



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS:

GERMANY | NETHERLANDS | SWITZERLAND | EUROPEAN UNION | FRANCE

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AFGHANISTAN | ALGERIA | DJIBOUTI | EGYPT | IRAQ | JORDAN | LEBANON | LIBYA | MOROCCO | SUDAN | SYRIA | TUNISIA | WEST BANK AND GAZA | YEMEN

IMF-METAC Steering Committee Meeting 2024: Expanding Capacity Development Services in a Challenging Regional Environment

For almost 20 years, the International Monetary Fund's ([IMF](#)) Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center ([METAC](#)) has been assisting its member countries in advancing public policies and building stronger macroeconomic institutions for long-term development and inclusive growth. METAC's Steering Committee met on June 6, 2024, in Cairo, Egypt, to review the Center's [capacity development \(CD\)](#) activities for the past fiscal year and discuss the workplan for the period ahead. The event brought together representatives from the IMF, [member countries](#), and [development partners](#). Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, France, and the European Union provide financial and strategic support to the Center.

METAC had a very successful year. It delivered on its commitment to substantially expand CD services to its member countries, despite a challenging regional environment marked by fragility and conflict. Total CD delivery increased by 30 percent compared to the previous year, while CD to fragile member states rose by 40 percent. METAC added three new [workstreams](#) (tax policy, government finance statistics, and macroeconomic frameworks) to its existing portfolio (public financial management, revenue administration, central bank operations, financial supervision and regulation, and real sector statistics). It also established two new cross-cutting work programs on [climate](#) and [gender](#) and bolstered its team of experts with three regional advisors dedicated to assisting [fragile and conflict-affected states](#) with their specific institutional challenges and capacity building needs. In the coming year, METAC will further increase its CD delivery to member countries introduce two new workstreams on [public debt management](#) and [governance & anti-corruption](#).



Minister of Finance of Egypt Dr. Mohamed Maait highlighting the long-standing engagement and collaboration with METAC.



METAC's Development partners from the European Union and SECO.



Development partners from SECO and Guest Speaker Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of ESCWA.



Member State participants from Algeria, Tunisia and Djibouti.



Director General of the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon George Maarrawi and Vice Minister of Finance of Egypt Ahmed Kouchouk.



Member State participants from Jordan and Libya.

Member country and development partner representatives commended METAC for its role in building stronger macroeconomic institutions and policies. *Vice Minister of Finance of Egypt Ahmed Kouchouk* highlighted METAC's role in supporting fiscal reforms. **George Maarrawi**, *Director General of the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon*, appreciated METAC's unwavering support during Lebanon's economic and political crisis. **Rana Badawi**, *Sub-Governor at the Central Bank of Egypt* recognized METAC's contributions to developing consolidated supervision and bank corporate governance regulations. **Valerie Liechti**, *Head of Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy in Egypt* stressed Switzerland's productive CD collaboration with IMF and METAC. *Deputy Director of the IMF Middle East and Central Asia Department Zeine Zeidane* highlighted METAC's role in supporting its member countries during challenging times. *METAC Director Holger Floerkemeier* thanked development partners for their longstanding support and collaboration, and member countries for their strong ownership of the Center.



Steering Committee participants.



Social event following the Steering Committee Meeting.