



Editorial

Duncan Onduru, Executive Director

The first quarter of 2022 has come with some glimmer of hope. With COVID-19 restrictions being eased somewhat in a number of countries, there is cautious optimism on the horizon. However, the events in Ukraine have led to the global economic growth focus being revised downwards. In spite of these, economic recovery will largely depend on how effectively individual countries mobilize their internal resources using, among other tools, prudent fiscal policies.

During the pandemic, tax administrations took over additional new roles of managing stimulus packages (employment support programmes, cash pay-outs, loans) and provision of administrative support to facilitate compliance.

Lessons learnt from the pandemic continue to shape the tax landscape in ways not imagined before. The massive deployment of IT has served to catapult far-reaching tax reforms in almost all countries regardless of their level of economic development. These reforms focus on new areas of tax policy considerations as well as developing data-driven tax administrations that facilitate voluntary compliance.

International corporate tax reforms, supported by robust frameworks for the exchange of information, is gathering good momentum, and greater involvement by all countries would be critical if the expected benefits arising therefrom are to trickle down to all. Special attention on indirect taxes, particularly in as far as they have spillovers across borders, would be an indispensable part of the overall reform packages. Another area would be the tax treatment of virtual digital assets that are poised to supplant the fiat currency as an alternative store of value and medium of exchange.

Another policy consideration would be addressing gender biases. It is evident that COVID-19 heavily impacted small and micro enterprises, a sector largely dominated by women. Going forward, there is a need for a deliberate review of tax biases that promote or worsen gender inequality so that these may be comprehensively addressed in the broader tax policy.

In the backdrop of the recently concluded United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), there is a renewed call to consider how tax policy and administration could form part of the potent tools in addressing the existential threat of climate change. Carbon emission (fossil fuel) taxes and other environmental taxes and levies present not only new frontiers for expanding the tax base but more importantly deal with the negative externalities posed by the production and/or consumption of the same.

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News from the Secretariat

(Please click on the headlines to view the full articles on the CATA website)

[CATA co-hosts regional consultations on BEPS](#)

CATA, along with other international tax organisations, partnered with the OECD to host regional consultations on BEPS. The purpose of the meetings was to present an update on the progress made on the development of the rules, instruments, and guidance needed to bring Pillar One and Pillar Two into effect and to also provide an opportunity for feedback to be given.

[Commonwealth Day 2022](#)

Commonwealth Day took place on 14th March this year. Several events were held in London to mark the occasion including a service at Westminster Abbey and a reception at Marlborough House.



[OECD: Digital Transformation Maturity Model](#)



The OECD's Forum on Tax Administration has published a [report](#) on the Digital Transformation Maturity Model. The Digital Transformation Maturity Model is a self-assessment tool for tax administrations to diagnose their current levels of digital maturity and the report contains guidance on how the maturity model can be used.

[Trust as a pillar in tax compliance](#)

The World Bank Group has released a [publication](#) that addresses the importance of building trust as a key plank in enhancing tax compliance among citizens.

News from our members

By CATA Country Correspondents

Canada



[Canada's continued support to Canadian businesses, organizations and workers facing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Canada Revenue Agency shares details of the measures implemented and extended by the Government of Canada to support Canadian businesses and organisations in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Cyprus



[Recent amendments to tax laws](#)

Cyprus has recently introduced two new tax laws. The purpose of the laws is to apply measures against non-cooperative jurisdictions and to close any paths for exploitation of laws.

Malaysia



[The Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia develops a dedicated portal for its retirees to access latest information and available benefits](#)

A portal that provides retirees with the latest information and updates on facilities and benefits available to them has been launched by the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia.

Maldives



[Expansion of Maldives treaty network](#)

This article details how Maldives has strengthened its participation in the international tax arena by expanding its tax treaty network.

Mauritius



[Inauguration of a new building and launch of a commemorative magazine by the Mauritius Revenue Authority](#)

The 26th January 2022 marked a special day for the Mauritius Revenue Authority as the tax administration launched a commemorative magazine to celebrate its 15th anniversary along with the inauguration of the Integrated Customs Clearance Centre.

New Zealand



[Corporate tax governance](#)

New Zealand's Inland Revenue reflects on the importance of tax governance and details the steps the tax administration has undertaken to ensure good tax governance and how its work programme will address areas that need improvement.

From our members' websites

Australia



[New guidelines aim to combat cybercrime](#)

Papua New Guinea



[Payments enabled for all tax types on the myIRC platform](#)

Kenya



[KRA records excellent performance, exceeds target in first half of FY2021/22](#)

Rwanda



[New tax research collaboration and additional SOUTHMOD model for Rwanda](#)

Malawi



[MRA launches Block Management System \(BMS\) in Lilongwe](#)

United Kingdom



[HMRC performance update: solid progress in a year of recovery](#)

Pakistan



[FBR launches an automated currency declaration system](#)



A Spring Sunset in Hampshire, UK. (Gerry Cook).

Best wishes from the CATA Secretariat



Duncan Onduru



Megan Jones



Gerry Cook