



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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January 29, 2015

By Email: taxffdoffice@un.org

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Financing for Development Office
Two United Nations Plaza
Room DC2-2172
New York, NY 10017

Ref: DESA-14/01615

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow me to convey to you in the attached document the submission of the United States of America in response to DESA-14/01615, which requests Member States views on the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Dunn", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ambassador David B. Dunn
U.S. Representative to ECOSOC

Attachment: U.S. Submission on Strengthening International Tax Cooperation (2 pages)

**SUBMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT
ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN TAX
MATTERS**

January 29, 2015

Thank you for your note of December 12, 2014 requesting the views of the United States regarding options for further strengthening the work and operational capacity of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (DESA-14/01615). The United States is pleased to have this opportunity to share our views on the structure and work of the Committee.

With domestic resources dwarfing official development assistance in even the Least Developed Countries, mobilizing the domestic tax base and other revenues will clearly be key for lasting development. The United States remains a strong supporter of capacity-building assistance in revenue collection and management for developing countries. U.S. efforts range from assistance on tax policy and legislation, to taxpayer audit, international taxation, collection of arrears, executive and human resource management, anticorruption, information technology, returns and payment processing. The U.S. has supported activities ranging from increasing the efficiency of established tax regimes through ICT programs in countries such as Egypt, El Salvador and Georgia to more foundational work such as establishing tax departments and assisting in formulating basic tax legislation and tax administrative capacity in newly independent states.

The United States has also been an active participant in multilateral fora on tax issues as well, having had an expert on the Committee since its inception, supporting the efforts of the OECD as well as regional bodies such as the Inter-American Association of Tax Administrators (CIAT).

Regarding the structure and work of the Committee, the United States opposes the establishment of an intergovernmental body at the United Nations for international cooperation in tax matters, including through upgrading the existing Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

Such a body would substantially overlap with work that is already taking place in other contexts, such as the IMF, World Bank, African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), CIAT and the OECD. The work undertaken in these other contexts

already takes into account the policy positions of both developed and developing countries.

The United States believes the current format has produced meaningful results and tools for developing countries, in the form of a model tax convention and practical manuals, while minimizing duplication with the efforts of other fora. The Committee is already integrated into the work of the Economic and Social Council, following its reform. By continuing to do its work, it will help inform the Financing for Development conversation and debate on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, without needing to specifically align itself with those processes.

The United States is also unpersuaded of the need to significantly expand the membership of the Committee in its present status. While its 25 members act in an individual expert capacity, they bring a diversity of views and background to the Committee, representing all of the major geographic regions of the United Nations and highly varied economies. Although the Committee is linked to the Economic and Social Council, roughly half its experts are citizens of countries not presently members of ECOSOC. The Committee is both diverse enough to represent a wide variety of views and expertise while remaining small enough to reach consensus on potentially thorny issues. While the Committee should continue to consult broadly and openly, perhaps seeking new opportunities to engage with countries and experts that have not, to-date, engaged with it, we see insufficient justification for a formal expansion of the Committee.

Again, thank you for soliciting U.S. views on this matter. We look forward to ongoing discussion and cooperation on international taxation issues.