Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

ANNOTATED AGENDA AND REGISTRATION FORM

3rd Annual Meeting of Middle East and North Africa Senior Budget Officials (MENA-SBO)

Dubai, United Arab Emirates
31 October - 1 November 2010

This meeting is hosted by the United Arab Emirates – Ministry of Finance.

Chair: Mr. Bader Ahmed AL QAYED, Director of Public Audit Department, Vice Chairman, State Finance Committee, Ministry of Finance, Qatar.

Co-chairs: Mr. Saeed Rashed ALYATEEM, Executive Director of Budget and Revenue, Ministry of Finance, United Arab Emirates and Mr. Mårten BLIX, Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Sweden.

Chairman of the OECD Working Party of Senior Budget Officials: Mr. Gerhard STEGER, Director-General of Budget, Ministry of Finance, Austria.

For further information, please contact:
Mr. Jón Ragnar BLÖNDAL, Head of Budgeting and Public Expenditures at OECD Headquarters:
E-mail: jon.blondal@oecd.org

JT03290605

Document complet disponible sur OLIS dans son format d’origine
Complete document available on OLIS in its original format
3rd ANNUAL MEETING OF MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN SENIOR BUDGET OFFICIALS (MENA-SBO)

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Sunday, 31 October 2010

Chairman: Mr. Bader Ahmed AL QAYED

8:30 - 9:00  Registration and Coffee

9:00 - 9:30  Opening by Chair, Co-Chairs and OECD Secretariat
Introduction of Delegates

9:30 - 10:00  Welcome Address
- His Excellency Younis Haji ALKHOORI, General Manager, Ministry of Finance, United Arab Emirates.

10:00 - 10:30  Group Photo and Coffee Break

Chairman: Mr. Märten BLIX

10:30 - 12:30  Roundtable on Responding to the Crisis - One Year Later

The agenda of last year’s MENA-SBO meeting was dominated by the financial and economic crisis. The discussion revealed the great diversity in how the crisis manifested itself in individual countries as well as the range of policy responses being adopted.

This session is designed for Delegates to provide updates – one-year later – on developments in their respective countries in terms of the response to the crisis and the status of exit strategies.

The session will open with two overview presentations – one focused on the European Union and the other on the MENA region. This will be followed by substantial time for exchanges and debates among Delegates. Three countries will open the roundtable.
**Speakers:**

- **Ms. Marta MORANO LARRAGUETA**, Senior Advisor, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Spain: *The Fiscal Crisis in the EU: Evolution and Perspectives.*

- **Dr. Raja M. ALMARZOQI ALBQAMI**, Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Saudi Arabia and former Chairman of Monetary Union Unit at the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC): *MENA and the Gulf Region: A Year Later.*

**Opening Discussants:**

- **Dr. Hamzah JARADAT**, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, Jordan.

- **Mr. Lamine MOULAHI**, Director General, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Tunisia.

- **Dr. Yasser SOBHI**, Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Egypt.

**12:30 - 14:00 Luncheon**

**Chairman: Mr. Bader Ahmed AL QAYED**

**14:00 - 15:30 Implementing Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks**

Medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEF’s) are the cornerstone of well functioning budget processes. They provide baseline projections of government expenditures, most often for three years beyond the budget. As such, they are the foundation for the annual budget process and can serve to reinforce credibility in the government’s fiscal stewardship. They are however complex in operation and there are many examples of unsuccessful MTEF’s.

This session offer insights for the launch of MTEF’s from two different points of view. The first speaker will draw on the experience of OECD countries and outline key success factors for their implementation. The second speaker presents information from the very recent and on-going launch of the MTEF initiative in Abu Dhabi.

Following their presentations, the floor will be opened for questions and comments by all Delegates.
**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Jón Ragnar BLÖNDAL**, Head of Budgeting and Public Expenditures, OECD: *Medium-Term Expenditure Framework: Key Success Factors.*

- **Mr. Peter THURLOW**, Senior Fiscal Advisor, Abu Dhabi: *Abu Dhabi's Experiencing with Launching a Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.*

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee Break*

---

**Chairman: Mr. Saeed Rashed ALYATEEM**

16:00 – 17:30 **Long-Term Budget Projections**

Long-term budget projections provide a basis to discuss the sustainability of current public policies by qualifying and quantifying the impact of public policies with long-term fiscal consequences, as well as the impacts of demographic and other exogenous changes on selected summary indicators. Such projections have been considered best practice for budget/fiscal transparency for nearly a decade, yet their use is still limited to a relatively small number of OECD countries.

The first speaker will highlight what this effort entails and its consequences for budget institutions, even in the countries most advanced in this area. The second speaker will discuss the relevancy of these techniques for the MENA region, in particular for those heavily dependent on the export of hydrocarbons, and what adjustments to the general approach – if any – may be appropriate.

Following their presentations, the floor will be opened for questions and comments by all Delegates.

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Barry ANDERSON**, former Assistant Director, White House Office of Management Budget, United States: *Fiscal Futures – The Role of Long-Term Budget Projections.*

- **Mr. Marco CANGIANO**, Division Chief, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund: *Long-Term Budget Projections – Relevance for the MENA Region.*
Monday, 1 November 2010

Chairman: Mr. Bader Ahmed AL QAYED

9.00 - 10.30  Budgetary Coordination across Levels of Government

The issues surrounding the Euro earlier this year brought forward the question of budgetary coordination between governments using the same currency. Similar issues exist within countries, especially federal ones where sub-national entities enjoy substantial fiscal autonomy. Even in some unitary countries, recent decentralisation has led to concerns about national fiscal coordination and how to achieve it. Fiscal federalism issues are not new but they raise especially relevant challenges now.

The speakers will present two examples of substantially different arrangements in two federal countries whose sub-national government budgets are large relative to the national government’s and where they enjoy very substantial spending and taxing autonomy.

Following their presentations, the floor will be opened for questions and comments by all Delegates.

Speakers:

- Mr. Nipun VATS, Senior Chief, Federal-Provincial Relations Division, Department of Finance, Canada: Data, arrangements and institutions to effect budgetary coordination without a formal system to do so.

- Mr. Rex DEIGHTON-SMITH, Adviser, Government of Victoria, Australia: The Australian system for co-ordination across levels of government.

10:30 - 11:00  Coffee Break
Chairman: Mr. Saeed Rashed ALYATEEM

11:00 – 12:30 Gender Budgeting

Gender budgeting is a relatively recent form of analysis in budgeting. It highlights the share of the budget that benefits men and women, respectively. It is usually seen as part of a larger policy setting of pursuing greater gender equality. This session will focus on the technique for gender budget analysis.

The first speaker will present the experience of Austria in implementing gender budgeting. He will highlight the working methods for doing such analysis as well as outline how it is presented and used. The second speaker will offer an overview of a recent survey of gender budgeting practices carried out in 24 countries, describing the extent and nature of initiatives taken in those countries.

Following their presentations, the floor will be opened for questions and comments by all Delegates.

Speakers:

• Dr. Gerhard STEGER, Director General, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Austria: The Austrian experience in implementing gender budgeting.

• Ms. Isabel CAL MARTINEZ, Senior Adviser, General Secretariat for the Budget and Expenses, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Spain: Gender Budgeting in EU countries.

12:30 - 14:00 Luncheon

Chairman: Mr. Gerhard STEGER

14:00 - 15:30 Country Presentation: Performance Budgeting in the United Arab Emirates

Performance budgeting is the most important common thread of reform within the MENA region. Virtually all countries have been pursuing major efforts in the field, some for extended periods of time. Following Morocco’s in-depth presentation at the Cairo MENA-SBO, this year’s presentation focuses on the experiences of the United Arab Emirates with performance budgeting. It is envisaged that such country presentations will become a regular feature of MENA-SBO meetings. The objective is to promote the sharing of experiences among countries – the approaches taken, the results obtained and the lessons learned.
The presentation will be made by a team from the Ministry of Finance. Following their presentations, the floor will be opened for questions and comments by all Delegates.

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

Chairman: Mr. Bader Ahmed AL QAYED

16:00 - 17:00 MENA SBO: Organizational Matters and Future Work

This session will discuss organizational issues for the MENA-SBO, including the selection of a new chairman and financing issues.

It is also an opportunity for Delegates to identify emerging priority areas for future work, the nature of their interest in the subject and their willingness to participate in particular studies.

17:00 Closing by Chair, Co-Chairs and the OECD Secretariat
GENERAL INFORMATION

➢ DISCUSSION FORMAT
Each substantive session will open with a brief overview of the topic by lead-in speakers. The floor will then be opened to all Delegates for general discussion.

➢ MEETING LOCATION AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
The meeting will take place at “The Address” Hotel at Dubai Marina. Please visit the hotel's web-site for location details: www.theaddress.com

Special room rates have been negotiated for conference participants at the hotel. Please send the Hotel Booking Form and the Credit Card Authorisation Form to the below address BEFORE 23 OCTOBER 2010:

E-mail: business@theaddress.com
Fax: +971 4423 8800

➢ MEETING REGISTRATION
All participants are requested to complete the attached Meeting Registration Form and return it to the Secretariat ahead of the meeting.

The meeting will commence promptly at 9:00 a.m. Participants are kindly asked to arrive 15-30 minutes in advance in order to complete registration formalities.

➢ ENTRY VISAS
For countries whose nationals require to obtain a visa prior to landing in the United Arab Emirates, the host authorities will facilitate obtaining visas for delivery upon arrival at Dubai Airport.

For each Delegate/guest, please send a photocopy of the main page of their passport together with a brief message stating their occupation and organizational affiliation, as well as their arrival time and flight information. This information must reach the below address BEFORE 11 OCTOBER 2010.

E-mail: budget.auh@mof.gov.ae
Fax: +971 2672 3659 or +971 2677 8414
Attention: Ms. Sally Salama

➢ DOCUMENTATION
Background documents and/or PowerPoint presentations will be available for each of the main substantive sessions.

➢ LANGUAGE
Simultaneous Arabic / English / French translation will be provided.
3rd Meeting of OECD-MENA Senior Budget Officials Network
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 31 October-1 November 2010

~~~ MEETING REGISTRATION FORM ~~~

Please return the completed form to: helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org
Fax: +33 1 44 30 63 34

☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Mr.

NAME
(in BLOCK LETTERS please)
First Name
(in small letters please)

JOB TITLE
ORGANISATION

MAILING ADDRESS

COUNTRY
TELEPHONE
FACSIMILE
E-MAIL ADDRESS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE ENTRY VISA FORMALITIES BEFORE 11 OCTOBER 2010
PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE THE HOTEL RESERVATION FORM and CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM AND RETURN IT DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL BEFORE 23 OCTOBER 2010

(SEE PREVIOUS PAGE – GENERAL INFORMATION)
MEETINGS OF OECD – MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA SENIOR BUDGET OFFICIALS

3rd Annual Meeting
31 October – 1 November 2010
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2nd Annual Meeting
4-5 November 2009
Doha, Qatar

1st Annual Meeting
24-25 November 2008
Cairo, Egypt

Launch Meeting
30 May 2007
Istanbul, Turkey