

**Special Meeting
on International Cooperation in Tax Matters**

India's Intervention

**By
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ECOSOC Chamber

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Thank you Madam President for giving me the floor,

We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the members of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters for their extensive work including their meeting last week. I would also like to thank the President of ECOSOC for organizing this interactive meeting of the committee with the member states.

From the presentations made by the panelists this morning, one appreciates the important contributions made by the committee in developing important tools and guidelines as to how countries can work together on tax issues.

Madam President,

Tax revenue is the most important means for the developing countries for mobilizing resources for meeting the ambitious targets of 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the tenure of the current membership of the committee, we look forward to its engagement with important issues of international cooperation in Tax matters resulting in enhancing domestic resource mobilization and enabling the achievement of SDGs.

In this regard, in addition to its major tasks at hand like the UN Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, and the mutual agreement procedure for dispute avoidance and resolution; the Transfer Pricing Manual; the Extractive Industries Handbook; the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties etc, the Committee should specially focus on the issue that is going to impact the developing countries the most i.e. tax consequences of the digitalized economy on the achievement of SDGs .

Madam President,

The increasingly globalised nature of business in today's interconnected world coupled with the absence of a taxable physical presence of the companies requires tax policies with a perspective beyond national borders. More importantly, it requires international Cooperation and strengthening of institutional arrangements. We are sure that there won't be any divergent views on the need for equitable sharing of tax revenue on cross-border transactions.

While the work done by the committee for greater information exchange and capacity building is good, it cannot be a substitute for genuine and equitable multilateralism in deciding global norms and standards on taxation.

We believe that implementation of a truly universal agenda would need a platform where all countries have equal voice on the issues related to international taxation. An intergovernmental body with universal membership is essential for more effective implementation of tax standards and norms and for the effective implementation of the 2030 agenda. UN is the only forum which can provide this platform for open, transparent and inclusive processes to safeguard the interest of all its members.

Madam President,

While we continue advocating for up gradation of the committee into an intergovernmental body with universal membership, India has also tried to ensure that the committee in its current form is well resourced to better organize its work and support the travel of members from developing countries for attending its sub-committee's meetings.

In response to this call of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, India has contributed to the trust fund of the committee in last the two years and is still the only country that has contributed so far.

As the committee is better resourced and has the increased representation from the developing countries in its sub-committee meetings, we look forward to continuation of its excellent work and taking up new and emerging issues in this important area of work.

I thank you.