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Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center

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IMF's Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center Concludes Workshop on Regional Workshop on Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC) held a workshop on "Regional Workshop on Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)" in Beirut, Lebanon from December 16-19, 2014. It was attended by senior representatives of Finance and Planning Ministries from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In total, 27 delegates from 11 countries attended. The countries represented included: Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.

The workshop focused on techniques, processes, and institutions required for successful implementation of a Medium Term Expenditure Framework. It aimed at deepening participants' understanding of issues related to the development of MTEFs and their relationship with macro-fiscal forecasting, national development planning and wider issues of budgeting and public financial management.

A highly participative approach was adopted, based on breakout group discussions and presentations in plenary. Delegates were encouraged to share their experiences and ideas, with a view to establishing a basis for continued knowledge sharing throughout the region.

During the workshop, participants were given the opportunity shared their experience on the main challenges they are facing in developing an MTEF in their countries, and the critical issues and risks—technical, institutional and political—that still need to be addressed. In a final wrap-up session, participants identified potential areas for future METAC technical assistance support.