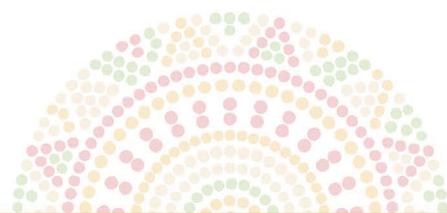




PAC | **13th Pan-African Conference**
on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation



Theme:
Honouring a Legacy,
Building a Future.

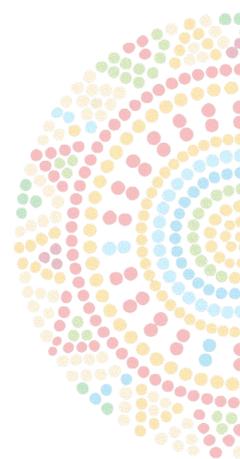
 **7-10, Oct 2025**  **Johannesburg, South Africa**

CONCEPT NOTE





Introduction



The Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA) in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) will convene the 13th Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation (PAC) in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 7 to 10 October 2025.

In addition, PAC 2025 will be co-convened with a wider group of strategic partners, including AFRODAD, Akina Mama wa Afrika, FEMNET, Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ), Oxfam Africa, SID Civil Society FfD Mechanism, Trust Africa, UNDP, UNU-WIDER and Youth for Tax Justice Network (YTJN), who will contribute to the success of the conference through technical expertise, advocacy, and constituency mobilisation.

PAC 2025 marks a decade since the launch of the High-Level Panel (HLP) Report on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Africa, offering a powerful opportunity to take stock of progress, reignite momentum, and confront the enduring structural challenges that enable resource drain from the continent. It will also critically assess the way in which the political commitments made ten years ago have engaged with the structural constraints of the deeper systems of injustice that underpin the global and domestic financial orders.

This year's PAC will seek to deepen the agenda by situating tax at the centre of Africa's most urgent economic and political challenges, namely: peace and security, industrialisation, critical mineral governance, and the reconfiguration of the global financial architecture. These conversations will prioritise justice, equity, and sovereignty; challenging extractive paradigms and reimagining fiscal policy as a tool for transformative development.



Background

Ten years after the HLP Report was launched, Africa remains confronted by crises that underscore the urgency of fair and effective public finance. Austerity measures, debt servicing and repayments, climate shocks, and unequal global economic rules continue to constrain states' ability to equitably raise and deploy public resources. Meanwhile, a new generation of African citizens, especially women and youth, are increasingly vocal in their demands for transparency and accountability in governance as well as equitable fiscal systems.

Illicit financial flows continue to rob the continent of billions annually, draining the resources needed to invest in critical sectors such as health, education, and social protection. At the same time, domestic African tax systems often mirror historical inequalities: they rely heavily on consumption taxes that disproportionately burden the poor, fail to value unpaid care work, and privilege capital over labour. Additionally, global tax rules continue to be shaped without meaningful African influence, while transnational corporations and elites benefit from secrecy jurisdictions and legal loopholes in large part due to systemic challenges that perpetuate the flow of resources out of Africa.

These injustices are neither accidental nor neutral—they are rooted in colonial histories, patriarchal economic models, and the marginalisation of African voices in international norm-setting. Addressing them requires bold policy shifts grounded in equity, justice, and self-determination.

Rationale

PAC 2025 aims to interrogate and reframe the current fiscal architecture, both global and domestic, by positioning tax not just as a technical issue, but as a political, developmental, and ethical imperative for structural transformation and as a means to redistribute wealth and curb the power of corporations that are behind IFFs on the continent.

The conference will:

- Explore the gains made in combatting IFFs by partner institutions and the gaps identified
- Consider tax as an enabler of social and political stability, recognising its role in building accountable states
- Explore pathways for leveraging taxation to support inclusive and equitable industrialisation, grounded in regional integration, decent work, and the redistribution of economic power
- Engage with the governance of Africa's critical minerals and the uptake of tools for fiscal security
- Assert Africa's leadership in shaping a more just global financial architecture, particularly in light of the momentum around a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.

- Explore the gendered dimensions of tax and feminist contributions to fiscal policy
- Throughout these discussions, PAC 2025 will challenge dominant narratives that portray African countries as sites of risk and deficit. Instead, it will seek to amplify knowledge, strategies, and solutions generated within the continent.

Target Audience

PAC 2025 will convene a broad and representative community of actors working at the intersection of tax, development, and justice, including:

- Policymakers from finance ministries, tax authorities, and regulatory agencies
- Parliamentarians, oversight institutions, and anti-corruption bodies
- Feminists, youth organisers, trade unionists, journalists and social justice movements
- Academics, think tanks, and research institutions
- Regional and international organisations and development partners

Structure and Sessions

PAC 2025 will feature a rich mix of formats designed to promote critical dialogue, strategic thinking, and coalition-building:

- Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception to officially kick off PAC 2025 and feature keynote addresses by the co-hosts
- High-Level Plenaries featuring African leaders, HLP members, and national and regional champions
- Political Economy Dialogues centring knowledge from feminist, decolonial, and grassroots perspectives
- Networking Opportunities to support alliance building and joint initiatives
- Cultural Dinner to celebrate leadership in the fight against IFFs

Expected Outcomes

PAC 2025 aims to deliver the following:

- Clear, bold, and implementable recommendations to reform Africa's fiscal architecture
- Renewed political commitments to advance tax justice and curb IFFs
- Strengthened networks and coalitions across movements, sectors, and borders
- A revitalised narrative on tax that reflects Africa's values, priorities, and vision for justice.

Conclusion

PAC 2025 will honour the past while setting the agenda for the next decade of African fiscal justice. In a world increasingly shaped by inequality, extractivism, and exclusion, the conference will centre African solutions grounded in justice, dignity, and sovereignty. It will provide a space for reimagining tax as a tool not just of revenue collection, but of economic transformation, democratic renewal, and liberation.



PAC partners:



Funded by:





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