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## **“Fair Taxation and Curbing Illicit Financial Flows to Finance the SDGs: Making Tax Fair to Achieve Dignity for All”**

**Thursday, January 29, 2015**

**1:15pm-2:30pm**

**Conference Room 2**

**UN Conference Building, UN Headquarters**

**46<sup>th</sup> St. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., New York, NY 10017**

### ***DRAFT PROGRAM***

#### **Panelists**

**Dr. Lenni Montiel**, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN DESA

**H.E. Ambassador Staffan Tillander**, Special Envoy for Financing for Development, Sweden

**Dr. Sheldon Moulton**, Director of Economic Development, Dept of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa

**Dr. Oscar Ugarteche**, Senior Economic Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas UNAM (Mexico/Peru)

**Mr. Matthew Martin**, Director of Development Finance International

#### **Moderator**

**Ms. Tove Maria Ryding**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Eurodad

For every \$1 developing countries have earned since 2008, they have lost more than \$2 in outflows, [according to NGOs](#). This amount is greater than the combined total of foreign direct investment (FDI) and net official development assistance (ODA), which developing and emerging economies received in 2012. A [recent study](#) showed that these economies lost US\$6.6 trillion in illicit financial flows from 2003 through 2012, with a staggering amount of US\$991.2 billion just for the year 2012.

Tax avoidance by large companies represents the major part of illicit financial flows and needs to be urgently addressed by all countries, advanced and developing economies. The problems with the international tax system, however, go beyond illicit financial flows and tax avoidance by large companies. Lack of effective international cooperation on tax matters means that the world is now locked in a “race to the bottom” on tax. As UNCTAD recently described, “the current globalized economy encourages tax competition among countries and the international tax architecture has failed, so far, to properly adapt to this reality, thereby allowing a massive hemorrhaging of public revenues.”

The [UNSG’s Synthesis Report](#) recognizes the harm of the current gaps in governance of the international tax system and to the future of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report includes the call for creating an intergovernmental body on tax matters, to ensure a forum where all countries could participate on an equal footing and agree on global and inclusive tax reforms. The Financing for Development (FfD) discussions have also seen several countries addressing the pressing issues in the international tax system.

Join us for a conversation that will discuss the following:

- What barriers and gaps in the international tax system most affect revenue raising potential in developing countries? How does the current international tax system help or hinder developing countries to reach SDGs?
- At this early stage of FfD negotiations, what are the opportunities to enhance the fight against illicit financial flows in and tax avoidance? What are different countries proposing?
- What about the harm of tax competition between countries, especially on the poorest countries?
- What would be the impact of creating an intergovernmental body on tax matters? What could it change and what are the main arguments in favour for and against this proposal?
- What space should be granted for particular discussions on tax issues during the Addis Ababa conference?



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