

Agenda

Conference on ‘Tax and the Investment Climate in Africa

February 26th & 27th Zambezi Sun Hotel, Livingstone, Zambia

Monday 26th February

- 8.30am *Official Welcome and Opening* by Wisdom M. Nhekairo, Acting Commissioner General, Zambia Revenue Authority.
- 8.40am *"Why does tax matter? Expectations for the Conference"*.
Max Everest-Phillips, Senior Governance Adviser, DFID, UK
- 9.00am *Tax and the Investment Climate. Setting the Stage for New Solutions to Old Tax Problems:* Richard Stern, Regional Program Coordinator for Africa, FIAS.

Response and Q&A led by Dr. Raymond Kamara, Director of Research, National Revenue Authority, Sierra Leone.
- 9.45am *What the METR results tell us about the impact of taxes and tax policy in Africa on the decision to invest:* Professor Ken McKenzie, University of Calgary.

Response and Q&A led by Ms. M. Matsela, Senior Economist, Lesotho Revenue Authority.
- 10.30am Coffee / tea break.
- 11.00am *Sector Issues:* Moderator and discussant: Mr. Allieu Sesay, West African Monetary Institute, ECOWAS.
- Paul Barbour – Agriculture
- Charles Krakoff – Mining
- Rina Oberai – Manufacturing
- Charles Krakoff – Financial Services
- Wayne Troughton – Tourism
- 12.00am *VAT: Why the private sector complain so much, and what we may be able to do about it.* Introduction, Chair, and Q&A moderated by Mr. David Child, Tax Consultant to the Africa Investment Climate Facility.

Panel:
- Ms Jyoti Mistry, PWC, Zambia
- Mr. Bumbakare P. Celestin, Commissioner for Domestic Taxes, Rwanda Revenue Authority.
- Mr. Yusuf Dodia, Zambia Private Sector Development Association
- 1pm Lunch
- 2pm *Small Business & Informality: Brief Introduction to the challenges and opportunities:*
Rina Oberai
- 2.10pm Break-out groups. *Design the perfect small business regime.*

- 2.40pm Presentation and discussion of recommendations.
- 3.30pm Coffee / tea break
- 4.00pm *Tax Compliance Costs for SMEs: Panel Discussion & Q&A.*
 Panel Chair: Luke Kirsten (South Africa Revenue Service, Senior Specialist – Small Business)
- Panel:
- Jackie Coolidge, Senior Investment Policy Officer, FIAS, the World Bank.
 - Jacqueline Kobusingye, Commissioner of Domestic Taxes, Uganda Revenue Authority.
 - Andrei Miknev, Small Business Sector Development Specialist, The World Bank.

- 5.30pm *Close: Key takeaways from Day 1 and identification of key issues for further work.*
 Mr. Berlin Msiska: Former Commissioner General, Zambia Revenue Authority.

Tuesday 27th February: Pressing Issues for Future Work

- 7.30am *Is there a disconnect between tax policy and tax administration? Views from the front line(s): Panel Discussion and Q&A.*

Panel Chair: Maureen Kidd, Outside Tax Expert

- The Ministry of Finance View: Ms. Margaret Olowu, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nigeria
- The Revenue Authority View: Mr. Micheal Waweru, Commissioner General, Kenya Revenue Authority.
- The IMF View: Mr. Alain Jousten, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF.
- The Private Sector View: Mr. Babbar Dev, President Manufacturer Association of Zambia

- 9.00am *Do Revenue Authorities as institutions have the correct incentives to promote private investment and raise necessary revenue? Panel Discussion inc Q&A*

Panel Chair and Q&A Moderator: Dr. Charles Jenkins, Commissioner General, Lesotho Revenue Authority.

Panel

- Dr. Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, Research Director, Chr. Michelsen Institute;
- Dr. John Karimu, Commissioner General, National Revenue Authority, Sierra Leone
- Max Everest-Phillips, Governance Adviser, Growth & Investment Team, DFID
- Mr. Pasi, Commissioner General, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority

- 10.40pm *Wrap Up Session: Where do we go from here? Next Steps.*

Discussion led by Mr. Wisdom M. Nhekairo, Acting Commissioner General, Zambia Revenue Authority

Panel:

- Mr. Martin Grote, Chair, SADC Tax Working Group.

- Hugh Scott, Investment Climate Facility for Africa.
- Professor Riel Franszen, Southern Africa Tax Institute.

12pm – 12.15pm

Closing Remarks: Nigel Twose, Africa Program Manager, FIAS, the World Bank Group