



SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Invitation to WEBINAR

Budget Process Tools to Reduce or Redirect Public Spending

REGISTER HERE

Tuesday, March 28, 2023
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (IST)

Registration Deadline
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

ABSTRACT

After a strong rebound of growth in the Asia and Pacific region to 6.5 percent in 2021, it is expected to moderate to 4.0 percent in 2022 amid an uncertain global environment and rise modestly to 4.3 percent in 2023—still below the region’s average growth rate of 5.5 percent in the preceding two decades. Important challenges remain for individual countries in the region, including increased debt burdens from larger fiscal imbalances—first from the pandemic and of late from the effects of the war in Ukraine— combined with a spike in borrowing rates. Resource needs remain large, including to support initiatives for new policies and programs around social benefits and for the green transition.

WEBINAR OBJECTIVES

This webinar presents two tools (processes) for improving budget preparation to reduce or redirect public spending. The tools are covered in two IMF How to Notes released in 2022 on “How To Prepare Baseline Budgets” (<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Fiscal-Affairs-Department-How-To-Notes/Issues/2022/06/01/How-to-Prepare-Expenditure-Baselines-517869>) and “How to Design and Institutionalize Spending Reviews” (<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Fiscal-Affairs-Department-How-To-Notes/Issues/2022/09/20/How-to-Design-and-Institutionalize-Spending-Reviews-523364>). This webinar will discuss each How to Note and provides implementation experiences.

Expenditure baselines are estimates of future expenditure on the assumption that current policies remain unchanged. The concept of baselines is a major and powerful analytical tool that aids in good budget preparation. It provides a forward-looking vision of expenditure pressures that help determine available fiscal space or identify unsustainable spending patterns. Combined with other tools, such as

spending reviews, and a strong top-down budget process, expenditure baselines can help ensure spending is in line with policy objectives and is deployed efficiently. This part of the webinar will include Poland's experience with implementing expenditure baselines.

Spending reviews refer to the process of conducting in-depth assessments of existing public expenditure to identify opportunities to reduce or redirect spending from low-priority, inefficient, or ineffective spending. They offer a systemic approach to ensuring that spending is aligned with the government's policy priorities, is effective in achieving its intended objectives, and is deployed efficiently. This portion of the webinar will include a session on experiences in implementing spending reviews, including limited scope reviews. It will draw on Canada's experience in this area.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This webinar is designed for officials from Ministry of Finance and supporting agencies in the SARTTAC member countries. There is no limit on the number of attendees, so the event is open to all those interested. To get the most from the webinar, participants are encouraged to join virtually for the entire duration.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Interested officials should register online for the webinar using this link – [Register Here](#) or copy the entire link address, <https://imf.webex.com/weblink/register/r15eabd1e2eb13491ee62152aadb3804e> and paste it into the web browser's address bar. **The registration deadline is Friday, March 24, 2023.** Your kind cooperation in completing timely registration is greatly appreciated. Registrants for the webinar will receive e-mail confirmation and a WebEx Meetings link.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Ms. Celeste Marie Kubasta is a Public Financial Management (PFM) Advisor in SARTTAC, who has been working for the IMF in regional capacity development centers since June 2013. She was previously based at centers in the Caribbean and Pacific. With more than thirty years of experience, she has worked on implementation of PFM reforms in policy formulation, budget preparation and execution, and financial reporting processes. She has experience with government business enterprises and risk management in addition to auditing and IT system implementation. Prior to joining the IMF, she worked for U.S. Treasury providing technical assistance in Africa and the Middle East, was the Deputy Budget Director in the U.S. state of North Dakota and taught financial management courses at local universities.

Mr. Claude Wendling is a technical assistance advisor working for the Public Financial Management II Division in the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department. He started his career at the French Ministry of Finance, where he was notably Deputy Head of the Budget Directorate in charge of Fiscal Policy. In this capacity, he played a key role in organizing France's fiscal response to the Global Financial Crisis in 2008-2011 and implementing the transition to France's first Medium-Term Budget Framework. He also worked at the European Commission from 2011 to 2017.

Mr. Krzysztof Tokarski works in the Government of Poland's Ministry of Finance. He has a degree in economics from the University of Economics in Cracow, Poland. He has worked in the State Budget Department (State Budget Planning and Analysis Division) since 2013 where he is responsible for coordinating work related to the preparation of the Budget Act. This department is the liaison and coordinator of the State Budget.

Mr. Richard Allen is a Public Finance Consultant and a Senior Research Associate of the Overseas Development Institute, London. He was a senior staff member of the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department and previously he worked with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, OECD, and U.K. Treasury. He has advised the governments of more than 80 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, and is the author of many articles, working papers, special notes, and book reviews on public finance topics, and is the Co-Editor of the IMF's PFM Blog. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Edinburgh, and a master's degree in Economics and Public Finance from the University of York,

England.

Mr. Bruce Stacey is currently an international public financial management (PFM) consultant. He just completed a 4½ year assignment as a PFM advisor at IMF Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center (CARTAC). Previously he worked for 27 years with the Government of Canada both in line ministries as well as the Treasury. During his tenure there he had the opportunity to work on climate change in the Department of the Environment, in a technical, policy and legal capacity and then again in the Treasury building the Canadian Expenditure Management Framework.

PROGRAM

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction <i>Mr. David Cowen, Director, SARTTAC</i>
9:10 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Overview of Webinar <i>Ms. Celeste Kubasta, Public Financial Management (PFM) Advisor, SARTTAC</i>
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	How to Note: Baseline Budgeting <i>Mr. Claude Wendling, Senior Economist, IMF Fiscal Affairs Department</i>
9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Poland's Experience <i>Mr. Krzysztof Tokarski, Ministry of Finance, Government of Poland.</i>
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	How to Note: Designing and Institutionalizing Spending Review <i>Ms. Celeste Kubasta, PFM Advisor, SARTTAC</i>
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Implementing Spending Reviews <i>Mr. Richard Allen, PFM Expert</i>
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Canada's Experience <i>Mr. Bruce Stacey, PFM Expert</i>
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Conclusion and Evaluation

CONTACT INFORMATION

For topic-related questions: Celeste Kubasta, PFM Advisor, SARTTAC (ckubasta@imf.org).

For administrative support: Jagriti Arya (mobile: +91 9811815649, email: jarya@imf.org) or Debraj Chaudhuri (mobile: +91 9711460576, email: dchaudhuri@imf.org) in SARTTAC.

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