

## Medium-Term Budget Planning Online Course - Webinar 27-29 July 2020

### Objective of the webinar:

The three-session webinar (with each session lasting half a day), presented by the IMF-Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC) and the Institute of Finance, aims at highlighting the principles and key design features of medium-term budget planning. It is aimed at technical staff of the Ministry of Finance and sector ministries of Lebanon. Webinar participants will discuss the relevance of medium-term budget planning for the country's own budget system, taking into account existing features such as the medium-term fiscal framework.

Upon completion of this webinar, participants should be able to:

- understand the relevance of medium-term budgeting for modern public finance management;
- describe the key features of a medium-term budget framework (MTBF) and institutional underpinnings, including the complementarity to the existing medium-term fiscal framework (MTFF);
- understand the principles of forward costing;
- reflect on (i) the strengths and weaknesses of their country's budgeting system and (ii) possibilities to consider introducing some features of medium-term budgeting.

### Content:

The Webinar will provide:

- a general overview of the key features of a Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF), including recent developments and international experiences related to medium-term budget planning;
- the features of medium-term fiscal frameworks (MTFF) and objectives of fiscal rules;
- the principles of baseline estimates and forward costing, conducting a practical exercise in key expenditure areas;
- insights on the transition and implementation of MTBFs.

### Audience:

- (i) Technical staff of the Ministry of Finance in Lebanon, primarily from the Budget Directorate, the Macro-fiscal unit, Treasury and other divisions which have a relation with budget planning.
- (ii) Technical staff from budget directorates of sector ministries.

Familiarity with conducting basic operations in Excel is a requirement.

**Date, location, format:**

Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th of July, 2020, from 9:30-13:15 Beirut time.

Participants are expected to work on a practical costing exercise in the afternoon of Tuesday 28th of July (self-paced exercise in Excel with duration of approximately ninety minutes).

Webinar modality with IT platform “Webex Meeting”.

**Language, Interpretation:**

The Webinar is conducted in English; a translator for Arabic/French-English stands by for “upon demand”-interpretation. The powerpoint material is in English only.

**Meeting link:**

<https://imf.webex.com/imf/j.php?MTID=m21f2dd13b02c61e6fab550a7728e5329>

**Meeting number:** 146 771 0542

**Password:** cKTKEtEN873

**Lecturers:**

**Mr. Jonas Frank**, a German national, is Advisor for Public Financial Management in METAC. He has 20 years of professional experience on a wide range of PFM issues. Previously, he was Deputy Head of the Macroeconomic Support Division at the Swiss Secretariat of Economic Affairs, overseeing operations in MENA, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. He also worked for ten years at the World Bank, focusing on public investment management and fiscal decentralization, and co-led the Decentralization and Subnational Finance Thematic Group. Mr. Frank holds a Doctorate in Economics and Social Sciences from the University of Potsdam (Germany).

**Mr. Julien Dubertret** began his career in 1992 in the French Budget Department. He held the position of Deputy director of the Budget Department (2003-2007), of Budget advisor to the Prime minister (2007-2011) and Director of the Budget Department (2011-2013). Currently, he is an Inspector General of Finance in the French ministry of Finance; he also takes part in a number of IMF capacity development missions.

**Mr. Gerhard Steger** held the positions of the Director General of the Austrian Federal Budget 1997-2014 and the Director General for Fiscal Sustainability at the Austrian Supreme Audit Institution 2014-2016. Between 2009-2014 he chaired the Senior Budget Officials Network of the OECD. Currently, Mr. Steger works as an independent consultant in the area of public financial management.

## Preliminary agenda and details to connect

Use the link below to connect to the daily three sessions :

<https://imf.webex.com/imf/j.php?MTID=m21f2dd13b02c61e6fab550a7728e5329>

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Day 1 – Monday 27 July	
9:30-9:45	<b>Opening session</b> Welcome Remarks (Institute of Finance, METAC) Presentation of participants Goals and expectations for the Webinar
9:45 – 10:45	<b>Medium-Term Fiscal Frameworks</b> <i>Speaker:</i> Julien Dubertret
10:45 – 10:55	Break
10:55 – 11:40	<b>Fiscal Rules</b> <i>Speaker:</i> Jonas Frank
11:40 – 11:50	Break
11:50 – 13:10	<b>Main design elements of a Medium-Term Budget Framework: Part 1</b> <i>Speaker:</i> Gerhard Steger
13:10 – 13:15	<b>Closing of the Day</b>
Day 2 – Tuesday 28 July	
9:30 – 10:30	<b>Main design elements of a Medium-Term Budget Framework: Part 2</b> <i>Speaker:</i> Gerhard Steger
10:30 – 10:50	<b>Partnerships and Coordination in the Transition towards a Medium-Term Budget Framework</b> <i>Speaker:</i> Julien Dubertret
10:45 – 10:55	Break
10:55 – 11:55	<b>Baseline Estimates and Forward Costing</b> <i>Speaker:</i> Gerhard Steger
11:55 – 12:05	<b>Introduction to Practical Costing Exercises</b>
12:05 – 12:15	Break
12:15 – 12:55	<b>Budgeting and Costing in Lebanon – Discussion Round</b>
12:55 – 13:00	<b>Closing of the Day</b>

### Day 3 – Wednesday 29 July

9:30 – 10:15	<b>Feedback on Practical Costing Exercises; Practitioner’s Insights</b>
10:15 – 11:15	<b>Fiscal Risks</b> <i>Speaker: Gerhard Steger</i>
11:15 – 11:25	Break
11:25 – 12:05	<b>Evaluating Results of Medium-Term Budget Planning</b> <i>Speaker: Julien Dubertret</i>
12:05 – 12:15	Break
12:15 – 12:45	<b>Priorities of Budget Planning in Lebanon - Discussion Round</b>
12:45 – 13:00	<b>Course Evaluation and Feedback from Participants</b>
13:00 – 13:15	<b>Closing Session</b> Concluding remarks (Institute of Finance, METAC)