



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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1. MESSAGE FROM THE ATAF CHAIRMAN



The past year has seen important developments in the global tax arena that will have a significant impact on the way tax policy is crafted and taxes are administered in the years to come, for both developed and developing countries.

In only its sixth year of existence, the African Tax Administration Forum has already made its mark and ensured that the African voice on tax matters is well-presented and articulated on the global stage. Moreover, the organisation has represented African interests and those of its members with distinction, particularly during the OECD-led Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan process. With agreement having been reached toward the end of 2015 on the Action Plan, it is now important to again collectively tackle the issue of how this can be translated into concrete and workable implementation plans and how the respective toolkits to effectively assist developing countries in particular can be developed.

ATAF has developed into an international pan-African organisation that is providing its members with the most up-to-date capacity building activities, technical guidance and creative platforms for discussions at a continental level. The activities portrayed in this Annual Report reflect a busy 2015, both in the international arena as well as those geared towards building tax administrations according to their own specific needs and circumstances.

Beyond the BEPS process, international developments significant for the African work on Domestic Resource Mobilisation were the outcomes of the 3rd Financing for Development Conference held in Addis Ababa, the establishment of the Addis Tax Initiative, the follow-up to the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows, and our deeper engagements and collaboration with a host of international organisations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

I am also particularly pleased at the strides we have made in 2015 in the research and academic spheres with the hosting of the inaugural meeting of the African Tax Research Network and the extension of the Executive Masters in Tax programme to Francophone countries. Both these initiatives, and others in this arena, emphasises the fact that not only is ATAF increasing the breadth of its activities it is also ensuring that we create a depth of tax expertise on our continent that will stand us in good stead for many years to come.

The need to bolster tax administrations across Africa is underlined by the fact that economic growth on the continent is receding from the highs experienced for the past number of years. This makes it imperative that we improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our tax policy and administration.

ATAF is committed to continuing with vigour and determination to build an even stronger organisation that is able to meet the needs of its members in building capacity and

capability, strengthening tax administration and improving governance across the African continent.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the ATAF Council and its various committees, as well as the Executive Secretary and staff of the ATAF Secretariat for their support and valuable work over the course of the year. Our gratitude and appreciation also go to our host country and development partners for both their technical and financial support.

Commissioner-General Gershem T. Pasi
ATAF Chairman