

## **The Multi-Stakeholder Initiative on Tax and Good Governance in Africa**

### **High-Level Conference**

**21 – 23 February 2018**

**Vienna, Austria**

**Hosted by the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law at WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, organised in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the support of the World Bank**

### **“High Net-Worth Individuals: The Challenge They Pose for Tax Administrations, FIUs and Law Enforcement Agencies”**

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past six months we have held two very successful meetings – Abuja in April 2017 and, most recently, Accra in July 2017. We are pleased to see the enthusiasm on the part of African governments, business, and civil society to continue this dialogue, as it has been reflected in both communiques issued after the Abuja and the Accra meetings. As anticipated, the next high-level conference will take place in Vienna from 21 - 23 February 2018. This meeting will provide an opportunity to undertake a stocktake of what has been achieved over the three-year program to date, and consider how it can be adapted to the rapidly changing economic environment to better meet the needs of competent authorities in Africa.

We would also like to suggest that the main focus should be the issue of how to deal with high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) who engage in tax evasion, money laundering and other financial crimes. This would enable us to discuss how to improve mechanisms of HNWI compliance, including compulsory means, as well as the design of voluntary compliance programs, which the experience of non-African countries has shown can be effective in helping the HNWI to regularise their affairs. The meeting will also take a fresh look at the potential for new technologies to assist in the design and implementation of registries of beneficial ownership, building on the discussion we had at the Abuja meeting.

The meeting will be split into two parts, with the Wednesday afternoon session limited to government officials and representatives from international organisations, while the Thursday and Friday sessions will provide an open forum for dialogue between government, business, and advisors to high-net-worth individuals. We would be delighted if you could join us for the open forums on Thursday 22 February and Friday 23 February. As with previous events, we anticipate high-level representation from relevant agencies and organisations, generally at the Deputy- and Commissioner level and their equivalents.

We are attaching a provisional agenda and would welcome comments on the issues as well as suggestions for speakers.

A logistics document with detailed information regarding the venue, accommodation options, social events, etc. is also attached.

It would be very helpful if you could confirm if you/your colleagues are able to attend by completing the attached registration form and returning it to Romina Mattassini de Hill (Romina.Mattassini@wu.ac.at) by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Vienna, which at that time of year will give you the opportunity to come to a snow-clad city.

Yours sincerely,

Jeffrey Owens & Rick McDonell

Co-Directors

Tax and Good Governance Project

WU Global Tax Policy Center (GTPC)

Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law

Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)