



Ibrahim Governance Weekend (1- 3 June 2025)

Africa-Europe Foundation & Tax Justice Network Africa

Roundtable Meeting on Co-driving
Tax Cooperation with South Africa's
G20 Presidency

OPEN ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

PROGRAMME

1 June 2025

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Room Fes 1
Palais des Congrès
Marrakech, Morocco

Open to all IGW participants



1 JUNE 2025

Session Background



As global efforts to reform international tax and financial governance accelerate, Africa's leadership and voice have never been more critical. The 2025 G20 Presidency of South Africa presents a pivotal opportunity to elevate African priorities on the global stage championing reforms that unlock domestic resource mobilisation (DRM), curb illicit financial flows (IFFs), and support the creation of equitable global tax and debt frameworks. These reforms are essential to closing financing gaps and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This roundtable takes place at a particularly meaningful moment marking ten years since the landmark Mbeki Report on IFFs from Africa. It offers a timely platform to reflect on the continent's progress in addressing IFFs and to chart a forward-looking agenda for stronger, more equitable global tax cooperation.

A major constraint facing many African countries is the high cost of debt servicing, which diverts critical public resources away from development investments and undermines efforts to strengthen DRM. With rising interest rates and limited access to concessional financing, African governments are increasingly burdened by unsustainable debt levels. This fiscal pressure not only limits their ability to invest in tax administration and compliance systems but also weakens their negotiating power in global tax forums.

Addressing debt sustainability is therefore inseparable from the broader agenda of tax justice and financial reform.

Convened in collaboration with South Africa's National Treasury, the Tax Justice Network, the Africa-Europe Working Group on IFFs, and other strategic partners, the session will bring together African and European leaders for a frank and forward-looking exchange. Participants will explore how to align Africa's development needs with global tax reform, foster high-impact partnerships, and build a lasting legacy through South Africa's G20 Presidency and upcoming international milestones, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and the AU-EU Summit.

The dialogue will also examine how Europe and global institutions can support Africa's ambitions through mechanisms such as the OECD Inclusive Framework, innovative climate financing frameworks and the emerging UN Convention on International Tax Cooperation, ensuring that Africa is not only at the table but shaping the rules of the game.



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Agenda



9.00 – 9.10

Opening Remarks – IFF Working Group Co-Chairs and Tax Justice Network Africa

Welcome and context setting by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) IFF working group co-chairs and Tax Justice Network Africa - Adeyemi Dipeolu, Pascal Saint-Amans and Chenai Mukumba

9.10 – 9.20

Keynote Reflections – H.E Nardos Bekele-Thomas

- The role of Africa in shaping global tax governance and financial reforms
- Reflections on the 10-year anniversary of the Report of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa 'the Mbeki Report'.

9.20 – 10.00

Strategic Priorities for Africa in Global financial reforms *Facilitated by Chenai Mukumba*

Guided by the following Questions:

Debt Reform for Sustainable Development

What urgent global policy and technical reforms are needed to manage Africa's high debt burdens while safeguarding fiscal space for essential investments especially in development infrastructure, health and climate resilience? How can debt management and restructuring be feasibly approached to free up resources for essential investments?



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G20 Pathways to Feasible DRM Solutions

What politically and technically feasible solutions should the G20, under South Africa's leadership, prioritise and advance to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation in Africa?

Equitable Tax Cooperation and Scalable Financing Innovations

How can African countries effectively implement and benefit from international tax rules, including through the OECD Inclusive Framework and the emerging UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation? What scalable innovative taxation and DRM measures have African countries adopted to reduce dependency on external financing without increasing burdens on vulnerable populations?

Strategic Partnerships and Solutions to Tackle IFFs

How can global financial institutions, bilateral agreements, and AU-EU strategic partnerships strengthen efforts to combat illicit financial flows (IFFs) and expand Africa's domestic revenues? In what ways can these collaborations bolster Africa's resilience and sustain development amid shifting geopolitics and reduced aid?

10.00 – 10.25

Open Roundtable Dialogue

Facilitated by Pascal Saint Amans

10.25 – 10.30

Closing Remarks and call to action

Facilitated by Adeyemi Dipeolu

- Final reflections and commitments
- Invitation to continue the dialogue through AEF and TJNA platforms





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