

The Basil Fuleihan Institute (IOF) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are organizing a regional workshop on **Public Finance Reform: A Roadmap for Modernization and Good Governance**. This workshop aims to complement national efforts in capacity development of civil service and promote public governance through the establishment of transparent and accountable finance management procedures.

Overall objectives of the workshop:

1. Launch the reference guide: "**Best Practices in Public Finance Management**", published jointly by ESCWA and IOF; and provide guidelines on how to use it;
2. Provide participants with a detailed overview of processes and standards used in planning and implementing PFM reforms;
3. Set-up a forum for sharing experiences and expertise among Western Asia countries in different aspects of PFM reforms and engage in a dialogue on the current status, challenges and pitfalls of PFM reforms as well as related capacity-building needs.

Participants:

Senior managers and heads of Budget, Expenditures, Treasury, Planning and Audit Departments at Ministries of Finance and line ministries of ESCWA member states.

The opening session will also be attended by a wide audience of Lebanese experts and practitioners, representatives of international organizations and of Civil Society Organizations involved in Public Finance reform in Lebanon and the region.

Monday, May 31, 2010	
	<p>Opening Session: The political and macro-economic framework for successful Public Finance Reform</p> <p>Opening keynote speeches:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E.Ms. Raya Haffar El HASSAN, Minister of Finance of Lebanon 2. Mr. Bader Omar El DAFA, Executive Secretary, UN-ESCWA
15:00 – 17:00	<p>Opening panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Saadé CHAMI, Director of the Middle East Technical Assistance Center 2. Mr. Farooq KHAN, Public Finance expert 3. Ms. Sylvana LAKKIS, General Manager of the Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union 4. Mr. Tarik ALAMI, Chief for Emerging and Conflict Related Issues, ESCWA 5. Ms. Lamia Moubayed Bissat, Director of the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance
IOF	<p>Moderator: Ms. Kawthar DARA, Project manager, CDR-UNDP Millennium Development Goals Framework, Lebanon</p>
	Cocktail reception

Provisional Agenda of the workshop

Tuesday, June 1, 2010	
	Session 1: Budget Formulation: Reforms and Continuing Challenges
9:00 – 10:30	Issues to be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges of budget formulation, designing MTEF and setting ceilings Revenues forecasts Capital and current budgets
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
	Session 2: Strengthening Debt and Treasury Management
10:45 – 12:15	Issues to be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash, Treasury and Debt Management Designing effective IT solutions
12:15 – 12:30	Coffee break
	Session 3: Dealing with Public Procurement
12:30 – 14:00	Issues to be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law and procedures Launching e-procurement Introducing green procurement
Wednesday, June 2, 2010	
	Session 4: Modernizing accounting and internal control
9:00 – 10:15	Issues to be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardizing public accounting Adopting International Accounting Standards Introducing an internal audit function
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee break
	Session 5: Scrutiny of Government finances and performance assessment
10:30 – 11:45	Issues to be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of Supreme Audit Institutions The role of international audit firms Parliament's oversight
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee break
	Session 6: Capacity-building in support of PFM reforms
12:00– 13:15	Issues to be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building institutional and individual capacities The need to support PFM reform with training Technical assistance provided by international organizations and donors
	Closing Session: Where do we go from here?
13:15 – 14:00	Issues to be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What lessons can we draw from reform experiences? What are the future reform priorities? What are the related training needs? Establishing a forum of PFM practitioners Next steps and potential collaboration venues