



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND



Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center
in collaboration with
the Fiscal Affairs Department and the International Budget Partnership

Webinar on Strengthening Fiscal Transparency in Challenging Times

June 23, 15:00-16:30 (Beirut time)

This webinar will discuss the key factors to improve fiscal transparency, building on the 2019 Open Budget Survey (OBS) released in April 2020 and other initiatives and tools. While Government budgets and their implementation have a direct impact on people's lives, lack of fiscal transparency and limited public participation can lower the efficiency of public services, undermine fiscal discipline, and create opportunities for corruption. At the same time, to address the economic and social needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, governments in the METAC region have implemented large fiscal stimuluses. At no other time has it been more critical that swift budget execution needs to go hand in hand with transparency, to foster citizens' trust in the state.

Target audience: Representatives from civil society organizations, academia, finance ministries and finance commissions of parliaments and other governmental or audit agencies, international financial institutions and development partners in METAC countries.

Speakers:

Claire Schouten, Suad Hasan, IBP: summary of the results for the METAC region and the main takeaways in the COVID-19 context

Jason Harris, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF: The Fiscal Transparency Code

Aicha Karafi, Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency: reflections to advance the regional agenda on fiscal transparency

Discussion: What explains differences in OBS results across the region? What type of fiscal transparency is important in the COVID-19 context?

To participate in the Webinar, please use this link: [REGISTER](#)

(See what time it is in your city [HERE](#))

Language: English, with simultaneous interpretation in Arabic and French

Further information: For any queries on logistics, please contact Trisha Viecco Carrillo (tviecco@internationalbudget.org)