BACKGROUND NOTE

IOTA Forum on Tax and Customs Data Science **"Data and AI – From Governance to Guided Analytics"**
4-5 June 2025 Digital Meeting via Microsoft Teams

BACKGROUND

The establishment of the IOTA Forum on Tax and Customs Data Science is a response to the growing need for sophisticated data analysis in tax administrations. With increasing volumes of transaction data and the complexity of international trade, tax authorities in EU and non-EU countries can significantly benefit from unlocking the value of customs data as an asset for their advanced analytics efforts which could contribute to the enhancement of compliance, optimisation of risk management, and delivery of personalized services to taxpayers and traders.

By establishing a collaborative IOTA Forum consisting of experts from member Tax Administrations, good practices can be shared and discussed in order to elevate the standard of data science practices in tax administrations across the IOTA membership. This initiative will not only enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of structures and processes relating to data governance and data management in tax authorities but also contribute to the broader goal of improving global tax and customs compliance through innovative, data-driven strategies.

Initially, the Forum will focus on tax data but as many IOTA members are combined tax and customs authorities, and customs data is critical for identifying and fighting tax fraud, the overall aim is to consider tax and customs data. The first meeting of this Forum will take place on 4-5 June, via Microsoft Teams.

OBJECTIVES

The longer-term aim of the Forum is to exchange experiences of utilising tax and customs data in order to implement data-driven and transaction-based solutions, create recommendations, and share good practice examples for the whole IOTA membership.

To that end, the Forum members will consider specific methodologies and case studies that can be used in the scientific analysis of tax and customs data to support both compliance management actions and more personalised tax services (collection of methodologies and case studies supporting risk analysis and service activities).

For this inaugural meeting of the Forum, the focus will be:

➢ Consideration of the aims and objectives of the Forum and taking these forward in future;
➢ A look at Data Governance and Management, especially enforcement of Data Governance;
➢ A session on use of AI in risk detection/management and the presentation/visualisation of results from such analysis.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of this inaugural meeting are:

➢ Starting to establish of a network of experts from the IOTA membership who can work together, on an ongoing basis, to improve the utilisation of tax and customs data across the IOTA membership.

➢ An understanding of the operation of IOTA Forums, what approaches can be taken within the context of the Forum and a broad idea of how the Forum will move forward.

➢ A better understanding of Data Governance and some of the work undertaken by IOTA Members in this area

➢ An insight into how IOTA Members are using AI for risk detection/management and how the results of such work can be presented/visualised effectively.

METHODOLOGY

The event will be a combination of presentations, Q&A, and discussions in plenary and in breakout groups. As the event is being held digitally, there is no limit to the number of participants who can to attend the plenary sessions of this IOTA Forum. However, there is a limit of **1 official** per Tax Administration who can attend each individual Group Discussion session. This limit does not include members of the Forum's Steering Committee or those presenting during the plenary sessions.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Forum is aimed at tax officials and customs officials from IOTA member countries who are specialised in data science, tax administration, customs administration, IT infrastructure, and legal frameworks related to data collection and analysis.

REQUIRED INPUT

Please note that it is not possible to provide any interpretation facilities and IOTA expects that all participants will have **sufficient language skills for active participation in English**.