

GROUP 2

Day 1: Potential topics, approach, and format for the 2014 Cross CoP plenary meeting

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Q1: TOPIC FOR CROSS-CoP MEETING

Fiscal Transparency,
including all budget
stages and main
reports (including
audit)

Q2: SUB-THEMES/TOPICS

OVERARCHING ISSUES TO BE COVERED AS INTRODUCTION TO THE OVERALL PLENARY MEETING

- **Common definitions of key concepts**
- **Relationship among different PFM institutions from transparency perspective** (MF, SAI, internal audit, government, parliament, civil society)
- **Too much information vs. relevant information** (complex documents nobody wants to read)
- **Evidence of impact of budget transparency on fiscal governance/sustainability?**

Q2: SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC SESSION TOPICS (plenary and break-out sessions)

1. **Presentations about global standards/codes and surveys about transparency. Open Budget Index - Russia** (highest among PEMPAL) and **Albania** (highest improvement) to present. Present upcoming new **OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency** and **IMF Fiscal Transparency Code** (with Russia as a pilot study). Also do and present our own pre-event survey of PEMPAL countries?
2. Different standards for transparency for different purposes – reconciling **accounting vs. reporting standards**. Different methodologies, such as GFS, ESA, CoA, IPSAS. Possibly present OECD Accounting and Auditing Survey.

Q2: SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC SESSION TOPICS (plenary and break-out sessions)

3. **EU compendium on PIC**, bring somebody from EU to present at the plenary meeting.
4. **Integrated FMIS system role in transparency.**
Publishing treasury balances/actual payments/planned payments in real time on website. Electronic public procurement. E-budget/budget portal.
5. **Involving wider public**, PR campaigns/educating the public, citizens budget (present global best cases and also PEMPAL cases), e-budget from transparency perspective, electronic public procurement system (pros vs. cons, country cases). Present best cases.

Q2: SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC SESSION TOPICS (plenary and break-out sessions)

6. **Inclusion of non-financial performance data** – best global examples (such as South Africa, New Zealand, Austria).
7. **Public debt transparency** (could include results of the upcoming World Bank Study on local level debt)

Q3: FORMAT

LENGTH:

- Two and half days for technical issues, half a day for SC, one day for CoP issues, half day social event

Q3: FORMAT

PRESENTATIONS vs. DISCUSSIONS

- **In the mornings general presentations, in the afternoon smaller parallel technical break out sessions.** Identify reporters from each session to produce inputs be used directly in communiqué of the Plenary.
- **Plenary sessions: global overview/best cases by international technical expert, 1 to 2 country case studies, followed by discussions.**
- **Discussion technical break out sessions set-up: one presentation followed by discussion** (rather than too many presentations)
- **Role play? Case clinics** (collect actual problems from countries)
- **Posters/booths instead of presentations for discussion groups** – people would walk around and talk to the country representatives (which presented country case)?

Q4: PREPARATIONS

1. **Do guidelines for presenters** with exact questions. Slides must follow standards areas and have a limit in number of slides and time limit for presentations. The international global presentation and case study presentations would be exchanged, in order to avoid duplication and ensure consistency.
2. **Prepare a very short background note for each session** on best practices and what do CoPs do related to the subject (by Resource Team and CoP leadership). Could also be sent as reading material before conference (so to save time and not to have the presentations done there and leave more time for discussions)
3. **A lot of time must be left for Q&A!!!!**
4. **For morning sessions 2/3 presentations 1/3 discussion and for afternoon break out sessions 1/3 presentations 2/3 discussion.**
5. **International organization representatives should be instructed to let the PEMPAL members take leading role in discussion!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!