

## **The Place Of Africa In The Shift Towards Global Tax Governance:**

Can the taxation of the digitalised  
economy be an opportunity for more  
inclusiveness?

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**AFRICAN TAX ADMINISTRATION FORUM PAPER**



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## ABSTRACT

The paper provides an overview of the current international tax governance landscape and inroads towards inclusiveness. It argues that although the governance process is transparent, efforts to establish a true international tax governance through the Inclusive Framework for BEPS Implementation (IF) are foiled by challenges hampering African countries to participate on an “equal footing.” It posits that setting international standards in the relatively new field of the taxation of the digitalized economy would be a natural test of a successful implementation of a framework in which international tax governance is conducted on an expanded multilateral basis, away from a “club structure” type of governance where initiatives are carried out and standards are set by a selected few, to an extended multilateral tax governance structure characterized by a broader distribution of leadership roles and responsibilities. Only such a structure would be seen by developing countries, and African countries in particular, as a driving force for increasing participation, inclusiveness and implementation of international tax reforms.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>AEOI:</b>	Automatic exchange of financial account information
<b>AfDB:</b>	African Development Bank
<b>ATAF:</b>	African Tax Administration Forum
<b>ATAF CBT TC:</b>	ATAF Cross Border Taxation Technical Committee
<b>ATAIC:</b>	Association of Tax Authorities of Islamic Countries
<b>AU:</b>	African Union
<b>BEPS:</b>	Base erosion and profit shifting
<b>BO:</b>	Beneficial Ownership
<b>CATA:</b>	Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators
<b>CREDAF:</b>	Centre de rencontre des administrations fiscales
<b>CFA:</b>	OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs
<b>CIAT:</b>	Centro Interamericano de Administraciones Tributarias
<b>COTA:</b>	Caribbean Organization of Tax Administrators
<b>DRM:</b>	Domestic resource mobilization
<b>ECOSOC:</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Council
<b>EU:</b>	European Union
<b>EOI:</b>	exchange of information
<b>EOIR:</b>	Exchange of information on request
<b>FfD:</b>	Financing for Development
<b>Global Forum:</b>	Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes
<b>ICT:</b>	Information and communications technology
<b>IF:</b>	Inclusive Framework for BEPS Implementation
<b>IFFs:</b>	Illicit financial flows
<b>IOTA:</b>	Intra-European Organization of Tax Administrations
<b>IMF:</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>MAC:</b>	Convention on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters
<b>MNEs:</b>	Multinational enterprises
<b>M-Pesa:</b>	Kenyan mobile money system
<b>NTO:</b>	Network of Tax Organizations
<b>OECD:</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>PCT:</b>	Platform for Collaboration on Tax
<b>RTO:</b>	Regional Tax Organizations
<b>TPGs:</b>	Transfer Pricing Guidelines
<b>UN Tax Committee:</b>	United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
<b>UNECA:</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>WATAF:</b>	West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF)