



STATISTICS

GFSAC-19/14

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## Meeting of the IMF Government Finance Statistics

Advisory Committee

Washington, D.C.

## GFSAC Regional Initiatives

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**STATISTICS**

# **GFSAC Regional Initiatives**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2019**

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Government Finance Division

# Outline

- Context
- Objectives of the Session
- Proposed GFSAC regional initiative and how it will achieve the desired results
- Organizational structure of GFSAC and how it relates to the proposed regional initiative
- Questions for GFSAC members

# Context

- The Fund's overarching strategy on data and statistics highlighted a number of key challenges facing the use of data for bilateral and multilateral surveillance.
- **Lack of cross-country comparability partly due to different levels of statistical capacity across the membership:**
  - a) Operational data may follow national definitions, and methodologies could differ depending on varying levels of statistical capacity,
  - b) Even when country data broadly align with latest compilation guidance, coverage and scope may differ owing to a country's specific institutional framework.
- **Many countries do not produce data for the broader public sector (including public enterprises) as opposed to the general government.**
- **Limited cross-country data comparability is an obstacle to effective multilateral surveillance.**

## Objectives of the Session

- Outline the rationale of the GFSAC regional initiative
- GFSAC regional objectives and how to achieve them

# Key objectives of GFSAC

1. Address key fiscal statistical issues relevant for countries' policy making and surveillance;
2. Foster the compilation and dissemination of high quality fiscal statistics in emerging and low-income economies;
3. Promote the analytical usefulness of annual and sub-annual fiscal data for internal and external users;
4. Provide guidance to countries with less developed statistical systems
5. Foster collaboration with Fund area departments in enhancing the provision of high quality and timely country data for surveillance;

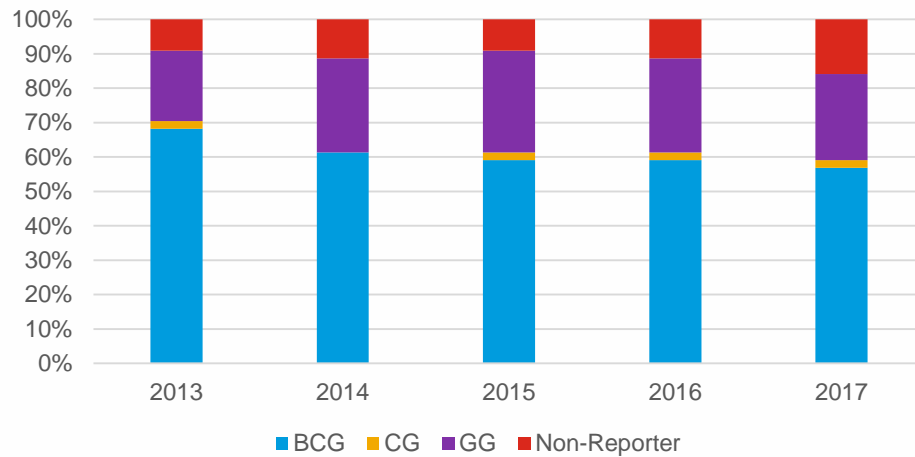
# Why introduce a regional initiative?

- **Common challenges at regional level (AFR, APD, MCD,WHM)**
  - ❑ Weak institutional capacity for GFS statistics—high staff turnover.
  - ❑ Lack of source data—both for GFS and PSDS.
  - ❑ Slow adoption of international statistical standards—hinders cross-country data comparability.
  - ❑ Data transparency issues—long lags in data dissemination.
- **Weak support for statistics at the senior policy level**
  - ❑ Low priority for statistics—manifested in inadequate staffing of statistical units.
  - ❑ Lack of coordination among government agencies—manifested in lack of source data for GFS and PSDS compilation.

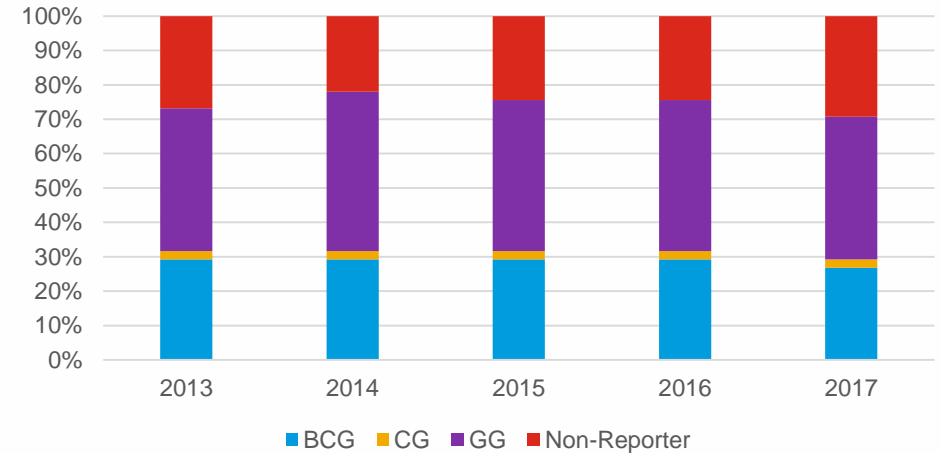


# Regional challenges in reporting GFS data to STA: AFR, APD, MCD, and WHD.

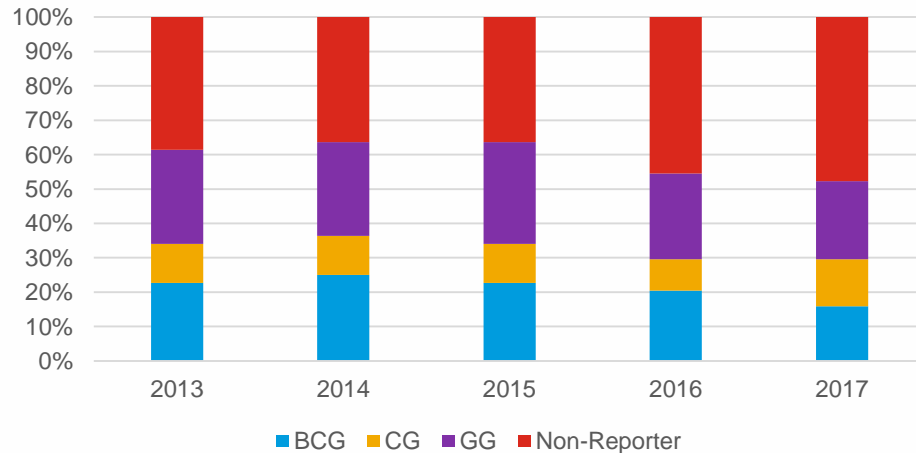
Highest level of Govt reported, AFR



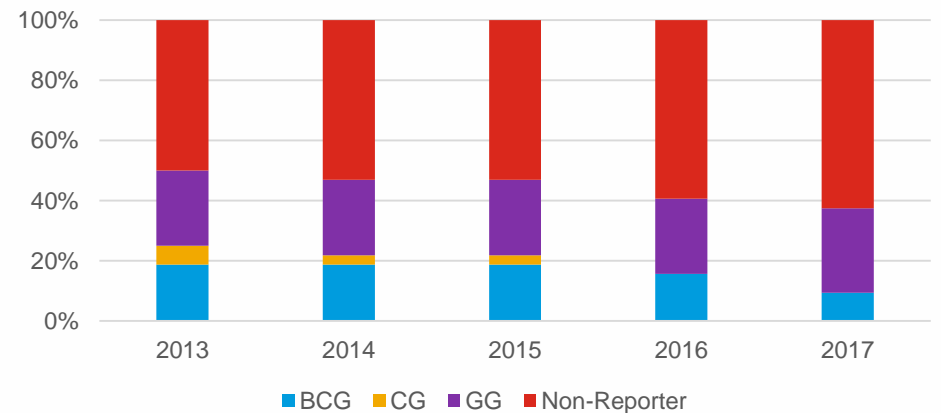
Highest level of Govt reported, APD



Highest level of Govt reported, WHD

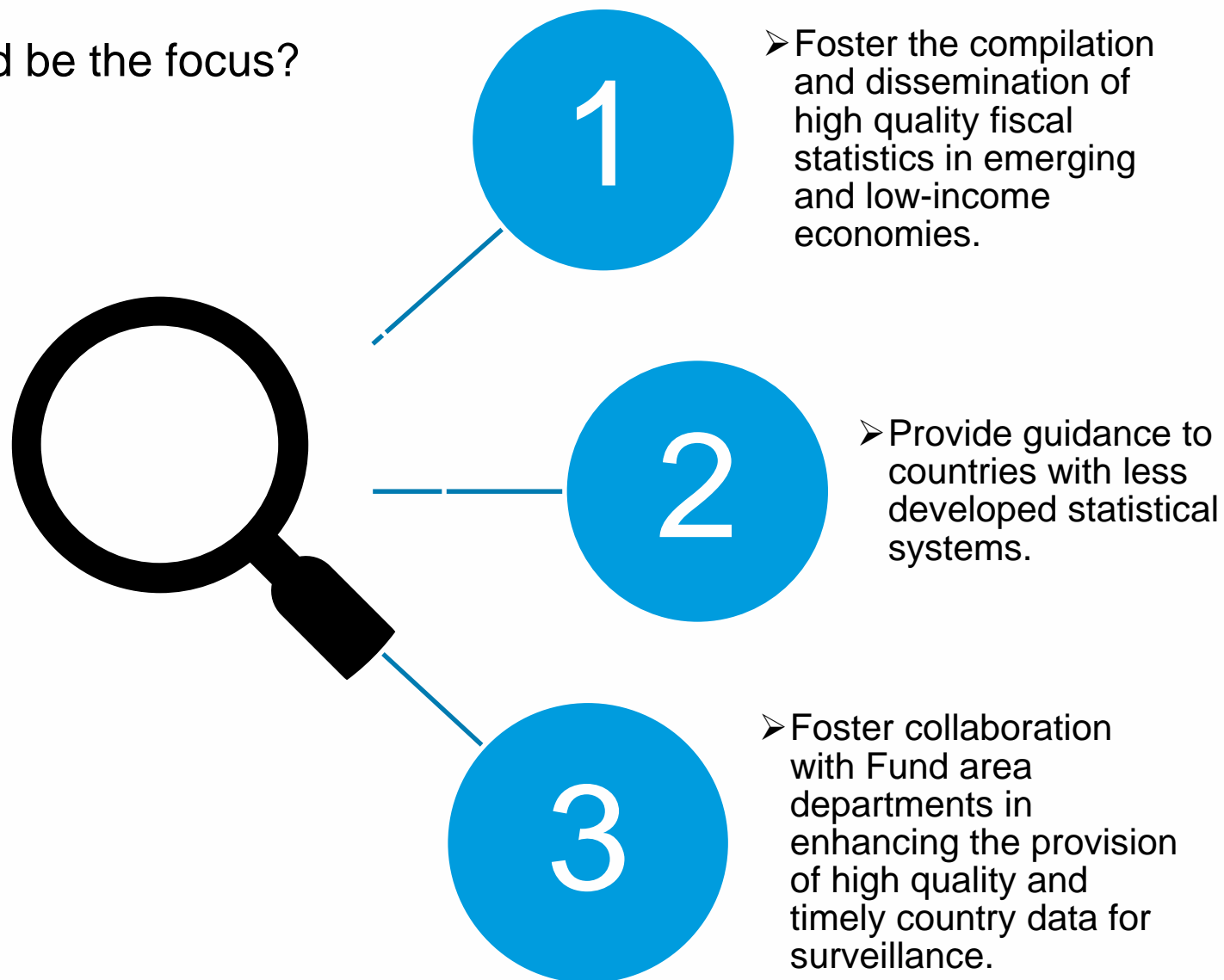


Highest level of Govt reported, MCD



# How can these challenges be addressed through the regional initiatives?

What should be the focus?



# What should be done as a priority?

- **Outreach to senior policymakers**
  - a. Support for GFS at senior policy level established
  - b. Accountability mechanism for improving GFS data agreed with stakeholders
  
- **Enhance collaboration with key stakeholders—internal and external**
  - a) Establish reliable and timely source data for GFS and PSDS,
  - b) Establish stronger support for adoption of international standards (e.g., implementation of GFSM 2014)
  
- **Set up a forum for exchange of experiences among regional peers**
  - a) Develop a pool of regional GFS experts
  - b) Share best practices and common goals (e.g., broader sectoral coverage of GFS data)
  - c) Address perpetual staff turnover

## How will the desired results be achieved?

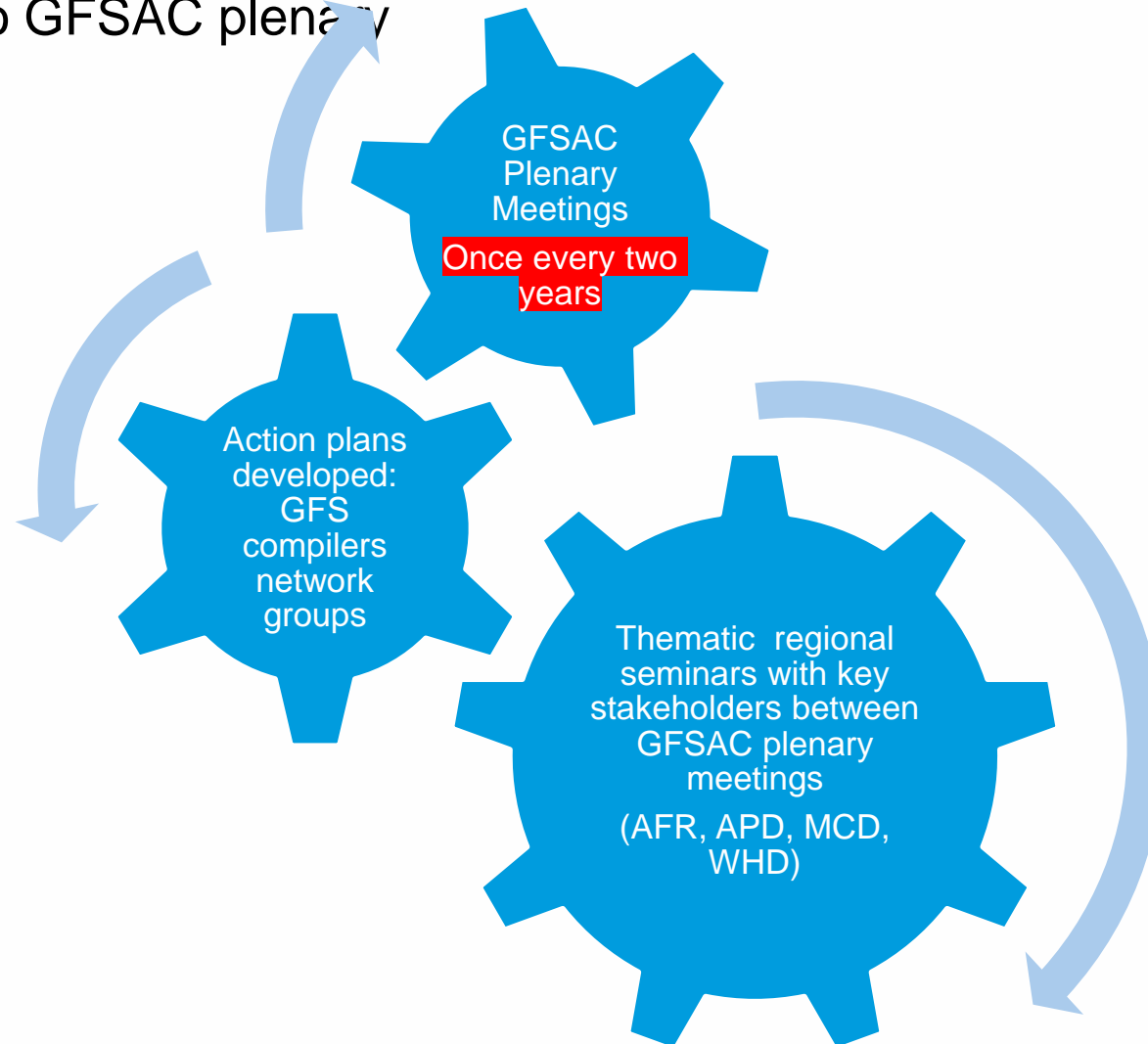
- Piggyback on regional conferences for senior policymakers—FAD and relevant area departments.
- Establish a network of GFS compilers at regional level—exchange experiences and monitor progress through peer pressure.
- Identify champions for the regional initiative through effective collaboration—FAD, area departments, and stakeholders at large.
- Develop strong coordination through GFSAC Secretariat and GFSAC members.
- Monitor progress through GFSAC plenary.

# What are the key outcomes/outputs?

- Action plan developed, agreed, and supported by senior policymakers—e.g., migration of countries' macro-fiscal framework to GFSM 2014 framework for transmission of data to country teams.
- Regional networks of GFS compilers established to exchange experiences and monitor priority actions (newsletter, interactive web platform).
- Progress made in GFS and PSDS compilation.
- Progress made in adoption of international standards.
- Improved data transparency—availability of timely and harmonized fiscal data disseminated to STA and posted on the national summary data page.
- Progress reports submitted to GFSAC Plenary meetings.

# Proposed organizational structure

Progress reports to GFSAC plenary



## Points for discussion

- Do GFSAC members agree on the need to establish regional initiatives to improve GFS compilation?
- Do GFSAC members agree on the proposed organizational structure?
- How can we make the proposed regional initiatives more effective in improving compilation of GFS in countries with low capacity?
- Do GFSAC members see their role in the regional initiatives?