



Women Grassroots Organisations as Accountability Stakeholders

ATI-IBP Webinar

31 March 2025 | 14:00-15:30 UTC+2 | EN, ES, and FR | Virtual

Background

While civil society organisations (CSOs) and social movements play a significant role in shaping fiscal policies, their role as accountability stakeholders in fiscal governance is not well recognised. CSOs' contributions are often overlooked in discussions on tax and fiscal policies, despite being directly impacted by decisions that have profound effects on social welfare and economic stability. CSOs can act as crucial intermediaries, highlighting the needs and vulnerabilities of marginalised groups that must be addressed through fair and inclusive fiscal policies. The [International Budget Partnership \(IBP\)](#), for instance, plays a pivotal role in advancing transparency, accountability, and tax equity worldwide. IBP also prioritises gender and intersectional equity to ensure public resources address systemic inequalities and advance the rights of marginalised groups, particularly women and girls. By collaborating with local organisations, such as the Association of Nigerian Women Business Network (ANWBN) and the Society of Women in Taxation (SWIT), in Nigeria, it shows how evidence-based advocacy can challenge unjust tax policies and administration and ensure that the voices of women (including those in the informal sector) are heard in fiscal governance. ANWBN and SWIT's efforts uncovered systemic injustices and irregularities in tax practices that disproportionately affected the economic opportunities of women operating in local markets. Through advocacy and collective action, ANWBN and SWIT, in collaboration with other grassroots organisations and stakeholders, successfully advocated for the reduction of the burden of multiple taxation in the Ika Ika Oqua market in Nigeria's Cross-River State.

Development partners can also play an active role in building and strengthening the capacity of both international and local CSOs in the latter's effort to improve the fairness and transparency of tax systems. For example, in line with its [Feminist Diplomacy](#), France has been implementing a project titled "Gender Equality in Taxation" (GET) which aims to contribute to the reduction of gender inequalities in African tax and customs systems. This project has three main pillars – (1) provide technical assistance to African countries in their effort to reduce gender inequalities in their tax and customs systems; (2) support research on the specific gender and tax issues; and (3) support CSOs that work on the issues of gender inequality in African tax and customs systems. Through various engagements with different stakeholders, it contributes to the improvement of the equitability of tax systems.

Objectives of the event

Commitment 4 of the [ATI Declaration 2025](#) specifically underscores the pledge to bolster the *space* and *capacity* of accountability stakeholders, including state and non-state actors (CSOs, social movements, private sector, labour unions, media, and academia) in tax and revenue matters. This concerted effort should ideally result in an augmented pool of domestic revenue, ultimately contributing to closing the gap between domestic revenue and financing needs for the fulfilment of the SDGs.

This webinar will highlight the role of local women organisations as accountability stakeholders in improving the equitability of tax systems. It will showcase how grassroots movements have pushed for fiscal reforms and challenged tax injustices through organised, evidence-driven advocacy in Nigeria to the benefit of marginalised groups. The engagement of [Expertise France](#) will further highlight how development partners can support such efforts of CSOs. Through dialogues like this, the ATI hopes to inspire actionable solutions for equitable tax systems.

Agenda

The webinar will last for 90 minutes.

UTC+2	Agenda item	Speaker/Moderator
14:00 - 14:05	Welcome and opening remarks	Tochukwu Sandra Onyemata, Communications and Liaison Manager and DRM Coordinator, West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF), Moderator
14:05 - 14:15	IBP and its global work on tax equity	Austin Ndiokwelu, Director of Policy and Global Advocacy, International Budget Partnership (IBP)
14:15 - 15:00	Moderated panel discussion: Overcoming barriers to tax justice and gender equity	Regina Navuga, Regional Tax Manager, IBP and Austin Ndiokwelu, Director of Policy and Global Advocacy, IBP Foluke Ademokun, National Advocacy Lead, Association of Nigerian Women Business Network (ANWBN), and Obal Usang Edet Usang, Society of Women in Taxation (SWIT), Nigeria Gwladys Tankeu, Deputy Project Leader, Gender Equality in Taxation (GET), Expertise France
15:00 - 15:25	Open discussion	All participants, facilitated by the Moderator
15:25 - 15:30	Conclusion	Moderator

Logistical considerations

This webinar will take place on 31 March 2025 on MS Teams with simultaneous interpretation into English, French, and Spanish. Participation is possible by registering for the event.