



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



Annual Meeting of OECD Middle East and North Africa Senior Budget Officials

19 – 20 September 2023

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Draft Agenda



Co-Chairs:

Mr Michael Schuler, Head of Fiscal Policy, Federal Finance Administration, Switzerland

*Ms. Mariam Ibrahim Alhajri, Acting Director of Government Budget Department,
United Arab Emirates.*

Tuesday, 19 September 2023

9:00-9:30 **Registration**

9:30-10:00 **Welcome Ceremony**

- **Mr. Michael Shuler** and **Ms. Mariam Ibrahim Alhajri**, Co-chairs
- **Mr. Jón R. Blöndal**, Head of Budgeting and Public Expenditures, OECD

Opening Address

- **His Excellency Younis Haji Al Khoori**, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance, UAE

Delegates' Introductions

10:00-12:30 **Roundtable on Recent Budget Developments in the Region**

This Session provides Delegates with a succinct overview of recent developments in budgeting and public expenditure in the region, as well as setting the scene for discussions in the meeting. Each country will give a brief (5-10 minutes) update on recent developments and public financial management reform initiatives.

A coffee break will be called during the session.

12:30-13:30 **Luncheon**



13:30-14:45 **The Potential of Artificial Intelligence in Public Finance**

Artificial intelligence (AI), including generative AI, has great potential for use in public finance. This session will provide an overview of the ways and means that AI could be applied to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditure. It will also note the limitations for its use.

Following a lead presentation by the **OECD Secretariat** and the **UAE Artificial Intelligence Office**, the floor will be opened for comments and questions by Delegates.

14:45-15:15 **Coffee break**

15:15-16:30 **The Green Transition**

The green transition is the pivotal challenge facing countries around the world. This session is dedicated to how climate and environmental considerations are being integrated into the public financial management process in practical terms. It will highlight where finance ministries have made the greatest progress in achieving impact, as well as identifying areas for further reform in order to close remaining gaps.

Following lead presentations by the **OECD Secretariat** and the **UAE on the upcoming COP28 Presidency**, the floor will be opened for comments and questions by Delegates.

17:30 **Cultural Event and Gala Dinner**



Wednesday, 20 September 2023

9:30-10:45 **OECD Spending Better Framework**

Quality budget institutions are essential to successful fiscal outcomes. Quality budget institutions are the set of institutions, frameworks, processes and practices that together allow governments to spend better. The OECD Spending Better Framework brings together and defines these elements in a comprehensive and integrated manner. It “connects the dots” of various budget reform initiatives.

Following a lead presentation by the **OECD Secretariat**, the floor will be opened for comments and questions by Delegates.

10:45-11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15-12:30 **Budget Literacy and Public Communication**

Skilful communication and engagement with the public in order to increase awareness and understanding of public finance issues is of vital importance. At the same time, it is inherently challenging to reach out to a wider public on a technical issue where they may lack expertise and even interest. This session will offer insights on effective communications with the public, and how budget literacy among the public can be improved.

Following a lead presentation by **Ms. Farah Abdul Rahim**, Director of Communications and Public Engagement, Ministry of Finance, Singapore, the floor will be opened for comments and questions by Delegates.

12:30-13:00 **Report by the OECD Secretariat and Future Work Programme**

This Session updates Delegates on the OECD Secretariat’s current and future work programme. It is also an opportunity for participants to identify emerging priority areas for future work, the nature of their interest in the subject and their willingness to participate in particular studies.

13:00 **Closing**

- Co-Chairs
- OECD Secretariat

13:00-14:00 **Farewell Luncheon**