



## RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

## Implementation Strategy of the 2008 System of National Accounts and Supporting Statistics in the Arab Region

Mr. Jean Galand, METAC Statistics Advisor, participated in the meetings organized in Amman, from June 23 to 27, 2013 by the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics on the Implementation Strategy of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) and Supporting Statistics in the Arab Region.



The meetings comprised three parts: a national workshop for Jordan, selected as a pilot country, aiming to initiate the formulation of a national implementation strategy; a High Level Meeting focused on advocacy; and a regional seminar to address issues of implementation of the 2008 SNA with participation of national accounts experts and senior managers of statistics departments of the National Statistics Office, the Central Bank, and the Ministry of Planning of most Arab Countries. Mr. Galand presented the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Data Standards Initiatives and the G-20 Data Gaps Initiatives to address statistical issues highlighted by financial crises; he also presented the recent changes to the Balance of Payments Manual (BPM6) intended to ensure full consistency with the 2008 SNA.

### The 21st Arab Economic Forum

METAC Coordinator, Mr. Mohamad Elhage, participated in a panel discussion at the 21st edition of the "Arab Economic Forum" in Beirut, on May 9 and 10, 2013. In the session *"An Agenda for Managing the Economic Transition and Challenges of Restoring Growth"*, Mr. Elhage discussed the IMF's assessment of the economic conditions in the Arab World, making a distinction between oil importing and oil exporting countries; what needs to be done in order to maintain macroeconomic stability and achieve higher economic growth in the two groups of countries; and how the IMF is helping the countries in the region.

## Public Financial Management Mission – Jordan

METAC participated in an IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department mission to Jordan with a focus on the implementation of two structural benchmarks under the current Fund-supported program for Jordan. The mission reviewed progress in the implementation of reforms related to cash management practices and government banking arrangements; identified issues, and guided on further work to be done.

### Reform and Modernization of Egyptian Customs Authority

A METAC mission visited Cairo from May 26 to June 6, 2013. The mission comprised Mr. Martin Brown, an IMF expert, and Ms. Manal Assir, METAC Revenue Administration Advisor. The mission reviewed the current functions and operations of the Egyptian Customs Authority (ECA); took stock of recent developments in its reform and modernization program; provided technical assistance and advice to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of ECA and enhance coordination with the Egyptian Tax Authority to prepare for the shift to a fully-fledged Value Added Tax; and assessed the needs going forward.

## Review and Finalization of the NBFIs Supervision Manual – Lebanon

The project that METAC started with the Banking Control Commission of Lebanon (BCCL) during December 2012 to assist in developing a risk-based manual for the supervision of non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) is close to completion. Mr. Rachid Awad, METAC Banking Supervision Advisor, and Ms. Jennifer Wood, a METAC short-term expert, conducted a mission to the BCCL from May 28 to June 5, 2013 to discuss and finalize the manual.

To assist in the practical implementation of the manual, a pilot inspection was planned for a Lebanese NBFIs using the new approach; Ms. Wood made a second visit to Beirut where she joined the BCCL team and assisted in implementing the risk-based approach during the inspection. A follow-up mission is planned to assist the team in concluding the inspection and preparing the final reports.

