Side Event at the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-Up

Sun, Sea, Sand and Beyond
BEPS Challenges in Small Island Developing States’ Tourism Sector

A Tax Inspectors Without Borders learning event

Monday, 23 April 2018, 18:30-20:00

United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 7
405 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017
Tourism is a critical economic sector for developing countries. In 2016 alone, reported international tourism revenue amounted to USD 1.22 trillion, and is today among the fastest growing 'industries' in the world. Revenues generated by the tourism sector and tourism related activities represent an important source of income for many small island developing states (SIDS). Tourism accounts for over 25% of GDP (2014) in at least 7 SIDS.

Multinational enterprises are major players in the sector and present tax administrations in SIDS with several challenges. These include a lack of tourism sector knowledge which may impede the effective monitoring of tax revenues declared from this critical sector. For small countries, heavily reliant on corporate income tax, vulnerable to climate change and with limited economic alternatives, it is imperative that the tourism sector is appropriately taxed and that the capacities of national tax administrations are strengthened, including in the area of tax audits.

Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) – an OECD/UNDP joint initiative – builds the capacities of tax administrations in developing countries in the area of tax audits of multinational enterprises. This TIWB learning event is an opportunity to discuss what can be done to overcome the challenges faced by SIDS in auditing the tourism sector and highlight the benefits that improved audit skills and industry knowledge can bring to tax administrations.

A panel of leading experts will discuss this topic.

Welcome and Introduction
Gail Hurley, UNDP Project Manager
James Karanja, Head TIWB Secretariat

Navigating the Complexity of the Hotel/Tourism Sector
Colin Garwood, Hotel Industry Expert

Country Experience
Sandra Pryce, Tax Administration Jamaica

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