



For Immediate Release  
Press Release

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## **Strengthening International Cooperation Against Tax Abuse: the United States and Algeria Sign Agreement to Share Tax Information**

Ambassador Joan A. Polaschik and Algerian Finance Minister Abderrahmane Benkhelfa signed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to implement provisions of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) to promote transparency in financial accounts between the United States and Algeria on tax matters. The agreement underscores growing international cooperation against offshore tax abuse and strengthens bilateral ties.

Ambassador Polaschik stated, “This agreement represents an important step forward in the cooperation of our two countries to combat offshore tax evasion. By working together to improve transparency and financial reporting, we are not only deterring tax abuses, but also building a stronger, more stable, and more accountable global financial system, which benefits both of our countries.”

The United States enacted FATCA in 2010 to combat offshore tax evasion by obtaining information on accounts held by U.S. taxpayers in other countries. FATCA requires financial institutions outside the U.S. to report financial account information of U.S. taxpayers to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The IGA facilitates compliance with FATCA as the Algerian Ministry of Finance provides relevant information to the U.S. IRS. The IGA removes legal impediments to such reporting, and eases burdens on Algerian financial institutions. It also provides exemptions for certain financial institutions or products that present low risks for tax evasion by U.S. taxpayers.

FATCA is rapidly becoming the global standard in the effort to curtail offshore tax evasion. The United States has signed intergovernmental agreements with 75 jurisdictions. This is the first FATCA IGA to be signed with a country in North Africa.

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