



## DONORS



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## RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

## METAC Annual Steering Committee Meeting



METAC held its Annual Steering Committee (SC) Meeting on May 14, 2013 in Beirut. The meeting was opened by His Excellency Mohamad Safadi, Minister of Finance of Lebanon (MOF) and Chairperson of the SC, Ms. Kristina Kostial, Assistant Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Middle East and Central Asia Department, and Mr. Mohamad Elhage, METAC new Coordinator.

Minister Safadi highlighted the role of METAC since its launch in 2004, in providing technical assistance (TA) and training to the countries of the region. He emphasized Lebanon's positive experience with METAC, and stressed the importance of supporting METAC financially to enable it to meet the TA and training needs of its member countries, in particular those that are currently going through political transition.

Ms. Kristina Kostial stated that METAC has been doing an outstanding job in building capacity in the region and that the authorities always express their satisfaction with the TA and training METAC is providing. She highlighted the importance of ensuring sufficient funding for the next cycle, 2015-2020.

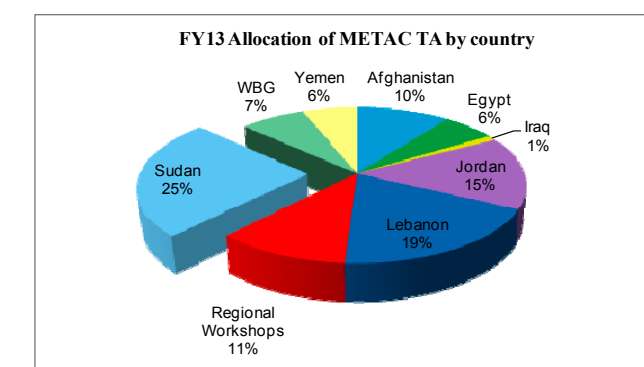
Mr. Saad Andari, Second Vice-Governor of Banque du Liban, and Mr. Alain Bifani, Director General, MOF of Lebanon, shared Lebanon's experience with METAC since its inception highlighting METAC's notable achievements in all four areas: (i) Banking Supervision; (ii) Public Financial Management; (iii) Revenue Administration; and (iv) Statistics. They noted that the cooperation with METAC will continue and be further enhanced in the period ahead.

IMF Representatives and Donors expressed their appreciation of the work that METAC has been doing in the region, noting the flexibility of METAC in delivering TA. For the first time, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) was represented in the SC as the newest donor of METAC. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was also represented in the meeting announcing that the agreement for USAID to become a donor to METAC will be signed in the coming days.

## A Year in Summary

During Fiscal Year (FY) 13 (May 2012 – April 2013), METAC delivered 68 TA missions and eight regional workshops to all METAC member countries except Libya and Syria. Sudan received the largest portion of resources, followed by Lebanon and Jordan; total delivery weeks reached 237 person weeks.

METAC delivered 91 percent of its work plan despite the challenging conditions in some of the recipient countries. The work plan for FY13 focused mainly on countries that were in a position to receive TA from METAC. The work plan was also flexible, which enabled a relatively quick accommodation of authorities' emerging requests that were not part of the initial work plan.



## Workshop on 'Enhancing EU – IMF Cooperation in the MENA Region' Jordan

A joint workshop on 'Enhancing EU – IMF Cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region' was organized by the European Commission (EU) and IMF during May 15 to 16 in Amman, Jordan. The workshop aimed at:

- Increasing awareness of the IMF's TA model and strengthening working relations between the two institutions; and
- Laying the foundations for how this 'strategic partnership' could work in practice.

METAC Coordinator presented the modality of METAC's work and its role and involvement in serving the TA needs of the region. METAC advisors had also the opportunity to answer questions about their work in their corresponding areas. Participants from different departments of the IMF made presentations along with participants from the EU.

