

ENDORSEMENT WAS MADE AT GLOBAL FORUM PLENARY MEETING IN INDIA

By Michael Odeng

Uganda has been seconded to host the 19th Global Forum Plenary Meeting on Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) next year, in a move expected to boost the country's profile in international tax co-operation.

Uganda was seconded on Friday by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The OECD works with over 100 countries across the world to build stronger, fairer and cleaner societies, as well as helping to shape better policies for better lives.

The endorsement was made during the 18th Global Forum Plenary Meeting held in New Delhi, India, where Uganda was represented by the finance state minister in charge of planning, Amos Lugoloobi and the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) commissioner general, John Musinguzi.

It was organised under the theme, *Tax Transparency: Delivering a Shared Vision Through International Co-operation*, which reflects the growing recognition that the fight against tax evasion and other illicit financial flows requires collective efforts and synergies.

The Global Forum Plenary, held under the auspices of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information

UGANDA SECONDED TO HOST 2026 GLOBAL TAX TRANSPARENCY FORUM

for Tax Purposes, brings together tax administrators, finance ministers and development partners to strengthen international tax co-operation through improved transparency and information sharing.

Over the past decade-and-a-half, the Global Forum has evolved into a global platform, with 172 members working on an equal footing to implement and uphold the international standards of transparency and exchange of information.

Their integration has not only enhanced the ability of tax authorities to detect and deter non-compliance, but also contributed to greater fairness and equity in tax systems worldwide.

Musinguzi welcomed the development, describing it as "an honour for the country and URA".

Uganda began implementing the AEOI framework in 2023 through the development of a legal framework,

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adoption of the common reporting standard and the establishment of an in-house AEOI reporting portal.

The country has since joined a global network of more than 120 jurisdictions that exchange tax information on their residents.

Musinguzi said URA is now preparing to expand information reporting into the cryptocurrency sector.

"Uganda has formally committed to implementing the crypto-asset reporting framework, with the first exchanges planned for 2027," he said.

Mathias Cormann, the OECD secretary general, reaffirmed the collective commitment of Global Forum members to strengthening international tax co-operation through enhanced transparency.

"It will offer an opportunity to assess the progress achieved to date and to identify key priorities for the coming years," he said.

Catherine Lemesle, the Cercle Reflexion Echange Dirigeants Administrations Fiscales (CREDAF) secretary general, highlighted the Global Forum's capacity building and outreach efforts to support jurisdictions implement the international standards on automatic exchange of information from initial political commitment to effective use of data.

CREDAF aims at enhancing the dialogue between its members, as

well as with multilateral and international partners on tax matters.

ABOUT AEOI

With 172 members, AEOI for tax purposes is the leading international body working on the implementation of global transparency and exchange of information standards around the World. Since the Group of Twenty (G20) declared the end of banking secrecy in 2009, the international community has achieved great success in the fight against offshore tax evasion.

The G20 is an international platform that brings together the world's major economies to co-ordinate macroeconomic policies, promote global financial stability, and address pressing international challenges. The G20 members collectively represent around 85% of global gross domestic product, over 75% of global trade, and two-thirds of the World's population. The group includes 19 countries including Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, United States, China and South Africa, as well as the countries under the African Union.

Working through the Global Forum, countries and jurisdictions have implemented robust standards that have prompted an unprecedented level of transparency in tax matters.