations

Why join the ATI?

ATI development partners or supporting organisations ...

- benefit from the political buy-in and ownership by ATI partner countries to promote DRM and implement the ATI commitments
- benefit from improved coordination among development partners and partner countries alike, including south-south cooperation initiatives
- are able to better match available resources, expertise, and finance with the DRM needs and priorities of partner countries through the ATI Matchmaking Platform
- have the possibility to display progress of DRM support and capacity building activities through the ATI Monitoring Report and the DRM Database
- can connect with a broad international network in the field of tax and development stakeholders, including access to face-to-face ATI meetings
- can set joint work plans with other members through the ATI Consultative Groups, enhance cooperation, and participate in frank and open discussions on topics related to DRM and the implementation of the ATI commitments
- have the opportunity to jointly share best practices and lessons learnt, develop products (e.g., webinars, studies etc.) and benefit from them

Why join the ATI?

Some of the ATI's recent products and success stories:

- **Webinar series on relevant DRM topics**
  The ATI regularly hosts webinar series on a variety of relevant DRM topics for ATI members. Topics include among others **subnational taxation**, **property tax**, **diagnostic tools**, **ODA taxation**, **DEC compliance tools**, **tax & equity**, **spillover analysis**, and many more. New topics can be suggested by ATI members.

- **A three-day digital workshop on tax expenditures and development**
  Jointly organised by the ATI, the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) and the Council on Economic Policies (CEP), the workshop shed light on the impacts of tax expenditures (TEs) on sustainable development efforts. The workshop brought together scholars, government officials, representatives of international organisations, and other experts to discuss ongoing research and initiatives on TEs.

- **ATI Accountability Stakeholder Mapping**
  The ATI Accountability Stakeholder Mapping can serve as a basis for ATI partner countries to identify ways of improving the space and capacity of accountability stakeholders in tax and revenue matters. It provides a comprehensive overview of state and non-state actors, their (potential) roles, hurdles, as well as suggestions for possible actions to be taken by ATI partner countries and development partners to deliver toward ATI Commitment 4.

- **Brief on the perspectives of ATI partner countries on the design of tax incentive regimes**
  This brief on the design of tax incentive regimes in ATI partner countries outlines the tax incentive design process and related challenges in Ghana, Malawi, and the Philippines. It was based on a questionnaire and interviews conducted with representatives from the respective ministries of finance.

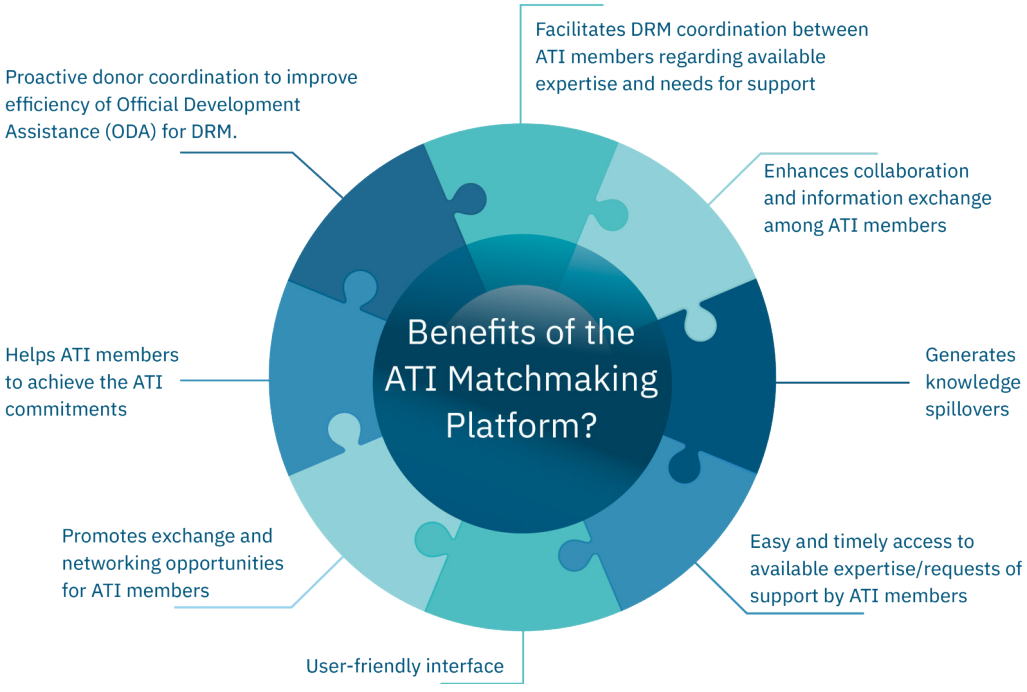
- **Study on donor coordination in domestic revenue mobilisation**
  Though there has been important progress on coordinating DRM support in recent years – from the creation of international forums such as the Addis Tax Initiative to the development of joint diagnostic tools – this study explores what coordination needs remain outstanding and what additional mechanisms might be helpful.

The ATI Matchmaking Platform

- The ATI Matchmaking Platform is an exclusive online platform that aims to support DRM collaboration between ATI members by enabling countries and organisations to search out and contact each other based on the need for support or the availability of relevant expertise.

- Partner countries are invited to post their "requests for DRM support", while development partners are invited to inform others on "available expertise" related to DRM. Supporting organisations are invited to post both "requests for support" and to announce "available expertise".

- Through the integrated messaging function, interested parties can contact each other directly. Requested and announced assistance can take many shapes, such as technical assistance, expert support, study visits, training, and financial assistance.



How can I become an ATI member?

In order to become an ATI member, interested countries and organisations need to send a **signed endorsement letter declaring their commitment to the ATI Declaration 2025** to the ATI Secretariat. After final approval by the ATI Steering Committee, countries and organisations can use all the benefits of an ATI membership.

There are no fees or costs associated with joining or being a member of the ATI.

For more information about a membership, please do not hesitate to contact the ATI Secretariat at **secretariat@taxcompact.net** or visit the website: **www.addistaxinitiative.net**

Facilitated by