

**DECLARATION OF CARTAGENA DE INDIAS  
REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR TAX COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**We**, Ministers responsible for public finances, hereby sign this joint declaration convened in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on July 28, 2023, within the framework of the First Latin America and Caribbean Summit for Global, Inclusive, Sustainable, and Equitable Taxation.

**Recognizing** that joint action by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in tax matters facilitates agility in the exchange of information and reduces tax competition to achieve greater total revenue in the region, enabling us to adequately address the multiple crises facing our countries.

**Affirm** our commitment to generate knowledge, share experiences, contribute to the development of common positions, and propose concrete non-binding solutions to guide ministerial decision-making in addressing the challenges in tax policy in the region.

**Seek** to build, in a participatory and consensus-based manner, an integration space for Ministers of Finance, Economy, and Public Finances to foster dialogue and guide international and regional tax policies towards inclusivity, equity, sustainability, and growth while contributing to the reduction of inequalities among member countries. This entails building common positions and exchanging information that is useful for the development and improvement of tax policies.

**Convinced** that the Latin America and Caribbean region has much to contribute to the construction, articulation, and development of regional positions for a better, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable international tax system that contributes to the fight against inequality, aiming to contribute to global agendas or spaces in this matter.

**Commit** to contribute through analysis, exchanges, and technical guidance that inform the decision-making process of inclusive, sustainable, equitable, and growth-enhancing tax policies for member countries, based on international experiences and the specific needs of the region and each country.

**Value** the voice and contributions of academia, civil society, and the business sector to share their knowledge, provide ideas, and identify unresolved issues and potential solutions in taxation matters.

**Encourage** countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region to intensify their efforts towards national, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable taxation.

**Approve** the instrument establishing the governance of the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, attached to this Declaration.



**Support** Colombia's assumption of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean for the next twelve (12) months.

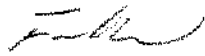
**Express** our gratitude to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for assuming the role of the Technical Secretariat.

**Request** the Pro Tempore Presidency, in conjunction with the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Platform (ECLAC), to prepare an Annual Work Plan prioritizing the most pressing thematic areas of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable taxation within six (6) months from the signing of the Cartagena Declaration.

**Entrust** the Technical Secretariat, in coordination with the Pro Tempore Presidency, to guide the work of Platform members in accordance with the priorities defined in the Annual Work Plan.

Done in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on July 28, 2023.

ADHERING COUNTRIES



FERNANDO HADDAD

Minister of State for Finance of Brazil

## ANNEX: GOVERNANCE INSTRUMENT

# **REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR TAX COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

## **1. VALUE PROPOSITION**

### **1.1 VISION**

To be a constructive regional space, led by the Ministers of Finance, Economy, and Treasury of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of tax administrations, aiming to generate knowledge, share experiences, contribute to the development of common positions and non-binding concrete solutions that guide ministerial decision-making in addressing the challenges in tax policy in the region. We strive towards an inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and growth-friendly international and regional taxation system that takes into account the specific needs of each country and values the input of academia, civil society, and the business sector.

### **1.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

The Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter referred to as the "Platform") seeks to construct, in a participatory and consensus-driven manner, an integration space for Ministers of Finance, Economy, and Treasury to foster dialogue and guide international and regional tax policies towards inclusiveness, equity, sustainability, growth-friendliness, and reduction of inequalities among member countries. The Platform will promote the development and improvement of tax policies by establishing common positions and exchanging information. The functions of the Platform will be guided by the principles of inclusivity, agility, and simplicity.

### **1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

**Objective 1:** Facilitate the construction, coordination, and development of regional positions for a better inclusive, equitable, and sustainable international tax system that contributes to the fight against inequality, aiming to contribute to global agendas or spaces in this field.

**Objective 2:** Contribute with analysis, exchanges, and technical guidance that inform the decision-making process of inclusive, sustainable, equitable, and growth-friendly tax policies of member countries, based on international experiences and the region's needs and each country's specific context.

## **2. GOVERNANCE**

### **2.1 BODIES OF DIRECTION, COORDINATION, AND MONITORING**

The structure of the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be composed of the following bodies or instances:

- **Council of Ministers of Finance, Economy, and Treasury:** This is the highest-level political instance responsible for defining or agreeing on positions and strategies, as well as proposing actions to promote an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable international and regional tax system.

- **Pro Tempore Presidency:** This is the executive instance responsible for implementing resolutions, mandates, and actions assigned by the Council of Ministers of Finance, Economy, and Treasury.

- **Technical Secretariat:** This is the technical instance responsible for supporting the Pro Tempore Presidency in fulfilling the mandates defined by the Council of Ministers of Finance, Economy, and Treasury. It focuses on contributing to the generation of information, knowledge, and the exchange of experiences in tax matters.

- **Technical Working Groups:** This is the instance in which technical delegates from member countries of the Platform, advised by academia, civil society, and the private sector, will support the Platform in providing technical inputs, identifying common positions regarding international taxation, sharing experiences in tax reforms, and making recommendations for the development of prioritized thematic areas in the Annual Work Plan.

### **2.1.1 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FINANCE, ECONOMY, AND TREASURY**

It is the highest decision-making body of the Regional Platform for Tax Cooperation. It will be composed of the Ministers of Finance, Economy, and Treasury of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, or a designated high-level ministerial official. Its functions will be:

- Define positions and strategies, support the process, and propose actions to promote an inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and growth-friendly international and regional tax system.
- Request studies, research, or reports from the Technical Secretariat on relevant matters.
- Approve and support the Annual Work Plan, including the prioritization of topics to be addressed by the Technical Working Groups, which will be established by the Technical Secretariat.
- Decide on proposals presented by the working groups.
- Lead, promote, and ensure the representation and participation of member countries.
- Elect the Pro Tempore President of the Platform.
- Analyze and accept or reject, with proper justification, the accession of new member countries.
- Approve internal resolutions and regulations of the Platform within its mandate.

### **2.1.2 PRO TEMPORE PRESIDENCY**

The Pro Tempore Presidency is the executive body of the Platform. Its functions will be:

- Convene, through the Technical Secretariat, and chair the meetings of the Platform's bodies.
- Present the Annual Work Plan to the Council of Ministers for consideration and approval.

- Represent the work of the Platform in global instances and international events in tax matters. This representation will be in the capacity of the Pro Tempore Presidency and will not represent the opinion of the Platform's member countries. The Pro Tempore Presidency can only express itself on consensual matters that have already been decided by the member countries.
- Establish collaboration agreements with third parties, subject to the prior consent of the Council of Ministers.
- Generate synergies and collaborate with other regional forums or international platforms with mandates related to tax matters.
- Report on its activities.
- Exercise other attributions entrusted by the Council of Ministers.

The Pro Tempore Presidency of the Platform will rotate, and a member country will assume it for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months. To ensure the continuity of decisions, commitments, and agreed-upon work, the outgoing Pro Tempore Presidency will work closely with the incoming Pro Tempore Presidency. At the beginning of each regular meeting, the Council of Ministers will elect the Pro Tempore Presidency, who will lead the discussions of that meeting and serve for twelve (12) consecutive months.

### **2.1.3 TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

The Technical Secretariat is the permanent technical body of the Platform. It will be assumed by the Executive Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ECLAC"), which may delegate its functions to ECLAC officials. The Technical Secretariat, in coordination with the Pro Tempore Presidency, will be responsible for guiding the work of the Platform members according to the priorities defined in the Annual Work Plan.

The Technical Secretariat will have the following functions:

- Provide technical support for the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of the Annual Work Plan of the Platform.
- Convene, coordinate, provide technical support, and monitor the Technical Working Groups derived from the topics prioritized by the Council of Ministers in the Annual Work Plan.
- Support capacity-building in tax matters for public officials from the Ministries of Finance, Economy, and Treasury, as well as tax administrations, if applicable, through the Technical Working Groups.
- Develop knowledge products and reports on inclusive, equitable, and sustainable tax policy and international taxation.
- Promote consultation and dialogue spaces with academia, civil society, and the business sector, and make their contributions on tax-related topics of regional and international interest public.
- Support collaboration with other regional forums or international platforms with mandates related to tax matters.
- Electronically publish materials developed by the Platform and host them in a public digital repository.
- Organize and prepare the summons for the meetings of the Platform's bodies.

- Provide relevant information to member countries prior to each meeting.
- Chair the meetings of the Platform's bodies and prepare the minutes of the meetings.
- Actively and efficiently engage the Platform in regional and global tax-related initiatives, organizations, or negotiation processes.
- Perform other duties delegated by the Council of Ministers.

#### **2.1.4 TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS**

These are the technical bodies responsible for advising, discussing, identifying common positions, and preparing reports to implement the Annual Work Plan within their assigned thematic area. The working groups will be coordinated by the Technical Secretariat.

The Technical Working Groups will consist of high-level technical focal points designated by the ministries of the Platform's member countries, or their substitutes, who will coordinate the participation of officials related to the respective thematic area within their ministries and tax administrations. The designated focal point and their substitute must have the capacity to make decisions, channel information to relevant actors, assume commitments, as well as coordinate and supervise the execution of the Action Plan of the assigned thematic area within the framework of the Annual Work Plan and approve derived products.

Upon request by the Technical Secretariat or any of the technical focal points, advisors from other government areas, academia, civil society, and the business sector, who contribute to the work of the Technical Working Group, may also be part of the working groups. The participation of these advisors will be temporary, and they will have a voice but no voting rights. The Technical Working Groups will have the following functions:

- Develop the Action Plan of the assigned thematic area within the framework of the Annual Work Plan.
- Channel information to relevant actors.
- Generate, supervise, and approve products derived from the Action Plan of the assigned thematic area.
- Approve the participation of external advisors.

Each Technical Working Group must have a designated coordinator and an alternate coordinator, who will be elected by the members of each group by simple majority.

#### **2.2 DECISION-MAKING**

Each Ministry of the member countries of the Platform will have a voice and a vote. Consensus will be sought in decision-making within the framework of the Platform's work.

#### **2.3 ACCESSION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Efforts will be made for all Ministries of Finance, Economy, and Treasury of Latin American and Caribbean countries to become members of the Platform. The accession of member countries is voluntary within the agreements reached in the Cartagena

Declaration signed by the Ministries of Finance, Economy, and Treasury on July 27, 2023. Other Ministries of Finance, Economy, and Treasury from the region that request membership can be admitted to the Platform with the approval of two-thirds of the member countries of the Platform.

## **2.4 MEETINGS**

The Council of Ministers will hold one regular meeting per year. This meeting will take place in the country exercising the Pro Tempore Presidency, or it can be held within the framework of the Regional Fiscal Policy Seminar of ECLAC, as agreed in advance. At the request of at least two (2) member countries of the Platform, extraordinary meetings can be convened in person or virtually through the Pro Tempore Presidency, with the approval of a simple majority of the Platform's members. The quorum for such meetings will be half plus one of the member countries of the Platform.

The Technical Working Groups must meet at least once during the term of the Pro Tempore Presidency, with the possibility of additional meetings if agreed upon. The meetings can be held virtually or in person to discuss and follow up on their assigned Action Plan.

The Pro Tempore Presidency, together with the Technical Secretariat, will be responsible for making all necessary preparations for the annual meeting of the Council of Ministers, as well as for the meetings of the Technical Working Groups.

The Technical Secretariat, in conjunction with the Pro Tempore Presidency, will prepare an annual report that will be sent to the members of the Council of Ministers twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to their annual meeting for consideration and will be presented at the annual meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers will approve the minutes of each meeting, prepared by the Technical Secretariat, which will subsequently send a copy to each member country.

## **2.5 ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

The Pro Tempore Presidency, together with the Technical Secretariat, will prepare an Annual Work Plan that will prioritize the most pressing thematic areas of the inclusive, equitable, and sustainable tax agenda. The Annual Work Plan must be approved and supported by the Council of Ministers.

## **2.6 ACTION PLAN FOR EACH THEMATIC AREA**

Each Technical Working Group will develop an Action Plan for the assigned thematic area within the framework of the Annual Work Plan. The Action Plan will define the reports or products to be produced, activities, timelines, and responsible parties for their execution.



## **2.7 TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Platform will publish an annual report on the implementation of the Work Plan. The Platform may also publish other reports deemed appropriate for the achievement of its objectives and purposes.

### **GENERAL PROVISION**

**FIRST:** This instrument establishing the governance of the Platform shall enter into force upon approval by the Council of Ministers and may be amended by mutual agreement of the Council of Ministers.