



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS:

GERMANY | NETHERLANDS | SWITZERLAND | EUROPEAN UNION | FRANCE

MEMBERS:

AFGHANISTAN | ALGERIA | DJIBOUTI | EGYPT | IRAQ | JORDAN | LEBANON | LIBYA | MOROCCO | SUDAN | SYRIA | TUNISIA | WEST BANK AND GAZA | YEMEN

IMF-METAC Envisages Substantial Expansion of Capacity Development in Support of Stronger Economic Institutions and Policies in the MENA Region

The International Monetary Fund ([IMF](#)) Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center ([METAC](#)) organized a [regional conference](#) on June 7-8 in Beirut, Lebanon, to inaugurate the Center's new Program Phase (2023 – 2027) and mark the reopening of its office premises following the tragic August 2020 Beirut harbor explosion. The conference was followed by METAC's annual Steering Committee meeting. With the start of the new [program phase](#), the fifth one since the Center opened in 2004, METAC plans to double the volume of [capacity development](#) delivery to its [member countries](#) across the MENA region.

METAC assists its member countries in advancing public policies and build stronger macroeconomic institutions for long-term development and inclusive growth. The focus is on mobilizing government revenues, improving the efficiency and quality of public spending, enhancing the governance of public finances, strengthening central bank operations and banking regulation and supervision, and producing high quality data to support informed macroeconomic policy decision making. METAC has 14 [member countries](#) from across the MENA region and is supported by the IMF and [development partners](#)—Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, and the European Union.

The event brought together representatives from METAC member countries, development partners, civil society, and the IMF to foster capacity development collaboration, facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges, and strengthen coordination. Four panel sessions discussed [capacity development needs and challenges](#), [capacity development partnerships](#), the role of [fiscal transparency](#) in economic governance, and the importance of [gender equality](#) for economic policy.

METAC presented its main [areas of work](#), while high-level member country representatives showcased examples of successful economic reform implementation with METAC's technical assistance, including in banking supervision ([Egypt](#), [Morocco](#)), public financial management ([Djibouti](#), [Morocco](#), [Yemen](#)), and revenue mobilization ([Egypt](#), [Libya](#), [Morocco](#), [Tunisia](#)). The event also discussed economic reform priorities in METAC countries, with interventions by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon **Saade Chami**, Banque du Liban Deputy Governor **Salim Chahine**, Vice Minister of Finance of Egypt **Ahmed Kouchouk**, and H.E. Minister of Budget of Djibouti, **Isman Ibrahim Robleh**.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Minister of Finance of Lebanon **Youssef El Khalil** expressed Lebanon's great pride in having hosted METAC for almost two decades and appreciated the IMF's decision to remain in Lebanon during this particularly challenging time. Deputy Director of the IMF Middle East and Central Asia Department **Zeine Zeidane** highlighted the IMF's ambitious plans to expand METAC's capacity development services to its member countries and stressed the IMF's strong commitment to Lebanon. Along with the Minister and the IMF, METAC Director **Holger Floerkemeier** thanked development partners for their longstanding support and collaboration, and member countries for their strong ownership of the Center.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/imfcapdev/status/1667231042749579266> (thread)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/IMFCapacityDevelopment/posts/pfbid0WbHzLFXxXETLc93FqJ1XpZuGZcNs1sAizH3TwARUKXWQ6xTGc45gxVgxEi7Vr8dNI>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7072996721026330624>



