COVID-19 AND AFRICA: A Tax Perspective

A paper presented at the 17th Annual Technical Conference of the Association of Tax Authorities of Islamic Countries.



By:

Babatunde Oladapo, WATAF, Nigeria

27 September, 2022

Introduction





The covid-19 pandemic apart from the human deaths recorded, has brought about an unprecedented global disruption in business and economic activities with grave implications for countries in terms of their abilities to fulfil their development agendas.

Governments all over the world are putting in place various measures to deal with the economic consequences of the pandemic.

Introduction-continued





Regularly, reports are produced on the wide range of measures that governments are taking to counter the three main inter-related economic threats: recession, large scale company bankruptcies and declining incomes of the poor and vulnerable.

Tax administrations, as agents of revenue mobilisation of government are playing a prominent role.

Rethinking covid-19 Fiscal Intervention Measures

Tax Policy Measures



Tax rates adjustment: practicality vs need

VAT exemption vs widening tax base

Re-focus on wealth taxes

Address gray areas on use of special tax rebates

Import duty waiver on selected goods

Innovate new taxes: solidarity tax, health Levy, etc.

Policy coordination

Incentivise tax compliance



General/Administrative Measures

Proactive vs reactive approach to planning and execution of ongoing interventions

Improve institutional capacities of tax administrations

Wholesale adoption of electronic/digital tax transaction channels

Increase communication with taxpayers

Wide use of extension of deadlines



Outlook Post COVID-19 for TAs in Africa MEASURES

Review sunset clauses on COVID-19 relief measures

Rethink corporate taxation

Innovative use of digitalisation to increase tax revenue

Re-focus on consumption tax

Upscale government accountability in public expenditure

Conclusion



While the covid-19 pandemic has stretched our capacities and resilience as tax administrations, it has also, opened a new vista of opportunities that should be explored to good effect.



THANK YOU