



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center

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Webinar on Customs Modernization Strategies for Improved Revenue Mobilization

In collaboration with the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department, METAC held a webinar on "Customs Modernization Strategies for Improved Revenue Mobilization" on October 28, 2020. The main objective was to discuss priorities and challenges in modernizing the revenue function of customs and share country experiences. Discussions were informed by the results of a questionnaire, which suggested the following (respondents included Afghanistan, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen): (1) customs collections represent one-third of tax revenue on average, with VAT accounting for the largest share, followed by excises and the external tariff; (2) tax incentives related to various programs such as free economic zones, and valuation and post-clearance audit, are key operational challenges in terms of risk to the revenue base; and (3) key institutional challenges include human resource and information technology management (in particular ethic and integrity), strategic planning, and data collection, organization and analysis. The results of the webinar will be published in a METAC *Regional Note* and will serve as a basis for planning capacity development support over the next five years.