FISCAL OPENNESS ACCELERATOR
Fiscal Transparency for Public Participation
for Better Use of Public Resources

Fiscal Openness Accelerator Meeting

15th December 2020
8:00-10:30 am EST /13h GTM
13h00-15h30 Dakar + Monrovia / 2:00-4:30pm Abuja / 14h-16h30 Cotonou / 3:00-5:30 pm Pretoria

Introduction

As part of the implementation of the Fiscal Openness Accelerator project supported by the U.S. Department of State and the Open Government Partnership trust fund, the International Budget Partnership and the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency are organizing on December 15, a meeting to give updates on progress, get information from all participants and prepare for a promising 2021 in terms of advancing our goals. As you know, the main objective of the FOA project is to strengthen the technical capacities of Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa to implement public participation mechanisms throughout the budget cycle at the national level, while continuing to advance fiscal transparency.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added extreme pressures to ministries of finance all across the world to meet devastating health and economic adversities, while also highlighting the existing gaps in transparency, citizen engagement and accountability. But the FOA countries have made extraordinary efforts to overcome such challenges. Our meeting will allow us to share some of the experience to continue advancing our agenda, in spite of one of the most difficult years in public finance in a generation. This also gives us the opportunity to rethink and adapt action plans with this new reality in mind. As such, this meeting will allow everyone around the table to share common challenges and obstacles and discuss ways to overcome them.

GIFT and IBP are proud that despite these challenges, countries have maintained their commitments to continue to advance fiscal transparency and to incorporate public participation to the budget cycle, as they recognize the value that citizen's inputs bring to improving public financial management and the increasing need of having all hands-on deck to pull our societies forward.

With this in mind, and with profound confidence in our stewards and partners resilience and adaptation capacity to new ways of technical collaboration and peer learning, **the general objective of this meeting is to assess the current state of the FOA in each country, so that the FOA coordination team can devise specific strategies for the continuation of our workstream in 2021. The meeting will be held In French and English, with simultaneous translation.**

Specific Objectives

- Understanding challenges that the FOA project is facing in each country
- Report on progress in each country (establishment of the Advisory Groups)
- Discuss the IBP/GIFT guidance for selecting public participation mechanisms

Preliminary Agenda

1. Welcoming remarks and introduction of new GIFT team members (10 minutes)

   Juan Pablo Guerrero (GIFT- Network Director)

2. Updates around the table (15 minute per country)

   Each country representative will be asked to please address the following topics:

   - Changes in coordination teams per country (if any)
   - Main challenge faced up to this point and if you have identified a way forward
   - Updates on the establishment of the country Advisory Groups
   - News in the implementation of the FOA (if any)
   - Expectations for the project for the first trimester of 2021 (Where are we heading? What activities do you have planned?)
   - Expectations for GIFT/IBP support in the first trimester of 2021 (How can we help?)

   Order proposed (alphabetic): Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa

3. Presentation of a guidance to select a public participation mechanism (15 minutes)

4. Next steps (20 minutes)
   - Base line
   - Country by country follow-up in a monthly basis

ZOOM link for the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88580155778