



# Fourth Annual Arab Fiscal Forum

Laying the Foundations

of Good Fiscal Management in the Arab Countries

Al Merjan Ballroom - Madinat Jumeirah

Dubai

February 9, 2019



صندوق النقد العربي  
ARAB MONETARY FUND

## AGENDA

### SATURDAY, February 9, 2019

8:00–8:30	<b>Registration and Coffee</b>
8:30–9:00	<b>OPENING SESSION</b> <b>Welcome Addresses by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ H.E. Obaid Humaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, Ministry of Finance, United Arab Emirates</li><li>▪ Dr. Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy, Director General Chairman of the Board, Arab Monetary Fund</li></ul> <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Mme Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
9:00–10:00	<b>SESSION I: Macroeconomic Developments and Prospects</b> <p>The ongoing cyclical recovery provides an opportunity to build buffers and implement structural reforms aimed at boosting potential growth, which remains relatively low. This session examines the recent global and regional economic developments and outlook, with a focus on key fiscal policy challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Chair: H.E. Shukri Bishara, Minister of Finance, Palestine, Chairman of the Council of Arab Finance Ministers</li><li>▪ Keynote Speaker: Mr. Jihad Azour, Middle East and Central Asia Department, International Monetary Fund</li><li>▪ General Discussion</li></ul>
10:00–10:15	<i>Coffee</i>
10:15-12:00	<b>SESSION II: Fiscal Rules and Framework</b> <p>Fiscal rules are widely used. If properly designed and effectively implemented, fiscal rules can help fiscal sustainability, enhance transparency, and signal to financial markets the course of fiscal policy. The session will examine the extent to which fiscal rules could be useful in Arab countries, taking into account the specific challenges in the countries of the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Chair: H.E. Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan, Minister of Finance, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</li><li>▪ Keynote Speaker: Mr. Abdelhak Senhadji, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund</li><li>▪ Keynote Speaker: Mr. Niels Thygesen, Chairman of European Fiscal Board (EFB)</li><li>▪ Lessons from Arab Region:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- H.E. Mohamed Rida Shalghoom, Finance Minister, The Republic of Tunisia</li><li>- H.E. Mohamed Benchaaboun, Finance Minister, Kingdom of Morocco</li><li>- H.E. Alain Bifani, Secretary General, Ministry of Finance, Lebanon</li></ul></li><li>▪ General Discussion</li></ul>
12:30–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>

**SATURDAY, February 9, 2019****13:30–15:15****SESSION III: Debt Management: Experiences and Lessons Learned**

The level of public debt is rising in many Arab countries. Thus, appropriate debt management is increasingly important in the region. In recent years, many Arab countries have made progress in strengthening debt management capacity, including by creating debt management offices and enhancing their capacity. This session will take stock of the progress so far and discuss the way forward.

- Chair: H.E. Darwish Bin Ismail Al Balushi, Minister of Financial Affairs, Sultanate of Oman
- Keynote Speaker: Mr. Lars Jessen, Lead Debt Specialist, Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management Global Practice, World Bank Group
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Nouran Youssef, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Economic & Technical Department, Arab Monetary Fund
- Lessons from Arab Region:
  - H.E. Dr. Mohamed Maait, Finance Minister, Arab Republic of Egypt
  - H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, Kingdom of Bahrain
  - H.E. Dr Riyad Abdulrahman Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Finance of Abu Dhabi, UAE

General Discussion

15:15–15:30

*Coffee***15:30–17:15****SESSION IV: Coordination Between Fiscal and Monetary Policies**

Effective coordination between fiscal and monetary policies is necessary for good macroeconomic management. What does proper coordination entail and how best to achieve it? The session will explore the scope for enhanced coordination between fiscal and monetary policies in Arab countries.

- Chair: H.E. Mutaz Mousa Abdulla Salem, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Republic of the Sudan
- Keynote Speaker: Mr. Vitor Gaspar, Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund
- Keynote Speaker: Mr. Juan Carlos Echeverry Garzón, Former Minister of Finance, Colombia
- Lessons from Arab Region:
  - H.E. Mubarak Rashid Al Mansouri, Governor, Central Bank of UAE
  - H.E. Abderrahmane Raouia, Minister of Finance, Democratic Republic of Algeria
  - H.E. Dr. Mohammad Yousef Al-Hashel, Governor, State of Kuwait

General Discussion

**17:15–17:45****CLOSING SESSION: Ministerial Round Table**