



“African Economic Outlook 2010 Special Theme: Public Resource Mobilisation and Aid”

June 17, Conf Rm 3, NLB, UNHQ, New York

Event Description:

The Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa (OSAA), the Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Development Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre will host the 4th annual presentation of the *African Economic Outlook* (AEO) on Thursday June 17th in Conference Room 3, North Lawn Building, UN Headquarters, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

This year’s edition of the AEO finds **Africa’s economies weakened by the global recession** and at the same time under pressure to make additional efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The world economic crisis brought a period of high growth in Africa to a sudden end. **Average economic growth was slashed from an average of about 6% in 2006-2008 to 2.5% in 2009** with per capita GDP growth coming to a near standstill. The global crisis of 2009 had its strongest effect on southern Africa, where growth was slashed (from the average over the preceding three years) by almost 8 percentage points to negative growth of around 1%.

While **Africa is on a path to recovery**, buoyed by the strengthening of global trade and the rebound of commodity prices, there is a risk that growth remains too low to significantly reduce unemployment and poverty. It is against this backdrop that the **2010 AEO explores how public resources can be better mobilised for development through more effective, efficient and fairer taxation**. This issue is particularly important given the uncertainties about future export revenues and unstable and unpredictable inflows of Foreign Direct Investment and Official Development Aid. The study includes an analysis of practices that erode the existing tax base such as the **excessive granting of tax preferences, insufficient taxation of extractive industries and an inability to fight abuses of transfer pricing** by multinational enterprises.

Regional specialists from the **United Nations, OECD Development Centre, the African Development Bank** and **Academia** will provide an **up-to-date picture** of the state of economic, social and political affairs across Africa, and address:

- Africa’s economic performance in 2009/10 and prospects for recovery from the global economic crisis
- Challenges to increasing the African tax base including transfer pricing by multinationals, excessive granting of tax preferences and inefficient taxation of extractive industries

- How more efficient, fair and effective taxation can generate needed development financing
- Economic independence of African countries as several nations celebrate 50 years of independence from colonialism
- Progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The event will be moderated by Mr. Tariq Banuri, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development and will include panel presentations and interactive discussions.

Speakers include:

Tariq Banuri heads the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development. He was Coordinating Lead Author on the Nobel Prize-winning Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change while heading the Future Sustainability Program, Stockholm Environment Institute. In Pakistan, he served as: founding Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute; member, Central Bank's Board of Governors; member, Environmental Protection Council; and member/secretary, Presidential Steering Committee on Higher Education. He also served as Research Fellow, World Institute for Development Economics Research; Chairperson, Board of Governors, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development; and founding member, the Great Transition Initiative. He received a PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

H. David Rosenbloom, James S. Eustice Visiting Professor of Taxation is Director, International Tax Program at New York University School of Law. He became Director of the International Tax Program at New York University School of Law in 2002. He is a member of Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered, a law firm he rejoined in 1981 after serving as International Tax Counsel and Director, Office of International Tax Affairs, in the U.S. Treasury Department from 1978 to 1981. Born in 1941, Mr. Rosenbloom graduated from Princeton University *summa cum laude* in 1962 and, after a year as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Florence in Florence, Italy, attended Harvard Law School. He graduated *magna cum laude* in 1966 and was President of Volume 79 of the Harvard Law Review. Mr. Rosenbloom served as assistant to Ambassador Arthur Goldberg at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and then as clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas. A frequent speaker and author on tax subjects, Mr. Rosenbloom has taught international taxation and related subjects at Stanford, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Law Schools, and at educational institutions in Taipei, Mexico City, Milan, Bergamo, Sydney, Mainz, Heidelberg, Rio de Janeiro, Pretoria, and Melbourne. He has also served as a Tax Policy Advisor for the U.S. Treasury, the OECD, USAID, and the World Bank in Eastern Europe, the Former Soviet Union, Senegal, Malawi, and South Africa.

Patrick R.D. Hayford is currently the Director, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa at the United Nations Headquarters, a position he held since January 2006. He served as Director for African Affairs in the Executive Office of Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, from 1999 to 2005. His thirty-three year diplomatic career in Ghana's Foreign Service included tours of duty in New York, Egypt, the United Kingdom and South Africa, where he was Ambassador of Ghana between 1997 and 1999. At the Foreign Ministry he was Director of International Organizations and Conferences between 1986 and 1988 and again from 1992

through 1995. He has also undertaken various pieces of research on issues relating to Africa, the United Nations and development. He was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Mission for South Africa's Second National Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in 1999.

Manuel Montes leads the team that produced the 2010 World Economic and Social Survey in the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He holds a PhD in Economics from Stanford University and was in the faculty of the School of Economics at the University of the Philippines. His research has focused on developing country macroeconomic policy, balance of payments, and trade and industrial policy.

Pedro Conceição is Chief Economist and Head of the Strategic Advisory Unit at UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa since December 2009. Before joining RBA, he was Director of UNDP's Office of Development Studies (ODS), where he worked on the impact of the global economic crisis on developing countries, on the food crisis, on climate change and development, and on the evolution of income distribution across and within countries. Earlier work on financing for development and on global public goods was published by Oxford University Press in books he co-edited (*The New Public Finance: Responding to Global Challenges*, 2006; *Providing Global Public Goods: Managing Globalization*, 2003). He has published, amongst others journals, in the *Review of Development Economics*, *Eastern Economic Journal*, *Ecological Economics*, and *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*. He was deputy director of ODS from 2001 to 2005. Previously, he was an assistant professor at the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, teaching and researching on science, technology and innovation policy. He has degrees in Physics and in Economics from the Technical University of Lisbon and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, the University of Texas at Austin.

Mthuli Ncube is Vice President and Chief Economist of the African Development Bank. A national of South Africa, he formerly served as the dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is also chair of the African Economic Research Consortium board and Founder and Chairman of Selwyn Capital Group and Barbican Holdings. He also worked for Investec Asset Management as a Portfolio Manager and Head of Asset Allocation Strategy. Earlier in his career, Mr. Ncube was a Lecturer in Finance at the London School of Economics. He has published widely in the areas of finance and economics in the *Journal of Econometrics*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *Mathematical Finance*, *Applied Financial Economics*, *International Journal of Auditing*, *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, *Journal of Cost Management* and *Journal of African Economies*, among others. He holds a PhD from Cambridge University.

Jean Phillippe Stijns is an Economist on the Africa and Middle East Desk at the OECD Development Centre. His areas of research are natural resource economics, development macroeconomics, and international economics. He is lead policy analyst for the thematic chapter of the 2010 edition of the African Economic Outlook on "Public Resource Mobilization and Aid". Prior to joining the Development Centre, Mr. Stijns worked a Strategist for ING Private Capital Management, the asset management arm of ING Private Banking. He has also worked as an Assistant Professor at Northeastern University where he taught Macroeconomics and International Economics to both undergraduate and graduate students; and as a research fellow at the CREPP at the University of Liège, Belgium, a center for the study of Population and Public

Economics. Mr. Stijns received a joint B.A.-M.A. in Economics from the University of Liège (with the Greatest Distinction) and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mr. Charles Thembani Ntwaagae is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations with bilateral accreditation to Cuba, Jamaica and Guyana. Mr. Ntwaagae has had more than 30 years of work experience mostly at senior policy and managerial levels both in the Home and Foreign Service of his country. Prior to his current appointment he served as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Before then, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, as well as to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other Geneva-based International Organizations, including International humanitarian civil society organizations such as the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Cross Crescent and the World Council of Churches. He simultaneously served as Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Among the notable positions of responsibility which Ambassador Ntwaagae held while serving in Geneva are Chair of the Africa Group, Co-ordinator of the ACP Group of Ambassadors and Chair of the Commonwealth Developing Countries Group. In the Home Service of his native country, he has held several senior level positions, including Executive Director of the National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency. The Agency is charged with responsibility for the implementation of the National Conservation Strategy and sustainable development programmes and projects, including Agenda 21. Ambassador Ntwaagae holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree with majors in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Botswana and Swaziland, and a Masters Degree from the Pennsylvania State University. He is also a Fellow of the World Bank/IMF Economic Development Institute (EDI).

[About the African Economic Outlook:](#)

Produced annually by the OECD Development Centre jointly with the African Development Bank and the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, the *African Economic Outlook* is **an essential economic reference** on Africa. The only report on Africa **produced by African institutions**, in partnership with international organizations, the AEO is also unique in applying a common analytical framework to the 50 countries it covers – countries that account for 99% of the continent's economic output and 97% of its population. Now in its ninth year, the AEO provides a comprehensive analysis of economic, political and social developments on the continent.