

Africa Tax  
Administration  
Forum





**The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) was inspired by the deliberations at the “International Conference on Taxation, State building and Capacity Development in Africa” held in Pretoria, South Africa from 28 - 29 August 2008.**

**Commissioners, Senior Tax Administrators and Policy Makers from 28 African countries resolved to work towards the establishment of ATAF.**

# Background



The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) is a platform to promote and facilitate mutual cooperation among African Tax Administrations and other relevant and interested stakeholders with the aim of improving the efficacy of their tax legislation and administrations.

The Forum brings together Heads of African Tax Administrations and their representatives to discuss the progress made, challenges faced and possible new direction for African tax policy and administration in the 21st Century.

Work towards state building, governance, political economy and revenue mobilization.

The ATAF is an African programme reflecting African needs and strategies. The work and programme priorities of the Forum will be driven and managed by African countries, with the support of donor agencies, other tax administrations and international organisations.

# Objectives



- **Promotion of economic development, good governance and accountability;**
- **Domestic Resource Mobilisation;**
- **Culture of professionalism and mutual support;**
- **Mutual cooperation and increase the level of voluntary tax compliance;**
- **Combating tax evasion and avoidance;**
- **Implementation of African tax strategies;**
- **Capacity development aimed at strengthening tax administrations.**

# Establishment of ATAF



- laying a strong basis for a new approach to *African taxation, state building and capacity development*;
- establish and develop *bilateral and continental networks* to regularly exchange ideas on the lessons learned and good practice on all issues of taxation;
- examine ways to *improve systems and mechanisms* in African tax administrations through the sharing of experiences and developing relevant best practices;
- engage in an *ongoing dialogue* with their counterparts from OECD countries, other multi-lateral organisations and other relevant organisations on sustainable partnerships in support and development of African tax administrations, systems and institutional capacity; and
- ensure *greater synergy* and cooperation in capacity development among all relevant stakeholders in order to reduce duplication and give greater support to African Tax Administrations.

# Membership



**Membership of the ATAF will be open to all African countries wishing to work towards the above objectives, following a written indication of accession and accepting the abiding rules and regulations. Collaborating administrations and multilateral organisations may be granted “Associate” status.**

# Roadmap 2009



## 1ST ATAF STEERING GROUP MTG - CAPE TOWN

Discuss & agree on ATAF Founding documents:

- Constitution
- By laws

Discuss and give direction to the ATAF Roadmap – for 2009 & beyond

Consider & discuss the presentation on The State of Tax Policy & Administration in Africa

7 – 8  
February 09

## OECD ADV GRP MTG - 2ND TECH TASK TEAM MOROCCO

Examine the draft document for the establishment of ATAF (Rules of Procedure)

Proposal for increase of membership

30 March –  
1 April 09

## 2<sup>ND</sup> STEERING GROUP MTG GHANA

Finalise Founding documents:

- Agreement
- Rules and Procedures

Review of Communication/Marketing Strategy/ ATAF News Letter

ATAF Interim Secretariat Activities

18 - 19 June  
09

## RESEARCH ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN TAX POLICY & SYSTEMS

Analysis of current State of Tax Policies & Systems

Develop a Framework African Tax Model

Obtain funding for research

June – Sept  
09

# Roadmap 2009



## 1<sup>ST</sup> ATAF TECHNICAL EVENT UGANDA

Topic: Implementation of Transfer Pricing  
East/West & Central Africa

21 – 23  
July 09

## 3<sup>RD</sup> ATAF STEERING GROUP AND TECHNICAL TASK TEAM MTG NIGERIA

Presentation of final Founding documents for endorsement  
Presentation of Research Paper on Analysis of African Policies & Systems  
Presentation of Arrangements for the Inauguration of ATAF for consideration & guidance

11 – 13  
August 09

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ATAF TECH EVENT BOTSWANA

Topic: Taxation of Natural Resources

12 -14  
Oct 09

## 3<sup>rd</sup> ATAF TECHNICAL EVENT (ADB & ATAF)

Topic: International Seminar on the Mobilisation of Domestic Resources in Eastern Africa

Nov 09

# Roadmap 2009

ATAF



## ATAF LAUNCH

Where: TBC

Theme: African Tax Administration in the Aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis

19 - 20 Nov  
09

## 4<sup>th</sup> ATAF TECHNICAL EVENT

Topic: Financial Markets

Hosted by OECD Multilateral Tax Centre, Vienna, Austria

Dec 09

## 1<sup>st</sup> ATAF GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Handover of ATAF

1<sup>st</sup> ATAF Dialog: Taxation and Governance

Theme: Success Factors in the Modernisation of Tax Administrations

April 2010

# Status



- **African Tax Conference (South Africa 28 - 29 Aug 08)**
- **Establishment of ATAF Steering Group**
- **Establishment of Tech Task Team**
- **Appointment of SARS as interim secretariat**
- **2009 Roadmap**
- **Development of founding documents – constitutions, rules and procedures, etc**
- **Launch of ATAF November 2009**

# Challenges



- Mobilise membership
- Access – International Fora – promote ATAF
- Communication among development partners and other international groupings.

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**Thank you**