

tax policy

tax principles

As part of our aim to create sustainable growth for all our stakeholders and recognising the role that tax plays in this regard, we have adopted the following set of global tax principles. We believe these principles illustrate good corporate practice in the area of tax management and tax transparency, balancing the interests of our various stakeholders, including our clients, shareholders, employees and society at large.

Profile

We aim for a moderate tax risk profile.

Compliance

We act in accordance with all applicable laws at all times and are guided by relevant international standards (for example OECD guidelines). We aim to comply with the spirit as well as the letter of the law. We comply with any legitimate disclosure requirement at first demand.

Uncertain tax positions

We aim for certainty on the tax positions we adopt, but where a tax law is unclear or subject to interpretation and no clearance can be obtained in advance, we ensure that our position should be settled in our favour.

Transfer pricing

We aim to report an appropriate portion of taxable income in those group entities where value is created within the normal course of our business. Any transfer pricing is always based on the arm's-length principle.

Tax avoidance

We do not use tax structures that are meant for tax avoidance, i.e. that do not meet the spirit of the law. We do not use secrecy jurisdictions or so-called tax havens for aggressive tax planning.

Tax incentives

As tax is a business expense that needs to be managed, like any other expense, we may legitimately respond to tax incentives and exemptions offered by governments.

Products

Products offered by the bank that have potential tax advantages for clients are only acceptable if these products fully meet the regulations in force, are transparent and do not contravene the intended purpose of these regulations.

Relationships with governments

We respect the right of governments to determine their own tax regime, rates of tax and collection mechanisms and their obligation to protect a sustainable tax base.

Relationships with tax authorities

We seek to develop strong, mutually respectful relationships with national tax authorities based on transparency and mutual trust. We undertake all dealings with them in a professional, courteous and timely manner. We collaboratively work with them to achieve early agreement on disputed issues and certainty on a real-time basis, where possible.

Transparency

We are transparent about our approach to tax. We regularly put forward understandable, timely and transparent communication about our tax principles. We comply with all the relevant rules regarding transparency in the area of tax.