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The African Forum and Network on Debt and Development's Newsletter

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Greetings from AFRODAD
The third quarter is over already!
Time moves fast when one is very engaged.
AFRODAD’s wings are spreading but footprints are being marked on the ground.
Please read, give feedback and share it out.
Thank you!

We were at the warm heart of Africa (Malawi), Blantyre city for four days (Tuesday 24 to Friday 28 September 2018) for a capacity building initiative.

The Department of Journalism and Media Studies at The Polytechnic, University of Malawi in collaboration with the Association of Business Journalists in Malawi partnered with AFRODAD to implement a strategic invention to build capacity of business journalists in Malawi not only on mining governance issues but also on other mechanisms of financing for development namely the Aid system and PPPs. The workshop took place in Blantyre given that most media houses in Malawi have their headquarters (or main newsrooms) in Blantyre.

The major goal of this initiative was to create a pool of media practitioners conversant with mining governance issues, IFFs, debt and international public finance to ensure that they would be reporting in a knowledgeable, responsible and professional manner. The media plays a critical role in awareness-raising and the creation and shaping of public opinion on development initiatives. Under many government programs, the capacity building of the media is neglected and this training sought to decrease this gap among business journalists given that natural resource governance and financing for development instruments are critical to Malawi’s development. More than 30 Malawian journalists have been equipped with crucial knowledge needed to effectively engage, and contribute to the effective mobilization of domestic and external resources in Malawi.

On Illicit Financial Flows
Dr. Fanwell Kenala Bokosi participated at series of a consultative meeting which took place from 24- 25 July 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The meeting was organized by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, in partnership with the Human Rights Development Initiative. Discussions focused on two themes:

a) The impact of extractive industries on the environment and human rights; and
b) A human rights based approach to addressing illicit financial flows from Africa

Both themes are related and very relevant to AFRODAD’s work. The ultimate goal for the work that we do is to see the lives of citizens improved and their rights respected.

Still on curbing Illicit Financial Flows
One of the recommendations of the Report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa (IFFs) known as the Mbeki report, was a call for the African Union to take leadership in ensuring that Africa would take the necessary measures to curtail and indeed eliminate all avenues for IFFs.

It’s in this regard that a Working Group (IWG) of the technical arm of the Consortium to curb IFFs was formed. For two days, its Fourth Meeting of the IFFs Working Group gathered seventeen African institutions & non-African partners, to collaborate on implementation of the recommendations of the Mbeki Report. This team agreed to work together to stem IFFs from Africa.

On the same line
Only few experts were invited to the expert consultation on the “development of guiding principles-human rights of economic reform policies” impacts assessments that took place in Geneva. AFRODAD was honored with an invite and it was represented by its Executive Director, Dr. Fanwell Kenala Bokosi.
Globalization has truly been an amazing force for development but it's negative effects are very disturbing. One of its negative effects is the rapid illicit financial flow from Africa. That's the reason AFRODAD was in Namibia attending the SADC People's summit and the SADC civil society forum, contributing at discussing this matter and how it can be stopped!

AFRODAD at Civil20 2018 Summit

The Civil20 2018 Summit was held from the 6th to the 7th of August, in Buenos Aires Argentina. The major highlight of the summit was the attendance of the Argentina President, who is also the president of G20, Mauricio Macri, on the opening day, the 6th of August. The C20 Organising Committee invited him to deliver the policy statement to him.

The Argentine President Mauricio Macri, made the following remarks: “Civil society plays a key role in dialogue and consensus-building processes; we believe that there are no spectators. We all must be protagonists and take part in the discussions held by civil society, and not neglect it. Global solutions require commitment and actions not only from governments, but also from all players in society.”

President Macri further said that the recommendations submitted by the group “represent a constructive contribution ahead of the Leaders’ Summit which took place in Buenos Aires on 30 November and 1 December”. He congratulated C20 representatives for having signed an anti-corruption declaration and for the work they had done regarding gender issues; commitment to international cooperation, multi-lateralism and global governance.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish a joint understanding on key elements of a sovereign debt management reform in general and a debt workout mechanism in particular; to stock-take substantial debates, strategic successes and failures through campaigning and advocacy history; to establish a basis for joint advocacy and campaigning efforts in the short and medium term and to agree on a coordinated medium-term strategy towards global reform.
AFRODAD was represented by Mr. Adrian Chikowore, Policy Analyst, in a meeting held in South Africa on 22 August 2018. The purpose of this meeting was to explore ways in which South African civil society together with regional organizations can coordinate to engage in the implementation of the SADC EU EPA (Southern African Development Community - European Union - Economic Partnership Agreement).

Key areas of discussion were to facilitate information sharing and a common understanding on the Status of SADC-EU EPA with particular focus on identifying key issues and strategies for engagement with state actors; South African and regional CSOs involvement in the SADC EPA drawing on the experience of other CSOs on the continent and beyond; strengthening and building consensus of civil society group in the SADC EPA region; and to identify key initiatives for advancing advocacy messaging and dialogue on the SADC-EU EPA.

AFRODAD’s presentations on BRICS in Africa and Agenda 2063 including the promotion of good-governance across all BRICS sectors saw recommendations specific to Tax Justice and Fiscal Policy and the operations of the New Development Bank being adopted for submission to the BRICS Summit that was held between the 25th - 27th of July 2018. The thrust of these meetings were to gather and share information and insights on pro-people policy needs of the stakeholders who included community based organisations, think tanks, national and regional and inter-continental civil society organisations.

**Upcoming Events**
- Summer School
- Alternative mining Indaba Zimbabwe
- Alternative mining Indaba Botswana
- Policy monitoring and advocacy trainings
- Media training in Zimbabwe
- Zimbabwe alternative mining Indada

**New Resources**
- Charter info-graphics
- Debt infographics
- Policy briefs under the domestic resource mobilization
- Policy Brief under International Public Finance
- Website for international public finance under construction
- Media website under construction
- Video report on the Malawi media training
- Social media video on IFFs
- Social media video based on infographics on IFFs

AFRODAD’s videos
- On AFRODAD’s YouTube Channel

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Team Building Retreat

This was one of the best retreats we have ever organized. We had very good facilitators who enriched our team spirit. We had some in-door learning sessions and outdoor practical learning experiences. We were at the Pamuzinda lodge in Zimbabwe.
Team Building Retreat