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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

**Regional Inception Workshop**

Developing Debt Optimization Strategies to Enhance Fiscal Space in Arab States  
Beirut, Lebanon, 27 - 28 July 2022

**Agenda**

<b>Regional Inception Workshop</b>	
<b>Day 1 – 27 July 2022</b>	
9:30 – 10:00	<b>REGISTRATION AND COFFEE</b>
10:00 – 10:10	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, Leader of the Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA</li> <li>• Gerry Teeling, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> </ul>
10:10 – 11:00	<p><b>Session I:</b> Sustainable debt optimization strategies: project overview Chair/Moderator: Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, Leader of the Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA</p> <p><i>Overview of public debt challenges and project objectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niranjan Sarangi, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA (15 minutes)</li> <li>• Gerry Teeling, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD (15 minutes)</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion on expectations from the project/workshop</p>
11:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Session II:</b> Debt management practices and challenges of Arab states Chair/Moderator: Ulrich Volz, Director, Centre for Sustainable Finance &amp; Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, SOAS, University of London</p> <p><i>Draft findings of the paper on debt management practices in the Arab region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moez Labidi, Professor of Economics, University of Monastir, Tunisia (20 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><i>Draft findings of the paper on central bank finance and public debt in the Arab region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan Gaska, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA (15 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion by experts</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathrin Berensmann, Senior Researcher &amp; Head of Project, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) (7 minutes)</li> <li>• N. R. Bhanumurthy, Vice Chancellor, School of Economics University, Bangalore (7 minutes)</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion</p>
12:30 – 12:45	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
12:45 – 02:00	<p><b>Session III:</b> Debt data reporting in the Arab region: challenges and solutions Chair/Moderator: Gerry Teeling, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</p> <p><i>Debt data quality assessment methodology: DMFAS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roula Katergi, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD (20 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><i>Challenges with debt data recording and reporting: selected countries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Jordan (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Mauritania (5 minutes)</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion</p>
02:00 – 03:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
03:00 – 4:30	<p><b>Session IV:</b> Debt management practices of Arab States Chair/Moderator: Ibrahim El Badawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum</p> <p><i>Debt management strategies: Respective countries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Djibouti (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Egypt (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Iraq (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Jordan (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Central Bank, Jordan (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Central Bank, Lebanon (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Mauritania (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Central Bank, Mauritania (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Oman (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Central Bank, Oman (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Tunisia (5 minutes)</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion</p> <p>Summary by the Chair/Moderator</p> <p>Close of the day</p>
<b>Day 2 - 28 July 2022</b>	
10:00 – 10:15	<p><b>Recap of the first day</b></p> <p>Niranjana Sarangi, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA (5 minutes)</p>
10:15 – 11:45	<b>Session V:</b> Debt sustainability analysis tools: practices and lessons learned

	<p>Chair/Moderator: N. R. Bhanumurthy, Vice Chancellor, School of Economics University, Bangalore (7 minutes)</p> <p><b><i>UNCTAD debt sustainability analysis tool</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniela Magalhaes Prates, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD (20 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b><i>ESCWA debt sustainability analysis tool</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clive Altshuler and Niranjan Sarangi, ESCWA (20 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Discussion by experts</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ulrich Volz Director, Centre for Sustainable Finance &amp; Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, SOAS, University of London (TBC) (7 minutes)</li> <li>• Kathrin Berensmann, Senior Researcher &amp; Head of Project, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) (7 minutes)</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion</p>
11:45 – 12:45	<p><b>Session VI: Round Table Discussion: Next Steps on developing debt optimization strategies</b></p> <p>Chair: Moez Labidi, Professor of Economics, University of Monastir, Tunisia</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niranjan Sarangi, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA</li> <li>• Gerry Teeling, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> </ul>
12:45 – 01:00	<p><b>Conclusions &amp; Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gerry Teeling, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, Leader of the Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA</li> </ul>
01:00 – 2:00	<b>LUNCH</b>