

22 - 23 February 2018
Conakry, Guinea



Towards greater **transparency, participation and accountability** in Africa



A transparent budget system contributes to efficient and equitable use of public resources. Of course, transparency alone is not enough to achieve better accountability. There is evidence that accountability is promoted through a combination of transparency, strong oversight and participation. This workshop will examine the current state of budget transparency and the relationship between transparency and participation with a view to achieving greater accountability in African countries. How can Finance / Budget Ministries strengthen transparency and provide spaces for constructive dialogue and participation to enhance accountability?

During the two working days, participants will present progress on budget transparency measured by the Open Budget Index; they will reflect on the roles of the various actors in the accountability ecosystem; and identify opportunities for finance ministries to allow more participation in the budget process, to improve accountability.

Key questions considered:

- How can Ministries of Finance / Budget strengthen transparency and provide spaces for constructive dialogue and participation to enhance accountability?
- What are the lessons from the results of the Open Budget Survey 2017 for the countries of the region?
- What would be the immediate steps that can be taken to advance budget transparency and participation?

Overall objective:

Establish the links between transparency, participation and accountability based on practical cases of regional/international experience and the benefits of transparency and participation for better budget execution and better results in the delivery of public services.

22 February 2018

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and coffee/tea
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <p>Neil Cole, Executive Secretary, CABRI</p> <p>M. Mohamed Lamine Doumbouya (Minister of Budget, Republic of Guinea)</p>
<p>Session 1</p> <p>09:30 – 10:45</p>	<p>Transparency, Participation, and Accountability: Why does it matter?</p> <p>The desire to improve budget transparency, the accessibility of budget documents and citizen engagement offer the opportunity for the various actors to work together towards a common goal.</p> <p><i>Objective: By the end of the session, participants will be able to better understand why transparency, accountability and participation are important for better governance, better service delivery and better allocation of resources.</i></p> <p>Facilitator: David Abouem A Tchoyi, GIFT</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Neil Cole (CABRI)</p> <p>Juan Pablo Guerrero (GIFT)</p> <p>Jason Lakin (IBP)</p>
10:45 – 11:15	Tea break and group photo
<p>Session 2</p> <p>11:15 – 13:30</p>	<p>Open Budget Survey 2017: What is the state of budget transparency in Africa and how do countries perform?</p> <p>On 30 January, the International Budget Partnership released its latest survey findings assessing transparency around the world. This session will begin with an overview of the top-line results from around the world, including a review of the methodology, followed by a discussion of the results in Africa. Participants will have ample opportunity for questions in the session. Country governments present will sit with civil society counterparts to discuss their country results. Plenary discussion will help surface possible challenges to advancing budget transparency and accountability in countries as well as steps to address those challenges.</p> <p><i>Objective: By the end of the session, participants will understand the results of the global survey and the state of transparency in Africa, understand individual country results, discussed the underlying causes of existing challenges and considered possible ways to address them.</i></p> <p>Presentation and Facilitation: Jason Lakin and Anjali Garg (IBP)</p>
13:30 -14:30	Lunch break

<p>Session 3</p> <p>14:30 – 16:30</p>	<p>Mapping the budget information flow: A credible, transparent budget process</p> <p>Although the OBS 2017 results from Africa suggest declining transparency, they only reflect part of a country’s public financial management system. Several African countries have instituted reforms to improve the budget process that have also led to significant improvements in transparency. Reforms are best implemented when they are context specific and use existing frameworks. This session is meant to highlight the link between transparency and a credible, well capacitated budget process.</p> <p><i>Objective: By the end of the session, participants will be able to understand the current reforms African countries are undertaking to improve the budget process. Participants can learn a new approach to learn from each other, exchange experiences, provide insights and test ideas to improve transparency and participation.</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Neil Cole, CABRI</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Rodrigue Chaou (Director General of the Budget Directorate, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Benin)</p> <p>Johnson Samuel Nagbe Williams (Director for Budget Development/National Coordinator - OBI, Ministry of Finance & Development Planning, Liberia)</p> <p>Tea break during the session</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>Closure of Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of discussions (Michael Castro, CABRI) • Closure of Day 1
<p>19 :00</p>	<p>Official Dinner</p>

23 February 2018

08:30 – 09:30	Coffee/Tea
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day 1 and overview of Day 2 (Anjali Garg, IBP)
Session 4 09:15 – 11:00	<p>Guidelines and Case Studies on Public Participation in Fiscal Policy</p> <p>GIFT’s High-Level Principles on budget transparency was approved by the UN General Assembly in 2012. GIFT launched the Guide on Public Participation in Fiscal Policy in March 2016. This session extracts the main lessons of the OBS 2017 on public participation. Participant countries will share their experiences and plans on public participation in the near future. As for next steps, the session looks at international guidance on participation and some case studies of how participation works around the world.</p> <p><i>Objective: At the end of the session, participants will be able to establish the links between transparency, participation and accountability based on practical cases of international experiences of OGP countries.</i></p> <p>Presentation and Facilitation: Juan Pablo Guerrero (GIFT)</p> <p>Presenters: Country Representatives will be asked to share experiences of public participation involving National/Federal funds (and other levels of government, including experiences from the OGP initiative)</p> <p>Commentator: Participating Countries of Africa</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break
Session 5 11:30 – 14 :00	<p>Case studies on accountability and participation, using the “World Café” discussion methodology: Identifying opportunities to improve accountability from real cases</p> <p>Case Study #1: Improving Civil Society’s participation in the budget process Case Study #2: Knock on impact of delays across the budget cycle Case Study #3: Linking Supreme Audit Institution reports to better performance Case Study #4: Bringing new politicians into the budget process</p> <p>Moderator: Michael Castro (CABRI) and Leslie Cole (ODI)</p> <p>For this session participants will break into groups. Each group will be assigned a case study. Groups will have 30 minutes to read and answer questions related to the case study. Groups will present their case study and answer to questions.</p>
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch break

<p>Session 6</p> <p>15:30 – 16:30</p>	<p>Roadmap to success: quick wins and reforms</p> <p>This session examines the country context and budget process, and then proposes changes that ensure documents are published on time and that communities and social actors engage in the process.</p> <p>For this session, government representatives will sit with civil society counterparts to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 takeaways • Broad next steps • Immediate next steps <p>Moderator: Jason Lakin (IBP)</p>
<p>16:30 - 17:00</p>	<p>Closing of workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks – M. Mohamed Lamine Doumbouya, Minister of Budget, Republic of Guinea

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