



DONORS

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

Technical Assistance (TA) Missions

Banking Supervision

Tunisia

METAC undertook its first capacity development mission to the Central Bank of Tunisia (CBT), within the context of risk-based supervision. The mission provided training on market risk to 15 examiners from the CBT Banking Supervision Directorate. It conducted peer analyses of similar countries on market risk, and offered practical examples to illustrate the calculation of capital charges, covering interest rate, equity, and foreign exchange risks under the standardized approach of Basel II. The mission also assisted the CBT in drafting a framework on market risk, to help them meet one of the structural benchmarks of the IMF Stand-By Arrangement with Tunisia.

Revenue Administration

Egypt

METAC's advisor on revenue administration visited Cairo to hear the authorities' views on METAC's work in this area, and to assess Egypt's needs for TA going forward. Mr. De Mets met with the Vice-Minister of Finance for Tax Policy and his senior staff. Special attention was given to the recently enacted and implemented law on value-added tax. TA needs were discussed with IMF Headquarters to determine how best to meet them.

Statistics

Iraq

METAC undertook an off-site mission in Baku, Azerbaijan to continue its assistance

on strengthening Iraq's external sector statistics. The mission found that some of the previous mission's recommendations were implemented, and the statistical discrepancy (net errors and omissions) in the preliminary balance of payments data for 2016 has declined substantially. The mission recommended treating adequately imports financed by the foreign exchange auction; introducing the enhanced international transactions reporting system; and enhancing the inter-institutional cooperation.

METAC undertook an off-site mission in Amman, Jordan to provide TA on national accounts to the Iraqi Central Organization of Statistics and Information Technologies. The mission assisted the authorities in improving the source data and integrating product balances in the core national accounts compilation system. The mission suggested a standardized template to be used on all product balances, allowing the simultaneous compilation of values and volumes, specifying the valuation elements from supplier to the final user.

Libya

METAC undertook an off-site mission in Amman, Jordan to assist the Bureau of Statistics and Census of Libya in developing capacity for re-establishing national accounts statistics. The mission reviewed the current status and designed a program to develop the national accounts compilation system. In this context, strengthening the staff's capacity was seen as priority, and METAC provided intensive training to the officials participating in the mission.

Tunisia

METAC mission visited the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) to review and assess Tunisia's national accounts compilation system. The mission

discussed areas in which METAC could support the NIS to ensure a sustainable compilation system, in line with international methodological requirements. This includes: introducing financial balance sheets, enhancing quarterly GDP estimates, and improving the price statistics needed for national accounts.

Regional Workshop on Managing Fiscal Risks



Experience from recent years in the Middle East and North Africa underscores the need to better understand the size and nature of fiscal risks and their implications, with a view to make public finances in the region more robust. In this context, the IMF's Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) and METAC organized a regional workshop on "Frameworks for the Management of Fiscal Risks", in Kuwait City, Kuwait during January 23-26, 2017. The workshop aimed at bringing together senior managers and technical staff of ministries of finance from the region to share ideas and experiences in addressing fiscal risks, and to enhance their capacity

to understand manage these risks. In particular, building on a set of analytical tools and best practices designed by the IMF to help policy makers understand and manage fiscal risks, the workshop provided participants with a structured conceptual overview of fiscal risks, their sources, as well as principles and mechanisms for managing them. The workshop also provided a forum for participants to discuss and exchange views on related issues and the challenges they encounter in their respective jurisdictions in addressing them. Twenty-six senior representatives of finance ministries and central banks from 13 countries attended the workshop: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Tunisia, and West Bank and Gaza.

Technical Assistance Reports

The following TA reports were uploaded on METAC's website during January 2017. Steering Committee members of countries and donors who have signed a confidentiality agreement with the IMF can access the reports on our website.

	Afghanistan
Statistics	National Accounts

METAC PLANNED MISSIONS

METAC planned missions for February 2017 can be found @ www.imfmetac.org

