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**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA AND REGISTRATION FORM

14th ANNUAL OECD PUBLIC SECTOR ACCRUALS SYMPOSIUM

**OECD Conference Centre, Paris
3-4 March 2014**

Chairman: Mr. Michel Prada, President, Public Sector Accounting Standards Council (Conseil de normalisation des comptes publics), France.

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Monday, 3 March 2014

9:30-9:45 **Opening by Chairman and OECD Secretariat
Delegates' Introductions**

9:45-10:15 ***Session 1 - Report by International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB)***

This session is designed to update Delegates on general developments with regard to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and other projects. It will provide a progress report on the Board's on-going work on promulgating standards and guidance and discuss the Board's overall strategy and work programme.

10:15-10:45 ***Session 2 - Report by International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)***

This session is designed to update Delegates on general developments with regard to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and their implications for the public sector.

10:45-11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15-11:30 ***Session 3 - Overview of Accrual Accounting and Budgeting Practices – Results of the OECD Survey***

The Secretariat will present the results of the 2014 OECD survey on the use of cash and accruals in financial reporting and budgeting in individual countries.

11:30-13:00 ***Session 4 - Accrual Accounting and Budgeting Developments in Individual Countries – Country Presentations***

This session is designed for Delegates to make presentations on specific accrual developments in their respective countries, allowing participants to exchange information on recent reforms which are taking place and providing a useful opportunity for delegates to keep up to date with developments. Each country will be invited to make a very brief contribution.

13:00-14:30 *Lunch Break*

14:30-16:00 *Session 5 - Introducing Accruals – the Lessons from Experience*

This session will be devoted to a discussion of the lessons learned from implementing accruals. An emphasis will be placed on identifying obstacles at each stage and how they were resolved. It will be divided into several milestones on the path to introducing accruals with the floor being opened for discussion at each point.

The session will be led by Austria which is completing its transition to accruals with the publication of an opening balance sheet earlier this year.

16:00-16:30 *Coffee Break*

16:30-18:00 *Session 6 - Public Consultation on International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) Governance Review*

Adoption of IPSASs by national governments remains low with concerns about the governance and oversight of the IPSASB being some of the reasons cited by national authorities for not adopting IPSASs.

In response to these concerns, the IPSASB Governance Review Group was formed to propose future governance and oversight arrangements for the IPSASB. The Review Group is co-chaired by the IMF, the OECD and the World Bank. The Review Group recently issued a Public Consultation document on future governance and oversight arrangements for the IPSASB. This session will be devoted to a discussion of the paper and its specific questions to consider. The session will be led by the co-chairs of the review group.

Further information on the Governance Review Group and the consultation paper can be accessed at: <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/ipsasb-governance-review.htm>

18:00 *Cocktail Reception*

Tuesday, 4 March 2014

9:30-10:15 *Session 7 - Accrual Budgeting Revisited*

While there is near universal consensus on the desirability of accrual accounting and financial reporting, there is much less support for accrual budgeting. The relatively few countries that have adopted accrual budgeting have also done so in very different ways.

This session is designed to re-visit the case for accrual budgeting. It will be led by a presentation by New Zealand followed by discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of accrual budgeting.

10:15-11:00 *Session 8 - European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS)*

The European Commission is in the process of developing a set of European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS). These would be accrual-based and mandatory for use in the European Union at all levels of government.

This session is designed to inform Delegates about the latest development and discuss key issues for going forward. It will be led by Eurostat – the statistical office of the European Union – which is responsible for the EPSAS process. The floor will then be opened for discussion among all Delegates.

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-12:15 *Session 9 - Financial Reporting – Open Government*

At last year's Accruals Symposium, a session was devoted to open data initiatives where governments are increasingly making raw government data available as part of their transparency agenda, including financial information. Delegates indicated very strong interest in a follow up of such initiatives and open government initiatives generally and how they interact with the government's public finance management agenda more broadly. The Secretariat will present a report as a basis for discussion among Delegates.

12:15-12:30 *Session 10 - Future Work Programme*

The session is designed 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.

12:30 *Closing by Chairman and OECD Secretariat*

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting Location

The meeting will take place at the OECD Conference Centre which is located at 2 rue André-Pascal in the 16th *arrondissement* (district) of Paris. The closest metro station is “*La Muette*.”

Registration Form

All Delegates need to complete the registration form and return it to the Secretariat ahead of the meeting.

Security

Please be advised that OECD Headquarters is a secure complex. **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.** Delegates will also be required to clear an airport-style security checkpoint for entry. Please allow at least 15 minutes to complete these formalities.

OECD Survey of Accrual Practices and Presentations on Developments in Individual Countries

The Secretariat will distribute to Delegates a brief questionnaire on cash and accrual practices in financial reporting and budgeting in individual countries ahead of the meeting which Delegates are asked to complete.

Simultaneous Translation

Simultaneous translation between English and French, the OECD’s two official languages, will be available throughout the meeting.

Cocktail Reception

The OECD Secretariat invites all participants to a cocktail reception in the *Château de la Muette* at the conclusion of the first day of the meeting.

Wi-Fi Internet Access

The OECD Conference Centre features complimentary Wi-Fi Internet Access in all meeting rooms and throughout its facilities. The Conference Centre also has facilities offering complimentary desktop computers with standard Microsoft Office software, Internet connections and printers.