

Country Comparisons

PEMPAL Workshop

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PEFA Secretariat

Country Comparisons

The PEFA Framework was developed to measure progress **over time** in **one** country – **not** for Country Comparisons

- ‘Summary assessment’ to provide nuanced view of strengths & weaknesses, to prioritize reforms
- No method for arriving at ‘overall performance level’
- No attempts to create global performance list

But: comparisons are emerging issue, due to demand from Governments, Researchers, Donors

Country data and how to use it

Comparison of two countries must be done very **cautiously**:

- Resembles comparison of assessments over time in one country but more complex
- Technical definitions may be different
- Need to read each report carefully to understand performance differences behind the scores
- Consider country context: compare 'like with like'

Comparing scores alone can be **misleading**

Comparing groups of countries

With increasing number of countries to compare, aggregation **may** be desirable: requires three decisions:

- Conversion from ordinal to numerical scale
- Weighting of indicators (generally & by country)
- Weighting of countries (for country cluster analysis)

Comparing groups of countries

No scientifically correct or superior basis for deciding conversion and weights exists

- Each user takes those decision on individual opinion
- PEFA Program will not endorse any particular method

In case aggregation is desired:

- Be transparent on aggregation methods used
- Discuss reasons for choice
- Sensitivity analysis to illustrate impact on findings

Country data and how to use it

- Scoring statistics can be made available by the PEFA Secretariat
- For countries where the reports are not publicly available: Ratings provided anonymously (organized by region or by country income level)
- Better not include in Performance Report – keep in a separate non-public document

Thank you for your attention