

6th Meeting of the Punta del Este Declaration

3-4 May 2022, San José, Costa Rica and webinar

Day 1: Tax Transparency in Latin America 2022 launch event

All times are in Costa Rica time (UTC-6, CEST-8)

9:00-09:40

Welcome and introduction

- Practical information
- Welcome remarks by:
 - **Mr Elian Villegas Valverde**, Minister of Finance of Costa Rica
 - **Ms Elizabeth Guerrero Barrantes**, Chair of the Punta del Este Declaration, Vice-Minister of Revenues, Ministry of Finance of Costa Rica
 - **Mr Oscar Orué Ortiz**, Vice-Minister of Taxation, Under Secretariat of State for Taxation of Paraguay, Vice-Chair of the Punta del Este Declaration
 - **Ms Maria José Garde**, Chair of the Global Forum
 - **Ms Zayda Manatta**, Head of Global Forum Secretariat
 - **Mr Francisco Javier Urra**, Chief of Operations at the Costa Rica Country Office, Inter-American Development Bank

9:40-09:50

Latin America and the international tax agenda

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has been at the forefront of the fight against tax evasion for more than twenty years and has played a key role over the past decade to improve the global tax landscape and promote international tax co-operation. The momentum is high on the global political agenda for implementing multilateral solutions.

Addressing the challenges faced by developing countries and emerging economies to join the new global tax agenda is currently a top priority for the OECD. In this session, the Director of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration will provide an overview of the global tax landscape and the role of Latin America in advancing this crucial work.

Presentation:

- **Mr Pascal Saint-Amans**, Director, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD

9:50-10:20**Launch of “Tax Transparency in Latin America 2022: Punta del Este Declaration Progress Report”**

The Tax Transparency in Latin America report is published for the second consecutive year. The report, a key output of the Punta del Este Declaration Initiative, aims to show the countries’ progress in the last year and to guide the future work of the Declaration. Tax Transparency in Latin America 2022 outlines improvements on the baseline and complementary actions of the Punta del Este Declaration during 2021: (i) raising political awareness and commitment, (ii) strengthening tax administrations and developing capacities, (iii) broadening of exchange information (EOI) networks, (iv) increasing use of EOI, and (v) advancing on the wider use of treaty-exchanged information.

This session will present the report’s key findings and will offer an overview of the progress made by Latin American countries until 2021.

Presentation:

- **Ms Zayda Manatta**, Head of the Global Forum Secretariat

10:20-10:35 – Coffee break**10:35-11:25****Building sustainable capacities for tax transparency**

The results of the TTiLA 2022 report indicate that Latin American countries are generally building solid EOI infrastructures, which has led to some of them advancing the use of exchange of information on request (EOIR) and information received under the automatic exchange of financial account information (AEOI) standard. However, progress in the region is uneven and capacities in EOI can still be improved, particularly among tax auditors who are the actors initiating EOIR. Sustainable capacity building on EOI matters will therefore be one of the focus of attention of the Punta del Este Declaration work in the next years.

During this session, speakers will share views, experiences and initiatives on how to build awareness and effective competences so that tax administrations are able to use the EOI tools to support tax audits and other compliance activities.

Speakers:

- **Ms Agnes Rojas**, Tax Policy Advisor, Global Forum Secretariat
- **Mr Gonzalo Arias Esteban**, Cooperation and International Tax Director, Inter-American Centre for Tax Administrations
- **Mr Jorge Coronado**, Costa Rica Office Representative, Latin American Network for Economic and Social Justice
- **Mr Oscar Orué Ortiz**, Vice-Minister of Taxation, Under Secretariat of State for Taxation of Paraguay, Vice-Chair of the Punta del Este Declaration

Moderator:

- **Mr Carlos Vargas**, Director General for Taxation, Ministry of Finance of Costa Rica

11:25-12:25

Building effective beneficial ownership frameworks in Latin America

Countries in the region are advancing in the implementation of the beneficial ownership standard and are moving to a multi-pronged approach for the availability of beneficial ownership information – with increased reliance on central registers – yet they continue to face challenges at the political, technical and implementation levels. To move forward, countries still need to work on raising awareness as to the importance of the beneficial ownership requirement, set legislation that provides for an appropriate beneficial ownership framework, including a solid compliance framework, and devote proper financial and technical resources.

This session will present recent work published by the Global Forum and the Inter-American Development Bank on the different approaches available to jurisdictions to ensure the availability of beneficial ownership information. Recent updates by the Financial Action Task Force, which strengthen beneficial ownership requirements, will also be presented, together with the views from the World Bank Group and the Tax Justice Network on the recent developments on beneficial ownership, and a recent country experience in implementing a central register of beneficial owners.

Speakers:

- **Mr Roberto de Michele**, Chief of the Innovation in Citizen Services Division, Inter-American Development Bank
- **Mr Tom Neylan**, Head of the Risk and Policy Unit, Financial Action Task Force
- **Ms Yara Esquivel**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank Group
- **Mr Lisandro Junco Rivera**, Director General, National Directorate of Taxes and Customs of Colombia
- **Mr Andrés Knobel**, Lead Researcher, Tax Justice Network

Moderator:

- **Mr Will Fitzgibbon**, Senior Reporter, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

12:25-12:40 – Break

12:40-13:10

Press conference

On-site press conference (open to accredited media only).

Participants:

- **Ms Elizabeth Guerrero Barrantes**, Chair of the Punta del Este Declaration, Vice-Minister of Revenues, Ministry of Finance of Costa Rica
- **Mr Oscar Orué Ortiz**, Vice-Minister of Taxation, Under Secretariat of State for Taxation of Paraguay, Vice-Chair of the Punta del Este Declaration
- **Ms Zayda Manatta**, Head of Global Forum Secretariat