



COUNTRIES-DONORS: ALGERIA | EGYPT | JORDAN | LEBANON | LIBYA  
COUNTRIES: AFGHANISTAN | DJIBOUTI | IRAQ | MOROCCO | SUDAN | SYRIA | TUNISIA | WEST BANK & GAZA | YEMEN

METAC Annual Steering Committee Meeting



METAC held its Annual Steering Committee meeting on May 19 in Beirut. METAC’s strategy for the next funding cycle (May 2016-April 2021) was discussed and overview of last year’s results was presented by Mr. Mohamad Elhage, METAC Coordinator, and METAC advisors. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alain Bifani, Director General of the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon, who noted that despite the complex political transformation and difficult security situation in the region, METAC had relatively a successful year. Mr. Bifani urged member countries and donors to continue to support METAC financially. Representatives from the IMF headquarters shared their departments’ technical assistance (TA) strategies for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. A representative from the European Commission (EC) discussed macroeconomic developments in the MENA region and the EC key reform priorities.

Technical Assistance Missions

Revenue Administration

A METAC short-term expert visited the Palestine National Authority (PNA) Department of Customs to assist in defining the future role and structure of the Risk Management and Intelligence functions, based on international good practice.

Statistics

A METAC mission for Afghanistan was conducted in Jordan, jointly with the IMF Statistics Department, to assist the Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan in improving the national accounts. The mission assessed the compilation procedures and provided recommendations to enhance and better use the available source data, and to update the methodological basis of the compilation procedures towards the requirements of the international standards.

Technical Assistance Reports

Below TA reports were uploaded on our website during May 2016. Steering Committee members of countries and donors who signed a confidentiality agreement with the IMF can access the reports on our website.

	Egypt
Revenue Administration	Review of the Organizational Structure of the Egyptian Customs Authority
	Lebanon
Banking Supervision	Enhancement of On-site Examination Procedures

Farewell to METAC Colleagues



It is with sad feelings that we say goodbye to three of our colleagues at METAC.  
**Mr. Mohamad Elhage**, METAC Coordinator for the last three years is going back to the IMF headquarters. During his tenure at METAC, Mr. Elhage worked with a very high level of dedication and caring to keep the

work of METAC at high quality despite the difficult region we operate in. Mohamad played a key role in expanding the Center’s membership to include Algeria, Djibouti, Morocco, and Tunisia. Apart from the decision making and overall professionalism, Mohamad has been a good friend and mentor to all of us.  
  
Mohamad’s duties will be assumed by Ms. Taline Koranchelian who brings to METAC a strong understanding of the economic policy issues and challenges facing the countries in the region. Her experience at the Fund puts her in a great position to manage IMF TA and to respond to Members’ capacity development needs. We welcome Taline to METAC and look forward to working with her.

**Mr. Charles Jenkins**, METAC Revenue Administration Advisor is also leaving METAC to join the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) in Washington D.C. Mr. Jenkins’ contribution to METAC’s work in the areas of revenue and customs administrations was greatly appreciated by the authorities in METAC countries. Since joining METAC in 2014, the Center’s involvement with customs administrations increased significantly in several countries. We wish Charles all the best in his new position in FAD.

**Ms. Sawsan Saidi**, METAC Office Manager since March, 2010 is leaving METAC and moving back to the U.S. with her family. Since joining METAC she has shown a high degree of dedication and professionalism. Staff from the IMF departments, member countries, and donors who worked with her have greatly appreciated her excellent contribution to the Center. We thank her for all her contributions to METAC and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

METAC Staff

