

High-level launch of the ATI Declaration 2025 at the 2021 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development

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The Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) officially launched the [ATI Declaration 2025](#) during an official high-level side event at the 2021 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Forum on Financing for Development on 13 April 2021. The Forum provides a platform to advance an action-oriented dialogue on the solutions for financing the COVID-19 recovery and sustainable development on the path to 2030. Therefore, the event was well placed as an opportunity for members of the multi-stakeholder-partnership to renew their commitment to enhancing domestic revenue mobilisation (DRM) in developing countries as means to close recognised gaps in development finance and recover better from the pandemic.

The Addis Tax Initiative and the Financing for Development Process

Emerging from the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015, the ATI has significantly contributed to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda since then and is firmly anchored within the Financing for Development process. Today, the ATI counts 62 like-minded countries and organisations that are united by the vision of tax systems that work for people and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

The side event provided space to lift political commitment and inspire collective action to implement the ATI Declaration 2025, which was developed by the members of the initiative in a highly participatory and inclusive process throughout 2020. High-level statements by and a panel discussion with representatives from Sierra Leone, the European Commission, Paraguay, Belgium, Finland, Kenya, Germany, Sweden, Mongolia, Norway, the United States, Oxfam, and The Gambia, mirrored the deep commitment of initiative's member countries and organisations to implement this new partnership agenda that reflects the complexity of the challenges faced by the world right now.

Domestic revenue mobilisation as a catalyst to recover better and greener

The COVID-19 pandemic has confronted the world with unprecedented challenges and erased many years of development progress. Governments have had to implement broad based fiscal policies to mitigate the severe health, economic and social risks associated with the crisis. At the same time, important sources of income have plummeted, a fact that has hit developing countries particularly hard .

"We will only be able to deliver a sustainable recovery if indeed we also have sustained and strengthened domestic revenue mobilisation", affirmed Koen DOENS, Director General at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships. This is why the ATI Declaration 2025 comes at the right time, said Patricia N. LAVERLEY, First Deputy Minister of Finance of Sierra Leone. Speakers agreed that the ATI played and continues to play a crucial role in strengthening tax systems in general and domestic revenue mobilisation in particular, which is seen as the single most important source of revenue to finance sustainable development. Building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, "we must join forces [...] to build tax systems that strengthen resilience" in times of crises, emphasised Per OLSSON FRIDH, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden.

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