

Addis Tax Initiative presents new Declaration 2025 envisioning tax systems that work for people and advance the SDGs

Press Release on the occasion of the presentation of the ATI Declaration 2025

17 November 2020

“Domestic resource mobilisation is the most important key to unlock the Sustainable Development Goals” said Dag-Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development Norway, in a video message presented at the General Assembly of the Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) on 17 November 2020. The ATI is a multi-stakeholder-partnership that was initiated in 2015 in the course of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to support to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. To date, the ATI brings together more than 60 developing countries, providers of development cooperation and supporting organisations that believe that tax systems need to work for people and advance the SDGs, the United Nations blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

The partnership’s General Assembly, which took place on 17-19 November 2020, stood in the light of the presentation of the new [ATI Declaration 2025](#). More than 100 (high-level) decision makers, tax practitioners and development cooperation experts from 50 nations gathered at this occasion. The new ATI Declaration has been developed in a highly participatory process by a nine-member task force representing the three stakeholder groups in the ATI equally – the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), the European Commission, Georgia, Germany, Kenya, Madagascar, Norway, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Oxfam – and under the involvement of the entire membership in the course of several feedback loops, making it a joint effort by the entire membership. The new declaration will bring new energy and enthusiasm to the field of DRM. It emphasises the importance of enhancing tax systems and reforms to increase available means for financing SDG-relevant sectors, such as health and education. Fostering capacity building, equitable tax policies, efficient and transparent revenue administration, policy coherence and the role of accountability stakeholders in this area is crucial.

The General Assembly highlighted the ATI’s unique character, convening partner countries, development partners and supporting organisations on equal footing. Since 2015, the ATI has made important contributions to increasing available financing for development through donor coordination, peer learning, and enhancing political commitment.

“The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of efficient and effective domestic revenue mobilisation. This is what makes the ATI Declaration 2025 more significant than ever” argued Eduard Heger, Minister of Finance and Vice-President of the Government of Slovak Republic. While the needs for public spending have skyrocketed, public revenues have collapsed. The gap between financing needs and available public revenues is widening. The pandemic highlights,

once again, the importance of raising domestic revenues sustainably and equitably in order to finance effective government responses.

Rispah Simiyu, Commissioner for Domestic Taxes at Kenya Revenue Authority, stressed that “the platform provided by the ATI is very useful in providing peer learning by member states, showcasing good practices and getting solutions for common challenges”. Germain, Directeur General des Impôts de Madagascar, stressed that “the ATI is a relevant initiative to encourage collective action not only for revenue mobilisation in partner countries but also and above all to ensure the coordination of the interventions of technical and financial partners.” Logan Wort, Executive Secretary from ATAF, reiterated these views: “[The ATI] is important to the world, it is important to developing countries, and it is important to us in Africa.”

Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands highlighted that “We need to move from more tax to better tax systems. Therefore, I welcome the four new ATI commitments that promote fair, gender-sensitive and effective DRM.” The four commitments laid out in the ATI Declaration 2025 are:

1. ATI partner countries commit to enhance DRM on the basis of equitable tax policies as well as efficient, effective and transparent revenue administrations. ATI development partners commit to support such reforms.
2. ATI 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.
3. ATI members commit to apply coherent and coordinated policies that foster DRM and combat tax-related illicit financial flows (IFFs).
4. ATI members commit to enhance space and capacity for accountability stakeholders in partner countries to engage in tax and revenue matters.

Please find the ATI Declaration 2025 in the following [link](#).

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