



Dear Participant

REF: INVITATION TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY ROUNDTABLE ON TAX JUSTICE

The link between development and taxation has come up in various fora as development practitioners and activists discussed methods of mobilization domestic resources for financing development in the South especially the need to finance the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The outcome of the 2002 UN Conference on Financing for Development stressed the importance of strengthening the revenue-raising capacity of developing countries. Tax revenues are, on average, lower in developing countries than in rich countries; the average revenue in low income countries was approximately 13% of GDP in 2000. Hence the argument that if developing countries were able to collect sufficient tax revenues, they might be able to increase their independence, the provision of social protection, infrastructure and basic services such as education and health care which are crucial for development.

To contribute to the debate, the Africa Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) in collaboration with the Institute for Democratic Alternative in South Africa (IDASA) and the Tax Justice Network-Africa(TJN-A) are organizing a two day policy round table to be held in Johannesburg – South Africa on the ***14th and 15th of September 2010***. Under the theme, ***Issues and Opportunities for Policy Engagement for Southern Africa*** the policy roundtable will bring together members of Parliament, Researchers, Tax practitioners from the private sector and representatives from relevant government ministries and regional institutions, civil society organisations and tax policy experts from the southern Africa region to deliberate on issues of taxation policy as they relate to the efforts of the region to raise domestic resources to finance their development. The Policy roundtable will provide an opportunity for the various stakeholders to exchange idea and share experiences on best practice and also discuss challenges facing the region and suggest policy changes to address these.

Please indicate by the end of day on 24 August 2010 whether you will be attending. To confirm your participation, please contact Fiona Chipunza, Programme Officer for Economic Governance at fiona@afrodad.co.zw or on cell: +263 912 682200, landline +263-4-778531/6 or direct line +263-4- 2912753.

The organisers are only able to pay economy travel and accommodation costs for participants. We will also give each participant a dinner per diem of US\$30 per night. Each participant is

expected to arrange and pay for their own travel insurance. If you need any clarifications regarding this, please inform Fiona when you confirm your participation.

Further details including confirmation of the venue, a programme and a background note will be sent to you as soon as we have your confirmation.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this important meeting.

Yours sincerely,

We look forward to hear from you.



Dr Fanwell Kenala Bokosi

Policy Advisor: AFRODAD



Alvin Mosioma

Coordinator: TJN-A