Opening statement by Alexander Trepelkov
Director, Financing for Development Office, UN-DESA, at the
13th Session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
(New York, 5 December 2016)

Distinguished Members of the Committee,
Distinguished Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, I am pleased to welcome you to the 13th session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

This session has a special significance. For the first time, this Committee is convening two times within one year; and for the first time its session is held in New York back-to-back with the Special Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

These new elements represent the implementation of the mandates contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Agenda) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. You will recall that, it was decided in Addis to increase the frequency of the meetings of the Committee to two sessions per year, with duration of four working days each.

Furthermore, Member States committed to increase the engagement of this Committee with ECOSOC through the Special Meeting of the Council, with a view to enhancing intergovernmental consideration of tax issues at the United Nations.

Due to the lengthy negotiations among Member States on these new modalities, this session is being held very close to the 12th session, which took place in Geneva last October. This put a great strain on the Committee and the Secretariat in having to intensify the preparatory work. Going forward, the spring and fall sessions of the Committee will be spread out in time, allowing for advance planning and best use of resources.

On Friday, you will all take part in the Special Meeting of ECOSOC on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, with the participation of national tax authorities. This meeting will be held in the form of interactive dialogue between the Committee Members and UN delegates. This modality aims to bridge the gap between the technical nature o (e otTee4 ((e304 Tc 0.304 Tw