

# Public Financial Management

## National Workshops in Fiscal Year 2018

### **Afghanistan** (October 2-6)

In the context of the ongoing program supported by the Extended Credit Facility, the authorities are committed to continue to implement strong fiscal reform efforts. In the PFM area, their priorities include (i) improving formulation, execution and reporting of the budget, (ii) ensuring a pro-growth composition of expenditures, and (iii) strengthening commitment control and cash management. To support the ongoing consolidation of PFM reforms, METAC organized a one-week seminar aimed at deepening the understanding of PFM issues for staff who are engaged in capacity building projects and institutional reform. Using a mixture of lectures and group discussions, the seminar built understanding of priority reforms, effective sequencing, and the linkages between the components of PFM capacity building activities and improved economic and fiscal performance.

### **Iraq** (July 18-20)

The Iraqi economy has been severely affected by the collapse in oil prices and the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which resulted in higher fiscal deficit and accumulation of payment arrears. Since 2017, with the support of FAD and METAC, the authorities have taken measures to clear the stock of payment arrears and strengthen monitoring of commitments.



*National Workshop on Strengthening  
Commitment Control, Lebanon  
July 18-20, 2017*

### **Lebanon** (October 23-27, October 30 – November 8)

Following initial training and advice in December 2016, METAC organized a seminar on International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Fiscal Reporting (IPSAS) in Beirut. With the participation of 18 representatives from the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon, the seminar supported the convergence of the Lebanese government's financial reporting with international standards. Participants discussed the progress made by the Lebanese Ministry of Finance to prepare its first financial statements in accordance with the Cash-Basis IPSAS and the way to overcome the remaining challenges. METAC presented international experiences and provided technical advice to improve the overall quality of financial reporting, fiscal transparency, and accountability. Mr. Roger Loutfi, Head of the Lebanese IPSAS Committee, stressed the importance for Lebanon to adhere to the international standards, and stated that the IPSAS committee is working to finalize a first draft of financial



statements, in accordance with the Cash-Basis IPSAS, in the upcoming months.

The Lebanese authorities intend to strengthen the institutional framework for identifying and managing the fiscal risks in Lebanon. Following METAC's support in November 2016 and a METAC regional seminar on fiscal risk management in January 2017, the Macro Fiscal Department (MFD) at the Ministry of Finance initiated analytical work, focusing on macroeconomic risks, and aims at preparing a fiscal risk statement (FRS). In this context, the MFD requested METAC to (i) further support the development of their capacity to identify and analyze fiscal risk and (ii) provide guidance to prepare a draft a fiscal risk statement. Accordingly, METAC organized a three-day inception seminar to discuss international standards, country experiences, and methodological issues. It also supported the development of a first draft FRS and undertook a summary review of fiscal risks disclosure practices against the principles set by the Fiscal Transparency Code to identify key gaps. Last, the mission developed a short-term roadmap to improve adherence to fiscal transparency standards related to fiscal risk management.