



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 21, 2020

[Health versus Wealth?](#)

[Tax and Transparency in the Age of COVID-19](#)

Thursday 28th May 2020, 13:00 – 15:30 Coordinated Universal Time (UCT)

Lima 8 AM, Washington DC 9 AM, Buenos Aires 10 AM, London 2 PM, Brussels 3 PM, Nairobi 4 PM, New Delhi 6.30 PM, Manila 9 PM.

Press conference to follow on priorities for tax and transparency reform during COVID-19

[Reporters register here to participate in the event](#)

[Or here for Press Conference live questions](#)

(press conference commencing 15:40 UCT)

This event, jointly organized by The Financial Transparency Coalition (FTC), The Independent Commission for Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT), Oxfam and Public Services International (PSI) will focus on identifying and interrogating actions that have the greatest potential for immediate impact as well as avoiding the risk of poor policy decisions undermining the capacity of governments to manage the crisis. Experts from across the globe will discuss options for action.

The full global economic costs of the COVID-19 crisis are yet to be known, but estimates already run into the trillions of dollars. Over a billion workers are at high risk of unemployment, mostly in low-paid jobs, where a sudden loss of income is devastating. Additionally, the needs of the Global South are often overlooked in crisis discussions and yet, they represent some of the world's most vulnerable populations. The perspectives and needs of the Global South must be heard and incorporated into the policy responses to the pandemic.

Amidst an unprecedented global health and economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, policymakers are grappling with enormous resource challenges now looming over the global economy. Meeting these challenges will mean taking actions that might have previously been considered impossible. The COVID-19 crisis will be, above all, a test of leadership, as citizens wait to see how their governments will respond, and whose interests they will put first.

A host of policy proposals are already in play across the globe, some previously under discussion and some previously unthinkable. Many of these proposals seek to increase government income from those with the greatest means, to capture elusive hidden wealth and to recover windfall revenues from corporations profiting from the crisis and longer term advances in technology.



CONFERENCE AGENDA (All time in UCT)

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| 12.45 – 13.00 | Voices on Health vs. Wealth: Video Broadcasts with Partners |
| 13.00 – 13.05 | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sargon Nissan, Director, Financial Transparency Coalition (FTC)● Susana Ruiz, Oxfam and Co-Chair of The Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT) |
| 13.05 – 13.15 | Keynote remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Jayati Ghosh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, ICRICT● Rosa Pavanelli, Public Services International (PSI) |
| 13.15 – 14.00 | Panel: Increasing domestic revenue mobilization from corporate taxation <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Logan Wort, African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF)● Allison Christians, McGill University● Wayne Swan, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and ICRICT Commissioner● Rajat Bansal, Department of Revenue, India Moderated by Severine Picard , Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD |
| 14.00 – 14.45 | Panel: Revenue-raising from wealth & ensuring it reaches intended beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Susan Rose-Ackerman, Yale Law School● Ingrid Woolard, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.● Hakim Hamadi, Global Forum, OECD● Neeti Biyani, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, India Moderated by Amandine Rushenguziminega , Trust Africa |



14-45 –
14.50

Video Case Study: Argentina’s new Beneficial Ownership law

- **Veronica Grondona (TBC)**
Argentine Revenue Authority (AFIP)

14.50 –
15.30

Tax and Transparency in the Age of COVID-19: What have we learned?

- **Alex Cobham**, Tax Justice Network
- **Marilou Uy**, Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24)
- **Samuel Makwe**, Nigeria's Permanent Mission to the United Nations
- **Selected speakers from previous sessions**

15.30 –
15.35

Closing Remarks

- **Daniel Bertossa**, Public Services International

Press Conference: Priorities for tax and transparency reform during COVID-19

- **Sargon Nissan**, Financial Transparency Coalition
- **Susana Ruiz**, Oxfam and Co-Chair, The Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT)
- **Daniel Bertossa**, Public Services International
- **Tommaso Faccio**, Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT)

WHO WE ARE:

Financial Transparency Coalition

The Financial Transparency Coalition ([FTC](#)) is a global civil society network working to curtail illicit financial flows through the promotion of a transparent, accountable and sustainable financial system that works for everyone. Its members are the Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development, the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, Christian Aid, European Network on Debt and Development, Fundación-SES, Global Financial Integrity, Global Witness, Latin American Network on Debt, Development and Rights, Pan-African Lawyers Union, Tax Justice Network, Tax Justice Network Africa, and Transparency International.



The Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation

The Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation ([ICRICT](#)) is a group of leaders from around the world aiming to promote the international corporate tax reform debate through a wider and more inclusive discussion of international tax rules than is possible through any other existing forum; to consider reforms from a perspective of public interest rather than national advantage; and to seek fair, effective and sustainable tax solutions for development.

OXFAM

Oxfam is a global movement of people working together to build a future where everybody enjoys equal rights and has enough to eat every day. Together with their partners, Oxfam is working in more than 90 countries to build this positive future now. They save, protect and rebuild lives in times of crisis, support lasting solutions to poverty, tackle inequality and stand up together to break down the barriers that keep people poor.

Public Services International

Public Services International (PSI) is a global trade union federation representing 20 million working women and men who deliver vital public services in 163 countries. PSI champions human rights, advocates for social justice and promotes universal access to quality public services. PSI works with the United Nations system and in partnership with labour, civil society and other organisations.

SPEAKER BIOS (in order of appearance):

Sargon Nissan is the Director of the Financial Transparency Coalition (FTC). He joined the FTC following a background within civil society allied to extensive policy and advocacy experience, most recently as the IMF and Finance Programme Manager at the Bretton Woods Project hosted by ActionAid. His broad career focusing on various aspects of financial policy and its reform has encompassed the NGO sector, think-tanks such as the New Economics Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme in Syria, having initially begun his career in the City of London. Mr. Nissan's finance policy expertise is underpinned by his many years of engagement in multiple international civil society advocacy networks.

Susana Ruiz is the Tax Justice Policy Lead at Oxfam International. Previously, she coordinated the Fiscal Justice Oxfam's Campaign in Latin America, after working on tax policies within the Campaign and Citizenship Department of Oxfam Intermón in Spain. She regularly participates on Oxfam's behalf in dialogue and advocacy spaces with the G20, the OECD, the IMF and the EU, as well as other regional bodies. She has authored and co-authored several reports on inequality, international taxation and the fiscal responsibility of multinational corporations,

Jayati Ghosh is Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research interests include globalisation, international trade and finance, employment patterns, macroeconomic policy, gender issues, poverty and inequality. She has authored and/or edited a dozen books and more than 180 scholarly articles.

Rosa Pavanelli is General Secretary of the global union federation Public Services International. She was elected at PSI's World Congress in November 2012 and was re-elected for a second mandate in November 2017. In March 2016, Rosa was nominated as Commissioner on the UN Secretary-General's High-Level



Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth (UN ComHEEG), representing the trade union movement, health workers and public services. Rosa is also a member of the United Nations High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters and of the Cornell University International Labour Relations Worker Institute Advisory Council.

Logan Wort is the Executive Secretary of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), an African inter-governmental organisation leading tax administration reform which facilitates cooperation among tax administrations in mobilising greater domestic resources and improving their effectiveness and efficiency.

Allison Christians is Associate Dean (Research) and the H. Heward Stikeman Chair in the Law of Taxation at the McGill University Faculty of Law. Her research and teaching focus on national and international tax law and policy issues, with emphasis on the relationship between taxation and economic development and on the role of government and non-government institutions and actors in the creation of tax policy norms.

Wayne Swan served as the Treasurer of Australia for nearly six years, including three years as Deputy Prime Minister. Mr. Swan was re-elected for the eighth time in 2016 as the Federal Member for Lilley and has held senior economic roles in the Australian Labor Party since 1993. He was awarded Euromoney Finance Minister of the Year in 2011 for his 'careful stewardship of Australia's finances and economic performance' during the global financial crisis.

Rajat Bansal is the Joint Secretary (Foreign Tax and Tax Research), Central Board of Direct Taxes, Government of India and Competent Authority for treaty negotiations, MAP/APA and exchange of information with countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America as well as Australia. His previous positions include Commissioner of Income Tax and Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals), Government of India. Mr. Bansal has a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, a Master's Degree in Business Administration, University of Delhi and a PG Diploma in Development Studies from Institute of Developing Economies Advanced School, Tokyo, Japan.

Séverine Picard works as Senior Policy Advisor at the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD. She has expertise on corporate governance, trade, investment, competition, tax, regulatory policy and finance.

Susan Rose-Ackerman is Henry R. Luce Professor Emeritus of Law and Political Science and Professorial Lecturer in Law, Yale University. She has published widely in the fields of law, economics, and public policy, and she has edited nine books on aspects of corruption and administrative law. She is also a member of the United Nations FACTI Panel.

Ingrid Woolard is Professor of Economics at Stellenbosch University and Honorary Professor of Economics at the University of Cape Town. Her research interests include the measurement of poverty and inequality, unemployment, social protection and fiscal policy. She is a Research Affiliate at the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) in Helsinki, the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) in Bonn and the Commitment to Equity Institute in Tulane. From 2008 to 2014, she served on the Employment Conditions Commission which advises the South African Minister of Labour on making sectoral determinations concerning working conditions and minimum wages in sectors where collective bargaining is weak. Since 2013 she has served on the Davis Tax Committee which has advised five consecutive South African Ministers of Finance on tax reform in support of inclusive growth.



Hakim Hamad is the Head of the Technical Assistance Unit at Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD

Neeti Biyani works with the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability on issues of tax and development, tax justice, illicit financial flows and financial transparency. She advocates with national governments and regional institutions in Asia on these issues. She also coordinates a network of Asian civil society organizations and experts leading diverse developmental campaigns and taxation. She has previously worked on electoral reforms in India with a wide range of stakeholders, including national oversight institutions. She has a background in International Politics from School of Oriental and African Studies.

Amandine Rushenguziminega works in TrustAfrica as the Program Associate with the International Criminal Justice (ICJ) Fund for Africa and the Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) Program. She is a passionate political scientist and human rights activist with a track record of working with African CSOs, international NGOs, justice institutions, and with the East African Community (EAC) and the African Union (AU). Amandine is experienced in policy research, advocacy work and project management and implementation on human rights, good governance and peace and security.

Marilou Uy is Director of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24). Prior to that, she was the Senior Adviser to the Managing Director at the World Bank. While at the World Bank, she also served as Sector Director for the Africa Financial and Private Sector Development Department from 2007 to 2011 and Director of the Financial Sector Operations and Policy Department in the Financial Sector Vice-Presidency as well as Chair of the Financial Sector Board from 2002 to 2007.

Alex Cobham is the Director of the Tax Justice Network. He is a development economist and a visiting fellow at King's College London IDI. Over the last fifteen years, Mr. Cobham has held various policy and research posts, including as a research fellow at the Center for Global Development, as chief policy adviser at Christian Aid and head of research at Save the Children (UK), and at Oxford as a junior economics fellow at St Anne's college and as a researcher at Queen Elizabeth House.

Samuel Victor Makwe is Counsellor at Nigeria's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Daniel Bertossa is Assistant General Secretary at PSI where he manages policy, advocacy and governance. He leads PSI's economic policy work in trade, tax, debt and the future of quality public services. He is currently the co-chair of the steering committee of the Independent Commission on Reform of International Corporate Tax (ICRICT). He has worked as an organiser and national officer for unions in Australia and the UK covering local government and municipal workers, health and social services, education and private sector service workers, where he led multiple campaigns for better pay and job security, and against outsourcing and precarious work.

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