



Good Governance for Economic Resilience

December 4, 2024

Cairo, Egypt

Agenda

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00 - 09:30	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H. E. Ahmed Kouchouk, Minister of Finance, Egypt• Jihad Azour, Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF• H. E. Saade Chami, Deputy Prime Minister, Lebanon
09:30 – 10:10	Good Governance for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: Progress and Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zeine Zeidane, Deputy Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF
10.10 -10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 - 11:30	Panel 1: Building Fiscal Institutions to Strengthen Governance and Accountability <p>This session will address the pressing public financial management (PFM) challenges to address governance weaknesses across METAC countries. Governance weaknesses can create significant risks to effective PFM, including limited institutional capacity, insufficient legislative oversight, and outdated IT systems hindering transparency.</p> <p>Moderator: Carolina Renteria, Division Chief, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zeine Zeidane, Deputy Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF• Abdulqader Ameen Abdulraheem, Assistant Undersecretary for the External Financial Relation Sector, Ministry of Finance, Yemen• Lamia Moubayed Bissat, President of the Institute of Finance Basil Fuleihan vice-chair of the UN Committee on Public Administration, Lebanon• Valerie Liechti, Head of Office for International Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland, Egypt

11:30 – 11:45	Intermission – METAC Anniversary video
11:45 – 12:45	<p>Panel 2: Domestic Resource Mobilization: Balancing Efficiency and Equity Considerations</p> <p>This session will discuss the challenges and potential strategies for enhancing tax-to-GDP ratios and therefore sustainable public spending capacity through more inclusive and equitable tax systems and improving tax compliance.</p> <p>Moderator: Katherine Baer, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramy Mohamed Youssef, Deputy Minister of Finance for Tax policy and Reforms, Head of the Tax Policy Unit at Ministry of Finance, Egypt • Raghad Hanna Alakroush, Advisor to the General Manager, Incomes and Sales Tax Department, Jordan • Peter John Jonath, Project Director, German International Cooperation (GIZ), Iraq • Mario Mansour, Division Chief, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF • Fadia Sakr, Technical Assistance Advisor, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	<p>Panel 3: Emerging Trends in Debt Management and Monetary Operations: Ensuring Financial Stability in a Changing World</p> <p>This session will discuss sovereign debt and its interactions with monetary policy, financial stability, and financial market development. It will highlight a forward-looking view of debt management, outlining how capacity development can support achieving financial stability.</p> <p>Moderator: Franck Bousquet, Deputy Director, Institute for Capacity Development, IMF</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soumaya Sabounji, Deputy Director of the Treasury and External Finance in charge of the Debt Division, Ministry of Finance, Morocco • Mohammad Alquntar, Public Debt Department Director, Ministry of Finance, Jordan • Mae Adel, Advisor to the Minister of Finance for Capital Markets Operations, Egypt • Ernesto Bram, Head of Economic Cooperation & Development Affairs, Embassy of the Netherlands, Egypt • Thordur Jonasson, Deputy Division Chief, Monetary and Capital Markets Dept., IMF

15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 16:30	<p>Panel 4: Empowering Decision Makers with Better Data</p> <p>This session will discuss the importance of economic data for informed policy decision making and enhanced public accountability and transparency, identify data gaps that should shape national statistical reforms, and the role of IMF-METAC capacity development in driving these reforms.</p> <p>Moderator: Paul Austin, Division Chief, Resource Management Division, Statistics Department, IMF</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yasser Sobhi, Vice-Minister of Finance, Egypt • Murad Bani Hamad, Director, National Accounts Directorate, Department of Statistics, Jordan • Ingrid Schwaiger, Deputy Head of Unit, Regional Cooperation in the Southern Neighborhood, DG NEAR, European Union • Taline Koranchelian, Deputy Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF
16:30 – 16:40	Closing Remarks
16:40 – 18:00	Reception