



# **ICEFI's Role for Tax Capacity Building in Guatemala**

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Stockholm, May 2018**





# Technical discussions with authorities

As an independent Central American think tank, Icefi holds regular technical discussions with:

- Tax administration (TA), Ministry of Finance, Congress committees, private sector chambers and others

Main issues:

- Relationship between taxation and competitiveness
- Tax incidence and impact on social equity
- Tax avoidance and harmful tax planning effects: TA-Icefi cooperation to estimate income tax / VAT avoidance rates
- Illicit financial flows
- Impact of proposals to reform tax legislation

# Creating tax capacity

- Knowledge sharing through:
  - Technical workshops for:
    - Women and gender NGOs
    - Religious communities and NGOs
    - Congress advisors
    - Tax administration officials
    - Ministry of Finance and other public officials
  - Development and implementation of the first Central American Masters Degree on Fiscal Policy for Development
  - Documents online: fiscal “capsules”, glossary, statistics and many others



# Proposals derived from Independent Analysis

- Icefi was a key civil society actor in achieving 2016's tax administration organic law reform in Guatemala:
  - In 2015 presented a *roadmap* and a first draft of legal reform to recover the TA, just in time to answer a major corruption scandal crisis
- Budget oversight: critical analysis of tax forecasts and indicators
- Understanding tax expenditure: presented a *tax incentives scorecard*
- Debt sustainability: the need of the debt rollover and implicit rules in Guatemala
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of tax administration



# Media Relations

- Continuous presence and engagement with the media: be public and stay public to speak up and be heard
- Close relationship with reporters and journalists: always available to explain and provide data on fiscal or tax issues
- A source of counterbalance: Icefi's analysis, documents and statements are a credible way to contrast the point or views of private sector and Government on tax issues



# Thank you very much!

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