Joint CoP Plenary
Moscow, 25-29 May 2014
Fiscal Transparency and Accountability
Summing up
SUMMARY

• **Accessibility and transparency** of information – supported by IT and FMIS reforms

• **Quality** of information
  – Aligning information to international standards
  – Role of internal and external audit to ensure processes, information etc robust

• **Engagement** of citizens
  – Input to decision making – end users of government services – tax payers
  – Transparency, access and **trust in Govt**

• **Tools** – citizen budgets, other budget documents, interactive web based tools for feedback and further analysis of data, IMF and OECD codes and guidelines
TOOLS

Useful techniques to assess, monitor and compare fiscal transparency against internationally accepted standards (PEFA, OBI, IMF evaluations, WB studies)

- **IT and internet** provide the means for greater transparency – more comprehensive, accurate and timely information

- Variation across the region, some notable examples of good practices shared

- Awareness of users and uses of information, two way process (to and from public sector)

- Increasing accessibility and sophistication (open data)
CHALLENGES

- Limitations on systems and capabilities
- **Quality and comparability** of information – establishing common standards and quality control
- **Quality verses quantity** – need to ensure it is used (costs vs benefits of provision)
- How to increase the **quality and impact of user engagement** and participation?
- **Confidentiality** – are there legitimate reasons for non-disclosure of information?
NEXT STEPS

• Learning from international good practices
  – We heard in discussion groups the valuable reform work that each country is planning in this area

• Making best use of standards, guidance, techniques and tools – fit for purpose

• Understanding and communicating with non-public sector
  – What do they need?
  – How can they help government work better?
  – Cost effective, reliable and timely engagement

• PEMPAL can support this work through the initiatives that COPs have identified before and during this meeting
Thank you!