Revising The
Transparency
Principles for Tax
Policy and
Administration

Andrew Baker and Richard Murphy University of Sheffield





The Process

FIVE MAJOR CHANGES

- 1. A new section ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES what they are, what they are intended to do
- - A benchmark or reference point nothing like them exists to help governments, IOs and civil society gauge tax transparency and improve tax system performance
- - Evolutionary in nature, refined in response to changing circumstances
- 2. Refined definition of Tax Transparency to distinguish from existing OECD understanding (Principle 10).
- - GIFT definition broader but complimentary.
- 3. Re-ordering of The Principles 1- 14.
- A path of escalating demands across four levels: basic; intermediate; advanced; aspirational

FIVE MAJOR CHANGES

- 4. Principle 11 and 13 converted into one new Principle 4 on legal codification and consultation mechanisms. A new principle 6 on tax payer confidentiality (both BASIC).
- 5. Explanatory and guidance notes for each principle on reading, applying and evaluating The Principles.
- **THANK YOU** we believe The Principles document now offers a robust comprehensive framework for guiding improvements in national tax governance and tax system performance.
- Next steps how they might be used and by whom?