ESCWA organized a national workshop for the Arab Republic of Egypt (20-23 February 2017) to address ‘Fiscal Policy and Taxation and contemporary International Tax Planning Strategies; Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Practices (BEPS); and their ramifications on the enforcement of Double Taxation Agreements. This technical assistance and advisory activity falls within the purview of following up on the implementation of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Monterrey Consensus, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

The workshop was attended by the Vice Minister of Finance for Tax Policies, the First Under Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, the Senior Advisor to the Minister of Finance and the Former Head of the Egyptian Tax Authority as well as 25 participants from the Ministry of Finance.

The workshop highlighted the implications of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the new global financing framework on Egypt's domestic resource mobilization propensities.

The workshop underscored the need to improve tax planning and served to consolidate tax administration, given the emphasis placed on domestic resource mobilization over other means and channels of financing development. It also highlighted the leakages that can transpire from abusive/aggressive tax practices resulting from base erosion and profit shifting, namely by equipping the Ministry of Finance with the knowledge necessary to address tax avoidance, ensuring that profits are taxed where economic activities are generated and where value is created.