



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center

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Webinars on Macro Fiscal Planning in the METAC Region

The Role of Macro-Fiscal Units in the COVID-19 pandemic

On May 27, METAC and the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department held the first in a series of three webinars on macro-fiscal planning in the context of COVID-19 – 41 participants attended, from 9 countries. The webinar discussed issues related to the role of macro-fiscal units, both in terms of technical analysis and coordination across various agencies, in providing timely advice to ministers of finance and communicating with other stakeholders on policy options to respond to COVID-19. One particular issue that participants discussed in some detail is how unforeseen budget revisions can be handled, amidst continuing fragility related to the pandemic, and reduced fiscal space due to lower revenues.