



REMARKS BY MR MAHLATSE MMINELE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF ECOSOC ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN TAX MATTERS, ECOSOC CHAMBER, (New York, 7 April 2017)

Thank you Mr President,

South Africa would like to thank you for convening this special meeting and also recognize the distinguished speakers who have presented in today's meeting.

Mr President,

South Africa is appreciative of the Council decision of 2016 which makes it possible for some of the tax committee meetings to be held in New York. This has made it possible for this august Organ of the UN to host this special meeting that has the potential to pave the way for developing a mechanism that is truly intergovernmental and universal on an issue that affects every single Member State, that of international cooperation on taxation.

up international tax cooperation, South Africa welcomes the call for strengthening support to the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to improve its efficiency.

Further, as we gather here today, there is still no global, inclusive norm-setting mechanism or body for international tax cooperation at the inter-governmental level

governmental tax regime that will close all loopholes for potential abuse and as such empower national governments to have stronger and watertight legislative systems to efficiently and meaningfully govern their tax matters.

Mr President, in conclusion, as we all focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda respectively, it is clear that there is a fundamental need for a concerted global push to do away with business as usual and swiftly transform the current tax apparatus. This will indeed move us closer to the objective that underpins all our efforts, as Member States of the UN, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

I thank you Mr President.