Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

Draft Agenda: 9th Meeting of OECD-MENA Senior Budget Officials

12-13 October 2016
Kuwait, Kuwait

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12-13 October 2016
Kuwait, Kuwait

Co-Chairs:

Mr. Waeel Al Mutawa, Director, Ministry of Finance, Kuwait

Mr. Martin Kelleners, Director, Federal Ministry of Finance, Germany

Wednesday 12 October 2016

9:30 – 9:45 -- Opening by Co-Chairs and OECD Secretariat

9:45-10:00 -- Delegates’ Introductions

10:00-10:30 -- Keynote Address by His Excellency Mr. Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, Minister of Finance, Kuwait

10:30-11:00 -- Group photo followed by coffee break

11:00-13:00

1. Session 1 - Roundtable on Recent Budgeting Developments in the MENA region

This session is designed for participants to make presentations on recent budgeting and public expenditure developments, as well as current and envisaged reforms, in their respective countries.

This session provides a useful opportunity for participants to keep up to date with developments in an informal setting, and participants are welcome to provide short, written statements to supplement their presentations.

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00

2. Session 2 -- Fiscal Transparency: Defining Institutions’ Functions and Responsibilities

Good and transparent fiscal management implies sound budget processes as well as efficient cooperation between the main public sector actors – government, parliament, and audit institutions. While the roles, resources and structures of these institutions vary considerably across countries, a number of good principles with regards to their core functions and responsibilities are now widely accepted around the world.

The session will present the Toolkit on Budget Transparency, currently developed by the OECD in the context of related G20 work, which identifies the key functions of institutions involved in the budget process, and will provide an opportunity to discuss in particular the importance of well-organized communication between finance ministries and parliaments.

Following the lead presentations, the floor will be opened to general discussion among all Delegates.
3. SESSION 3 -- Getting more from Public Services: Performance Budgeting and Spending Reviews

Many countries, including in the MENA region, have undergone significant economic and fiscal challenges of late, which have focused political and public attention on getting more from public services with less public money. Performance budgeting and spending reviews are the main tools used around the world for achieving this objective. They however entail different implementation challenges, and different outcomes in terms of using performance information within the budget preparation process.

The session will discuss the challenges and opportunities for budget preparers that come from implementing either performance budgeting or spending reviews, and discuss lessons learned by countries that have implemented or are in the process of implementing these reforms.

Following the lead presentations, the floor will be opened to general discussion among all Delegates.

Gala dinner hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Kuwait

Thursday 13 October 2016

4. Session 4 -- Improving Transparency and Usefulness of Fiscal Reports: Practices and Reform Experiences

Over the last decades, a significant number of countries have adopted accruals as well as modernizing their external audit framework. In the wake of these reforms, fiscal reports were expected to allow better public accountability, increase the transparency of government operations, and allow better decision-making. Some of these objectives have been fully achieved, while others have not been met yet. Most countries have also decided to continue to manage their budget appropriations on a cash basis.

As MENA countries consider implementing, or already implement, such reforms, this session will discuss developments in OECD countries, including lessons learned on the actual benefits and costs of these resources intensive reforms.

Following the lead presentations, the floor will be opened to general discussion among Delegates.

Coffee
### Session 5 – Financial Discipline and Accountability: Enhancing the Role of Line Ministries

The discussion on enhancing finance functions tends to focus on the role of finance ministries, and too often neglect line ministries’ central role as budget holders and users. Recent reform experiences in OECD countries however show that enhancing the role of line ministries in budget processes may help achieving better results in terms financial discipline and accountability.

This session will discuss prerequisites and good practices for enhancing and strengthening financial functions in line ministries, such as top-down budgeting and devolution of financial controls.

Following the lead presentations, the floor will be opened to general discussion among all Delegates.

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 6 – Financial Integrity: Internal Control and Risk Management</th>
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<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td>This session will discuss the results of a recent OECD survey on internal control and risk management practices in the MENA region and presents its conclusions for enhancing financial integrity. Following the lead presentations, the floor will be opened to general discussion among all Delegates.</td>
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### Session 7 – Report by OECD and Future Work Programme

This session is designed to update participants on current and future projects by the OECD in the field of budgeting and public expenditures.

It will also present the main conclusions reached at the Meeting of the MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Competitiveness at Ministerial level held in Tunis on 3-4 October 2016.

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

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Closing by Co-Chairs and OECD Secretariat</th>
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Annex: GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

Format of Discussion

Each session will open with one or more lead presentations. These should be no more than 15-20 minutes in length. This will be followed by several rounds of questions and comments by Delegates. Please limit each intervention to no more than 5 minutes in order to foster discussion.

Venue - Meeting Location

The meeting will take place at the JW Marriott, Al Shuhada Street, PO Box 26302, Safat, Kuwait City.


Accommodations

The Kuwait authorities have made arrangements for special rates at the:

JW Marriot (meeting venue): KWD 70 (€ 207) per night per single room (subject to 15% service charge).

To make your reservation, please contact directly:

Samer Gerges - Cluster Director of Sales -- Email: Samer.gerges@marriott.com

or

Hussein Eid - Cluster Reservation Manager -- Email: Hussein.eid@marriott.com

Registration Form

All Delegates need to complete the registration form and return it to helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org. Entry passes can only be issued to registered Delegates and a passport or national identity card needs to be presented in order to receive an entry pass.

Entry Formalities

Please remember to complete any entry visa formalities in advance.

E-visa can be requested at the following address: https://evisa.moi.gov.kw/evisa/home_e.do

For countries that are not entitled to use the e-Visa system, visa requests should be sent to the Ministry of Finance of Kuwait with a copy of your passport. Please send your request to: ajamal@mof.gov.kw with copy to helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org

Gala Dinner

Following the conclusion of the first day of the meeting on Wednesday, 12 October, all Delegates (and spouses) are invited to a Gala Dinner. Practical details will be provided during the meeting.