

AFRICA ACTION SHEET

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Tax deal: G8 signs the Lough Erne Declaration regarding tax evasion and transparency

The IF campaign called for laws to ensure that

- Phantom companies used for tax dodging to be made a thing of the past with public lists kept of their ownership
- A new global standard on automatic information exchange that is accessible to developing countries

In response the G8 governments acknowledged their responsibility to promote good governance regarding fair taxes, increased transparency and open trade:

1. Tax authorities across the world should automatically share information to fight the scourge of tax evasion.
2. Countries should change rules that let companies shift their profits across borders to avoid taxes, and multinationals should report to tax authorities what tax they pay where.
3. Companies should know who really owns them and tax collectors and law enforcers should be able to obtain this information easily.
4. Developing countries should have the information and capacity to collect the taxes owed them – and other countries have a duty to help them.
5. Extractive companies should report payments to all governments - and governments should publish income from such companies.
6. Minerals should be sourced legitimately, not plundered from conflict zones.
7. Land transactions should be transparent, respecting the property rights of local communities.
8. Governments should roll back protectionism and agree new trade deals that boost jobs and growth world wide.
9. Governments should cut wasteful bureaucracy at borders and make it easier and quicker to move goods between developing countries.
10. Governments should publish information on laws, budgets, spending, national statistics, elections and government contracts in a way that is easy to read and re-use, so that citizens can hold them to account.

More information from:

www.gov.uk/government/publications

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

but leaves major unfinished business

"Although the G8 has set out the right ambition on information exchange, poor countries battling hunger can't afford to wait to be included."

"The public argument for a crackdown on tax dodging has been won, but the political battle remains. Future G8s and G20s must urgently finish the job." The commitment to create new mechanisms to exchange information for the benefit of poor and rich countries alike is progress, but we need a clear timeline. We have a long way to go to hold G8 leaders to their promises and make sure progress towards tax justice accelerates in the months and years to come.

Read more:

www.enoughfoodforeveryone.org.



