



## RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN	EGYPT
IRAQ	JORDAN
LEBANON	LIBYA
SUDAN	SYRIA
WBG	YEMEN

## Regional Workshop in Lebanon on Cash Accounting



In collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), METAC organized a regional workshop on “*International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Cash Accounting*” in Lebanon from July 10–12, 2012. The workshop gathered 20 senior officials from METAC countries. The lively discussions and debates that characterized the sessions provided a great opportunity to share experiences and best practices in the preparation of financial statements in accordance with international standards. Adopting these standards will enhance the quality and transparency of public sector financial reporting and will strengthen public confidence in public financial management. Speakers included Mr. Frans Van Schaik, Mr. Farooq Khan, and Ms. Safaa El Baba from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Lebanon.

## Enhancing the Enforcement Manual in Afghanistan

Mr. Rachid Awad, METAC Banking Supervision Advisor, visited Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) from June 23–27, 2012 for a first among a series of missions dedicated to enhancing the regulatory and supervisory framework for dealing with weak banks in Afghanistan. The mission focused on regulation enforcement and provided suggestions on the draft enforcement manual.

## Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics in Afghanistan

Mr. Jean Galand, METAC Statistics Advisor, visited DAB from June 25–28, 2012 to follow up on previous missions’ recommendations. He noted that the implementation of previous recommendations has been effective in several areas; in particular a Statistics Panel was created for the harmonization of trade statistics; the coverage of services transactions has improved; and cooperation with the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency is effective. Further efforts remain necessary in particular to improve the coverage of current and capital transfers.

## Developing a Tax Procedure Code (TPC) in Sudan

METAC organized a mission to Sudan from June 27–July 5, 2012, to assist the Taxation Chamber in developing a TPC. The mission was conducted by Ms. Manal Assir, METAC Revenue Administration Advisor, and Mr. Louay Hajj Chehade, METAC expert in tax administration. The mission provided advice on the proper approach to draft the TPC and the related provisions that need to be included, and developed an action plan to complete the first draft of the Code.

## Statistics Mission in Sudan

Mr. Jean Galand conducted a mission to Sudan, from July 8–12, 2012, to provide technical assistance and hands-on training to the staff of the Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS) on external statistics. The mission discussed cooperation between the CBOS, the Ministry of Investment and the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) regarding the conduct of a direct investment survey, and between the CBOS and the CBS for the estimation of informal cross-border trade transactions. The mission assisted the CBOS in completing the update of General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) metadata, and preparing the contribution of Sudan to the Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook.

## Strengthening Risk Management at Customs in Lebanon

METAC organized a mission in Lebanon from July 10–18, 2012, to strengthen risk management at customs. The mission was conducted by Ms. Manal Assir, and Mr. Martin Brown, IMF expert. The mission provided needed guidance to establish a central Risk Management Unit (RMU) with a clearly defined mandate. The mission recommended a set of measures to strengthen the work of the RMU and design appropriate risk parameters and schemes that would improve targeting and selectivity, establish an effective monitoring framework, and streamline the risk management procedures. The mission also developed a plan for the RMU to implement the recommended actions, including a timetable, responsibilities and outputs expected.

