

UNITED NATIONS

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MR. LIU ZHENMIN  
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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Opening Remarks

Panel discussion on “Strengthening the work of the UN  
on tax cooperation for sustainable development”

Conference room 12, UNHQ, 15 July 2019, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Delivered by M. Elliott Harris,  
Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Chief Economist

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

sustainable development perspective on international tax collaboration. This puts the needs and capacities of the developing economies, including the most vulnerable, at the center of discussions. It promotes fairness, ~~also~~ feasibility and sustainability of implementation.

We celebrate today Norway's support to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to help strengthen the work of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. Norway's generous contribution is a visible expression of trust in the work of the UN Tax Committee. Its potential to shape tax norms, guidelines and policies can help all countries to generate additional resources for sustainable development. Norway has ~~recognized~~ that the Committee's role in the ecosystem of international tax ~~shaping~~ and guidance is unique and distinguished. It understands that this role is best performed by working cooperatively with others active in the space.

This independent and informed, respectful approach elevates the work of all those active in the field. It allows the UN Tax Committee to address and give options for transparently dealing with issues where views may legitimately diverge.

Ladies and gentlemen,

A Committee that is given more opportunities to meet its mandate will enhance this systemic relevance. It will help countries navigate a complex international tax landscape in a way that best meets their realities and perspectives. My sincere and deep gratitude ~~undergoes~~

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The United Nations remains committed to working with our partners across the globe to strengthen international tax cooperation. We will do our utmost to ensure that effective taxation is firmly placed in the international toolkit to achieve the SDGs – and effectively deployed.

I greatly appreciate the presence of everyone here and with us via webcast. I look forward to an open and inspiring exchange of views.

Thank you.

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