



**ARAB MONETARY FUND
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CENTRAL ASIA DEPARTMENT AND
FISCAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

Second Annual Fiscal Forum

Revenue Diversification in the Arab World: Challenges and Opportunities

**Venue: Four Seasons Jumeirah Hotel, Dubai
February 12, 2017**

Sunday, February 12, 2017	
7:30 – 8:00	Registration
8:00 – 8:30	<p>Opening Session Welcome addresses by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Obeid Humaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, Ministry of Finance, UAE • H.E. Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy, Director General Chairman of The Board, Arab Monetary Fund <p>Keynote Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mme Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, IMF
8:30 – 11:45	<p>Morning Session: The role of revenue mobilization in building sustainable and inclusive growth</p> <p>Raising tax revenue is key in most Arab countries, if governments are to continue playing their role in economic and social development, while ensuring macro-economic stability. Since the first Arab Fiscal Forum last year, the GCC member states have taken concrete steps to develop their non-oil revenue systems. In North Africa, Tunisia and Morocco have held national dialogues on taxation, followed by policy actions. This session examines the key challenges that the region is facing in mobilizing revenue, and how such challenges might be addressed, especially given challenging political and security constraints.</p>
8:30 – 10:00	<p>Session 1: Revenue Mobilization and Diversification: Recent Developments and Challenges Ahead</p> <p>Chair: H.E. Badr Elddine Mahmoud Abbas, Minister of Finance & National Economy, Sudan, Chairman of the Council of the Arab Finance Ministers (10 min).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote Speaker: Abdelhak Senhadji, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF (30 min) • Discussants: HEs Ministers of Finance from Arab countries (20 min): H.E. Mohamed Boussaid, Minister of Economy and Finance, Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Dr. Hamad S. Al-Bazai, Vice Minister of Finance, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. • Discussion: 30 minutes

10:00 –10:15	Coffee
10:15– 11:40	Session 2: How Can Arab Countries Overcome Challenges in Revenue Mobilization
	<p>Chair: H.E. H.E. Dr. Hadji Baba Ammi, Minister of Finance, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers of Finance from Arab countries (45 min) <p>H.E. Amr EL Garhy, Minister of Finance, Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. El Moctar Ould Djay, Minister of Economy and Finance, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mr. Vitor Gasper, Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion: 30 minutes
11:40 - 13:45	Lunch
12:00	Opening of the Global Government Summit (Ministers)
13:45 –16:30	Afternoon Session: Policy and Administration Issues in Support of Revenue Mobilization
	<p>Revenue mobilization, in particular in GCC countries, means that significant policy and administration initiatives need to be taken—and, indeed, some are already being put in place. Given differing country situations across the region, emphasis on consumption taxes is appropriate in some countries in the medium term. Building or reforming existing tax and customs administration will play a key role in the success or failure of revenue mobilization efforts. This session will explore: (1) experience in consumption tax reform around the world, and how it may inform current initiatives in the region, including a coordinated GCC consumption tax system; and (2) the fundamentals of building a modern tax administration.</p>
13:45 –15:00	Session 3: The role of consumption taxes in revenue mobilization—VAT and Excise Taxes
	<p>Chair Mr. Alain Bifani, Secretary General of Ministry of Finance, Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mario Mansour, IMF (20 min) – experience with consumption taxes around the world, H.E. Younis Al Khoori, Undersecretary Ministry of Finance, UAE (8 min) – key policy design and administration issues for the GCC consumption tax system, Dr. Adel Abdul Moneim, Tax Administration, Sudan (8 min) – Sudan perspective for VAT tax reform, Mr. Khalad Zazou, Tax Administration, Morocco (8 min) – lessons from reforming old VATs in North Africa. Discussion: 30 minutes
15:00 –15:15	Coffee
15:15 –16:30	Session 4: Building a modern tax administration
	<p>Chair: Mr. Vitor Gasper, Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deborah Wetzel, Senior Director for Governance Global Practice, World Bank (20 min) – 15 years of tax administration reforms in the Arab region: what have we learned Mr. Amr ElMonayer, Vice Minister of Finance for Tax Policy, Egypt, (10 min) Mr. Yussuf Hamada, Ministry of Finance, Kuwait, (10 min), Mr. Nasser Al Shakily, Ministry of Finance, Sultanate of Oman, (10 min), Discussion: 25 minutes
16:30 –16:45	Coffee

16:45 – 17:00	Closing Session of the Second Annual Arab Fiscal Forum
17:00 – 18:00	Registration for the Closed Door Session – Joint Session with World Government Summit “Economic Diversification” (By Invitation)
18:00 –19:30	Closed Door Session – Economic Diversification (By Invitation)
<p>The collapse of oil prices has brought economic diversification back to the top of policymakers’ agenda in many oil-exporting countries. These countries need to change their economic model to move from oil-dependent economies to diversified and innovation-based economies. Countries in Asia and Latin America have made major strides in diversifying their economies. This session will bring together policymakers from these regions and international experts to distill lessons that can help guide Arab policymakers in their ongoing efforts to further diversify.</p> <p>Opening Remarks (4 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obaid Humaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, United Arab Emirates • Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, IMF <p>Remarks by Moderator (2 minutes): Aasim M. Husain, Deputy Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF</p> <p>Presentations by Invited Speakers (7 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Abdul Rahman A. Alhamidy, Director General Chairman of the Board of Directors. • Prof. Ha Joon Chang, Professor at Cambridge University, UK. • Prof. Jose Antonio Ocampo, Professor at Colombia University, USA <p>Comments by Lead Speakers (5 minutes each, moderated by Mr. Husain)</p> <p>HE. Mohammed al-Jadaan, Minister of Finance of Saudi Arabia HE. Obaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs of the U.A.E. HE. Mohamed Boussaid, Minister of Economy and Finance of Morocco HE. Suma Charkrabarti, President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development HE. Amr El-Garhy, Minister of Finance of Egypt HE. Bandar Hajjar, President, Islamic Development Bank</p> <p>General discussion: 30 minutes</p>	