



WEST AFRICAN UNION OF TAX INSTITUTES (WAUTI) UNION DES ORDRES FISCAUX DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (UDOFAO)

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PRESS RELEASE

The Presidents of the West African Union of Tax Institutes (WAUTI) and two other continental bodies, namely, the Asia-Oceania Tax Consultants Association (AOTCA) and the Confederation Fiscale Européenne (CFE), have declared their joint commitment to the establishment of a Global Tax Advisers cooperation forum.

The Presidents, meeting on the sidelines of an international tax conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, have signed a Declaration, known as the **St. PETERSBURG DECLARATION** on the 20th day of September, 2013, in the presence of representatives of the Japan Federation of Certified Public Tax Accountants' Associations, the Korean Association of Certified Public Tax Accountants and the CFE member bodies. WAUTI has member tax institutes from sixteen(16) countries while AOTCA and CFE have member bodies from twenty-two(22) and twenty-five(25) countries respectively.

The three Presidents further agreed to cooperate together to deepen the existing levels of co-operation for the better structuring and operation of the world's tax systems, securing and maintaining the rights of taxpayers and ensuring the continuing role and rights of tax advisers throughout the world.

The Presidents recognized the role of the tax advisers' profession in the development of tax policies and the promotion and enhancement of taxpayer rights and their responsibilities' under taxation law.

They also recognized the joint efforts of AOTCA, CFE and STEP (**Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners**) in the development of the **Charter of Taxpayers' Rights**.

They further recognised the increasing globalisation of tax policy and administration.

The Declaration was signed by the Presidents of the three associations, in the persons of Jiri Nekovar, for CFE, Thomas Lee, for AOTCA, and Mike Kofi Afflu, for WAUTI.

Signed: Barrister Chukwuemeka EZE
Chairman, Public Relation Committee
(WAUTI)

Headquarters: 1, Bechar Street,
off Mambolo Street, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
Tel: +234- 01-7741273, +234-09- 8733361
E-mail: info@wauti.org, Website: www.wauti.org

Accra Liaison Office: Gicel Administration Block,
Ai-15, New Weija, Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233-21-854-122, +233-21-854-123

Lagos Liaison Office: 4th Floor, Lagos Chamber of Commerce
& Industry Building Plot 10, Nurudeen Olowopopo Drive, Beside
M.K.O. Abiola Garden, Central Business District, Alausa-Ikeja.
Tel: +(234)01-7741273

