



Health *versus* Wealth? Tax and Transparency in the Age of COVID-19

Please join us **Thursday, 28th of May 2020, 13.00 - 15.30 (CUT)** for an expert discussion considering what policy makers must prioritize to manage the fiscal burden from Covid-19

Register your interest & find up to date information at financialtransparency.org/HealthvsWealth28May

Amidst an unprecedented global health and economic crisis, policy makers are adjusting to the resource challenges looming over the global economy. In the Global North and South, the powers of government are being tested to preserve health and livelihoods at all costs. These costs will be immense and are already constraining how policy makers are able to respond.

Countries have long been losing hundreds of billions of dollars per year to illicit financial flows (IFFs). Losses to corruption, to tax avoidance, evasion and to secrecy have ill-prepared our world and its health systems for this crisis. Finding the funds to pay to preserve social protection, health care and livelihoods will underpin virtually every policy question ahead.

A host of policy proposals are already in play across the globe, some previously under discussion and some previously unthinkable. These proposals seek to increase government income from those with the greatest means, to capture elusive hidden wealth and recover windfall revenues from those corporations profiting from the crisis and from longer term changes in technology. Global South countries' needs are overlooked in crisis discussions. Yet they bear the burden of fulfilling the rights, health needs and equality consequences of the crisis.

Speakers will be drawn from civil society, trades unions, tax administrations and international institutions, plus leading global experts. They will consider how to prioritise reforms and policy innovations on tax and transparency that can secure greater revenue or to ensure that less is lost to secrecy and abuse.

Speakers including *Professor Jayati Ghosh*; *Logan Wort*, executive director of the African Tax Administrators Forum, *Alex Cobham* of the Tax Justice Network, Professor *Emmanuel Saez* (invited) will be assessing the merits of concentrations of wealth and corporate revenues as sources of critical resources to fund the crisis response and aftermath. They will interrogate proposals to ask:

- What is the potential for sufficient – in scale and urgency – resources?
- What are the immediate priorities for raising or protecting revenue?
- How to safeguard rights, and especially the needs, of the vulnerable?
- How to ensure interventions are progressive and further gender equality?

We look forward to seeing you on 28th May at 13:00 Coordinated Universal Time.

Follow the build-up to the event at [@FinTrCo](#) [@icrict](#) [@Oxfam](#) [@PSIglobalunion](#)