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Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center

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Regional Webinar on Government Finance Statistics and Public Sector Debt Statistics

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

METAC and the IMF Statistics Department hosted a regional webinar on the importance of comprehensive and timely Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and Public Sector Debt Statistics (PSDS) for decision and policymaking. IMF experts presented an overview of the internationally accepted framework for compiling and disseminating such statistics, and senior officials from ten METAC member countries discussed the challenges they face in this area—which varied from basic compilation of central government fiscal statistics to data consolidation for a broad definition of government and its entities. The webinar was attended by development partners in the region and revealed possibilities and priorities to enhance capacity building efforts towards GFS and PSDS compilation in the METAC region. The lessons from the webinar will be used to inform METAC's capacity development planning over the next few years.