

The Fight for African Women Tax Justice Conference

Concept Note

5th and 6th September 2018

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

For the Public Services International (PSI) and its partners, the fight against corporate theft and the call to an end illicit financial flows (IFFs) out of the continent of Africa has a direct relationship with the call for effective public service development and delivery, achievement of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the fight against privatization of public services such as water, health, education and energy. The campaign in the last five years have been to educate and create awareness among staff and members of affiliates, including Society Organizations. This agenda has been pushed through the various regions of PSI across the globe.

As women bears most of the negative impact of inequality, poverty and poor public services, PSI together with its partners organized the first global meeting on tax justice for women's rights in Bogota, Colombia in June 2017. It brought together a community of women, including African women, to discuss issues of tax, human rights and women's role in these matters. The meeting, among other things developed more than 10 recommendations for tax reforms which provide opportunity for leveraging and tackling national, sub-regional and regional tax justice campaigns focused on women. Within the same period, women at the National Tax Justice meeting organized by PSI in Nigeria, proposed the Regional Women's Tax Justice Conference to deal with tax related challenges that are peculiar to women.

It is against this background that PSI in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung African Union Cooperation Office (FES AU) seeks to organize a Regional Women's Tax Justice Conference, which brings together CSOs and PSI affiliates from African countries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It aims at developing recommendations for a gendered tax justice agenda, strategies to ensure these recommendations are carried out by national governments, the AU, other regional and sub-regional bodies, and create a network of CSOs to fight against IFFs with international solidarity.

Generally, the objective is to expand and consolidate the tax justice campaign in the region by strengthening advocates who can contribute to the national and regional tax justice campaigns and pursue a women-specific tax agenda.

Output

1. A joint campaign strategy that will ensure women's role becomes part of the national and regional tax justice agenda.
2. A workshop report including discussions that led to the adoption of the joint campaign strategy, roles of each organization present at the meeting and future steps in building a network of CSOs from African countries. This strategy will consolidate the efforts of the Stop the bleeding campaign.
3. A list of recommendations for a gendered tax justice agenda to the African Union Commission, national governments and RECs.
4. Opportunity to increase significantly, women's level of understanding of tax justice issues.

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased knowledge and awareness among participants of tax justice for women's rights and wider IFF issues.
2. Shared understanding of what the most important women and tax issues in Africa are, and how these can be collectively addressed.
3. Opportunity to network with, and gain support from national and international CSOs to fight against IFFs and promote tax justice for women's rights.

Methodology

The two days' workshop will employ the use of presentations, group work and panel discussions. Each session will be handled by a facilitator and a list of panellists. Each panellist shall have not more than 8mins to make a presentation (it could either be ppt or not) on a selected topic. After each presentation, the facilitator will lead the group to ask some questions and make comments based on what has been presented. The facilitator shall lead the panellists and the audience in developing recommendations for each topic discussed.

There will be five issues/topics for discussions each day. Each session shall take a maximum of one (1) hour for discussions. About two persons shall be dedicated as rapporteurs for the meeting. They will provide recap of activities, which will be the list of recommendations per each of the topic/issue discussed. At the end of the two-day session, the draft campaign strategy will be presented for review and adoption.

Participants

Proposed number of participants are (23), comprised of PSI affiliates in the region and selected CSOs working on tax justice and IFF issues. This number is exclusive of PSI staff and other organizations who may want to finance themselves to participate in the conference. Affiliates will be drawn from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Swaziland and South Africa and each of the country might send up to two participants. Additionally, representatives from CSOs will take part who are drawn from the key partners of PSI, such as GATJ, TJNA, ITUC Africa, Action-aid, Oxfam, SEATINI, ICRICT, FEMNET, UNECA, PALU, AUDEA, BEPS monitoring group.

Date and Venue:

Public Services International (PSI), in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, will host the conference in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** from **September 5 to 6, 2018**.

Budget

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung will be responsible for all expenses related to the conference (flight tickets, accommodation and conference package and visa reimbursement) except for those that can finance themselves.

Contact persons

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