



Balance Sheet Statistics – Needs, Challenges and Methods

March 14, 2017

GFSAC 2017

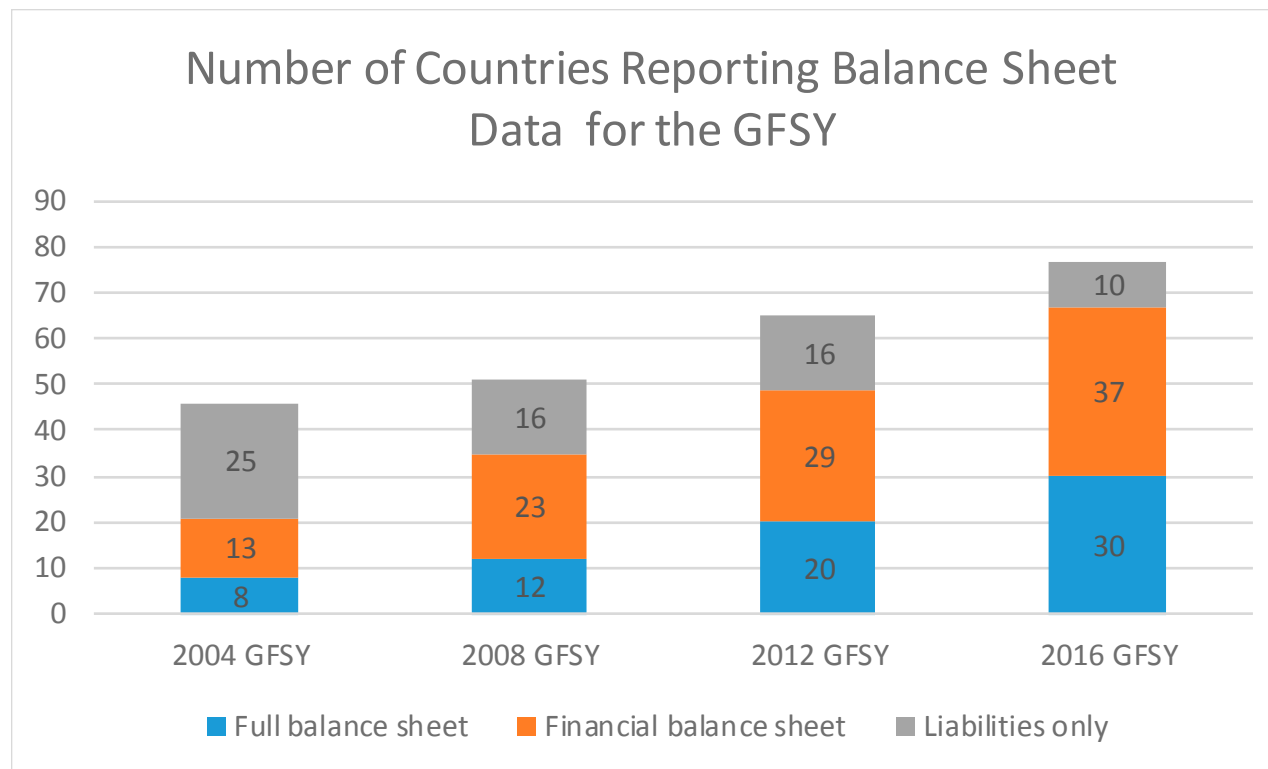
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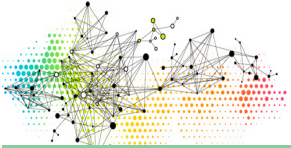


Balance sheet statistics in GFSY

Progress

- Steady, albeit slow, progress
 - Financial balance sheets in 2004: 21 countries
 - Financial balance sheets in 2016: 67 countries

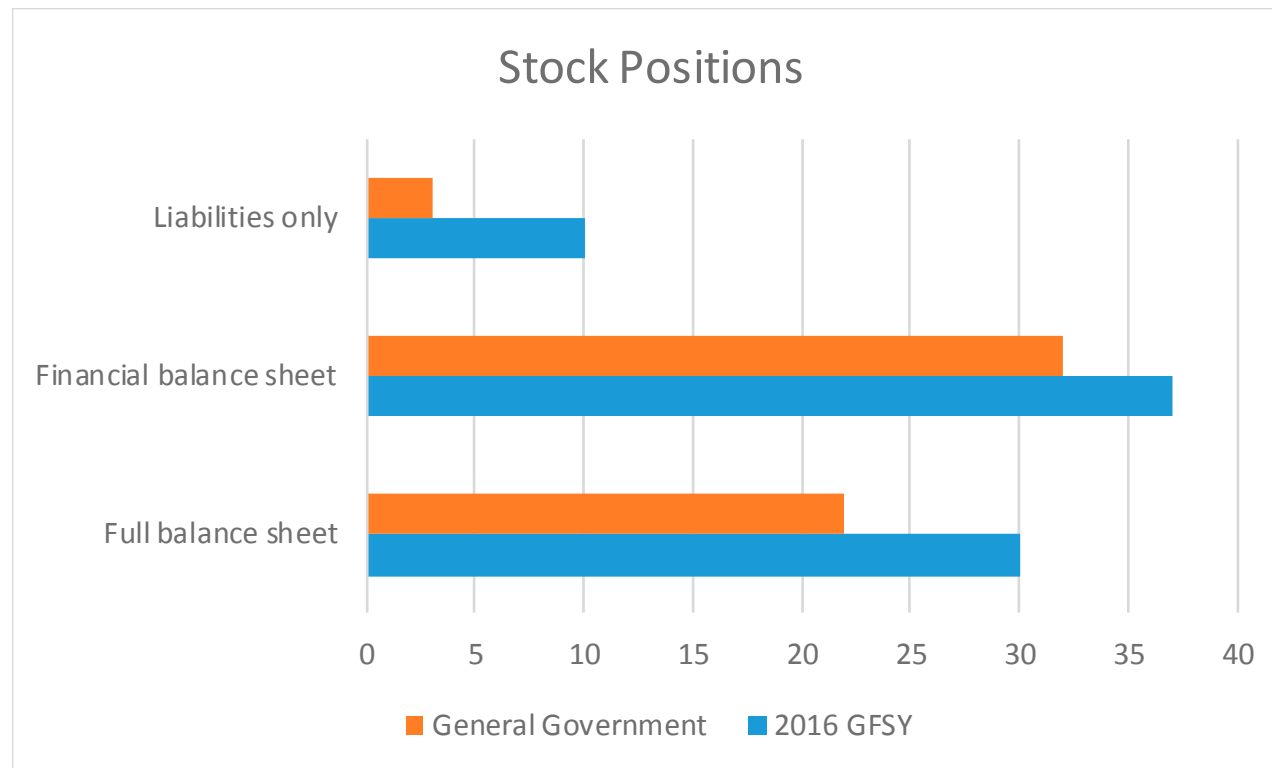


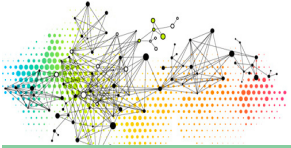


Balance sheet statistics in GFSY

Institutional coverage

- General government coverage by instruments for most of the reporting countries

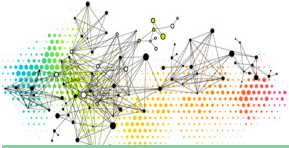




Possible way forward

Expanding country coverage

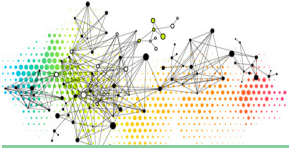
- Identifying and proactively approaching priority countries where:
 - National data are available but not reported for GFSY
 - By instruments, currency, maturity and counterparty
 - Partial coverage exists in GFSY
 - Instrument coverage
 - Institutional coverage
 - PSDS are available (for general/central/budgetary central government) but financial assets are not being included in the GFS reported



Possible way forward

Expanding instrument coverage

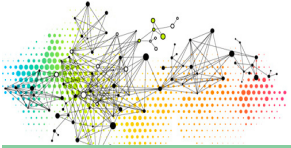
- Use the “cascading” approach for financial assets (like PSDS) to identify potential low hanging fruit and encourage countries to provide what is available:
 - Example 1: “Currency and deposits” and “Loans” should be relatively easy
 - Example 2: Government holdings of “Debt securities” could then be added
 - Example 3: “Equity and investment funds” holdings could be explored and valued
 - Example 4: Accrued tax could be included under “Other accounts receivable” in medium-term



Possible way forward

Promoting usage

- Gradually expand to cover all financial assets needed for measuring two “Net debt” concepts:
 - (1) Debt net of highly-liquid assets;
 - (2) Net debt / Net Financial Worth
- More balance sheet data would support increasing demand (including balance sheet analysis at the Fund) for explaining changes in stock positions
- A closer look at balance sheet data should help consistency checks by identifying sources of and correcting for statistical discrepancies
 - Stock of cash vs. changes in cash balances
 - Net lending/borrowing from above and below-the-line



Points for discussion

- How could we encourage countries to more widely disseminate and report their balance sheet and debt statistics?
 - Country coverage
 - Institutional coverage
 - Data coverage: instruments, currency, maturity and counterparty
- What are the most important reasons why countries do not submit readily available balance sheet and debt data for publication?
 - Reporting format?
 - Timeliness issues?
 - Other issues?