

“Your Weekly Read on Debt, Development & Social & Economic Justice”

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Citizens Should Take an Interest in the Upcoming Pan African Conference on IFFs and Taxation

The Pan Africa Conference on Illicit Financial flows and Taxation is an annual convening that brings together key stakeholders involved in efforts to curb IFF and enhance domestic resource mobilisation in Africa. The platform draws together actors from governments, civil society, International organisations, legislators, media, academia and national campaigners to take stock of the current state of affairs on Illicit Financial Flows in Africa as well as progress made through global, regional and country level initiatives. The conference seeks to also act as a platform to articulate problems, propose solutions and explore opportunities for collaboration and common action.

The 2020 edition of the 8th Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation (PAC 2020) run from the 9th to the 13th of November 2020. The conference will be hosted by TrustAfrica and organised in collaboration with 17 co-conveners namely Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ), Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA), African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA), African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), OXFAM, Action Aid, Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), African Minerals Development Center (AMDC), Publish What You Pay (PWYP), StopTheBleeding (STB) Consortium, Pan African Lawyers’ Union (PALU), Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD), Centre Régional Africain pour le Développement Endogène et Communautaire (CRADEC), Youth for Tax Justice Network (YTJN) and African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD).

Due to the Covid-19 global health pandemic, this year’s edition of PAC will be a combination of in-country physical events (where possible) as well as virtual breakaway and plenary sessions held under the theme: “The Africa We Want Post COVID-19: Optimizing Domestic Resource Mobilization from the Extractive Sector for Africa’s Transformation”.

As part of the proceedings, Civil Society leaders in Zimbabwe will join the Zimbabwe National Editors Forum for a Consultative meeting to strengthen popular monitoring and accountability of the extractive sector in Zimbabwe’s increasingly volatile, opaque and rentier political economy.

Credible research by AFRODAD estimates that between 2009 and 2013, Zimbabwe lost US\$2.7 billion from the mining sector alone through illicit financial flows, tax evasion, tax incentives, corruption and trade mis-invoicing. The perversity of illicit financial flows is both a symptom and accelerant of Zimbabwe’s fledgling rentier economy in which the mining industry plays a central part. At the core of this rentier economy is the concentrated economic power and political authority in the hands of a small military and political elite. An unresolved claim by late President Robert Mugabe that Zimbabwe lost 15 billion dollars of diamond revenue attests to the scale of the problem.

The National Development Strategy I coming into effect between 2021 – 2025, premises its domestic resource mobilisation ambitions on the achievement of a 12-billion-dollar mining industry. This comes as part of a range of private sector led reforms accompanied by a big push to deregulate the industry, sell off strategic mining assets and amend constitutional provisions for legislative oversight over foreign deals. ZIMCODD, ZELA and Trust Africa are amongst a range of Civil Society Actors urgently working to revitalise democratic safeguards, strengthen legislative scrutiny and increase popular accountability over the extractive sector. The Media has also played a significant part in putting illicit financial flows on the public agenda, amplifying the voices of affected communities and seeking accountability from the extractive sector. However, a steady pattern of democratic reversals, harassment of journalists and secretive deal making places a huge strain and at the same legitimates the continuation of this work.

To register and participate in the 8th Pan African Conference on IFFs and Taxation running from the 9th to 13th of November please visit <https://airtable.com/shr9rfp5aCYxMcrM3>.



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