

International Conference on Public Finance in the Digital Era

19-20 November 2024

Radisson Blu Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg



Public Finance Management in the Digital Era - TUESDAY, 19 November 2024

08h30 – 09h00	Registration
09h00 – 09h30	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Duncan Pieterse, Director General, Ministry of Finance, South Africa
09h30 – 11h00	<p>Session 1: Digital Tools for Managing Public Finances: how well tooled are we?</p> <p>Financial management is an area where governments have and continue to invest a lot in digital tools. Nevertheless, some parts of government are less well tooled than others, and some users feel frustrated with their tools. What are the common problems across different levels of governments? And how might finance ministries address them?</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Kay Brown, Executive Secretary, Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrew Blazey, Deputy Head of Public Management and Budgeting Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - Dr Ruth Nigatu, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia - Oluseun Onigbinde, Global Director, BudgIT - Zinzi Mphahlele, Manager: Budget and Reporting, Polokwane, South Africa
11h00 – 11h30	Tea / Coffee Break - Networking Break
11h30 – 13:00	<p>Session 2: The Digital Public Finance Bazaar</p> <p>The Bazaar will provide opportunities for peer learning on ongoing digital initiatives to improve financial management as well opportunities to join discussions on common financial management problems governments are trying to solve through digital initiatives.</p> <p>Circuit 1: 11h30 – 12h15 & Circuit 2: 12h15-13h00 See Bazaar Agenda for more details.</p>
13h00 – 14h00	Lunch - Networking Break
14h00 – 14h40	<p>Session 2: The Digital Public Finance Bazaar</p> <p>Circuit 3: 14h00 – 14h40 See Bazaar Agenda for more details.</p>
14h40 - 15h00	Tea / Coffee Break - Networking Break
15h00 – 17h00	<p>Session 3: Bringing Public Finance into the Digital Era</p> <p>How can innovation in public finance keep pace with other areas of government and the private sector? How can finance ministries make good technology choices on behalf of the rest of government, and how can they empower the rest of government to do the same? What changes in approach and ways of working are required? And what are the challenges to making these changes and how can we overcome them?</p> <p>Moderator: Frederique Dahan - Director of Program - ODI: Think change</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Bracken, Founder, Public Digital - Edwin Muhumuza, Head of Africa, Open Contracting Partnership - Steven Davenport, Global Lead for Anticorruption, Openness, and Transparency, World Bank - Dr John Sausi, Director of Financial Information System and IT Services, Tanzania
17h00-19h00	<p>EVENING EVENT - Socializing and Networking</p> <p>Location: Pool deck on 8th Floor</p>

The Roles of the Ministry of Finance in the Digital Era - WEDNESDAY, 20 November 2024

08:45 – 09:00	<p>Welcome Back and Reflections from Day 1 Cathal Long, Senior Research Fellow, ODI Global</p>	
09h00 – 10h30	<p>Session 4: What is digital public infrastructure (DPI), and why is it relevant for finance ministries? Digital public infrastructure (DPI) refers to foundational technologies as well as an approach to solving societal scale problems. What is DPI and what is it not? How it is similar and different to other approaches to digital transformation? And why and how should finance ministries support the DPI agenda?</p> <p>Moderator: James Stewart, Partner, Public Digital</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>David Eaves, Co-Deputy Director and Associate Professor in Digital Government / UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP)</i> - <i>Ayanda Hlatshwayo, Acting Chief Data Analytics Officer, National Treasury, South Africa</i> - <i>Rodrigue Chaou, Director General of Budget, Ministry of Finance, Benin</i> 	
10h30 – 11h00	<p>Tea / Coffee Break - Networking Break</p>	
11h00 – 12h30	<p>Session 5: DPI for what? African Perspectives What are the ‘use cases’ that are likely to drive the adoption of DPI approaches and principles in African contexts? What are the safeguards that need to be put in place to make these investments inclusive and sustainable? And why and how should finance ministries support these investments?</p> <p>Moderator: Lauren Kahn, Director of Strategy and Research, Public Digital</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Luke Mate, Director Systems Development and Support, Smart Zambia</i> - <i>Fabrizio Santoro, Research Fellow, International Centre for Tax and Development</i> - <i>Keith Breckenridge, Standard Bank Chair in African Trust Infrastructures, WITS</i> - <i>Moipone Shabalala, Senior Manager: Business Solutions, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA)</i> 	
12h30 – 13h30	<p>Lunch - Networking Break</p>	
13h30 – 15h00	<p>Session 6: The role of finance ministries in supporting DPI What is the role of the finance ministry in the digital transformation of government, the economy and society?</p> <p>Workshop: The role of finance ministries in supporting DPI Open to government representatives. [Plenary room] Moderator: Beatriz Vasconcellos De Araujo, Research Fellow, UCL A team from University College London and Cambridge University will run an interactive workshop with participants working in small teams to discuss the economic case for investing in DPI.</p>	<p>Roundtable: The role of finance ministries in supporting DPI [Hybrid Panel, streaming to Breakout Room, Interpretation not available for in-person participants] Moderator: Dr Rekgotsfetse Chikane, Lecturer, WITS</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sharon Umanyana, Technical Project Manager, Rwanda Information Society Authority [Virtual]</i> - <i>Richard Gevers, Executive Director, Open Cities Lab</i> - <i>Lorena Rivero del Paso, Technical Assistance Advisor, International Monetary Fund [Virtual]</i> - <i>Thapeli Tjabane, Director General ICT, Government of Lesotho</i> - <i>Tanushka Vaid – Lead, Asia, Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure (Virtual)</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Salisu Kaka – Director e-Government & Digital Economy Development Department, National Information Technology Development Agency</i> - <i>James Stewart – Partner, Public Digital</i>
15h00 – 15h45	Tea / Coffee Break - Networking Break	
15h45 – 17h15	<p>Session 7: Shaping the Global and Regional Agenda on DPI - 2025 and Beyond</p> <p>How can South Africa's upcoming G-20 Presidency in 2025 build on the DPI agenda established by India and advanced by Brazil? And how can it be leveraged to take forward a DPI agenda for Africa?</p> <p>Moderator: Hans Peter Lankes, Managing Director, ODI Global</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Khule Duma, Director, Project Management Office, Vulindlela Presidency of South Africa</i> - <i>Allison Gillwald, Executive Director, Research ICT Africa</i> - <i>Beatriz Vasconcellos, Research Fellow, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose</i> - <i>Honourable Seedy K. M. Keita, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, The Gambia</i> 	
17h15 – 17h30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Kay Brown, Executive Secretary, CABRI</i> 	

Partner-led discussions – THURSDAY, 21 November 2024

MAIN ROOM		BREAKOUT ROOM	BOARD ROOM
08h00 - 08h30			
08h30 - 09h00			
09h00 - 09h30	<p style="text-align: center;">World Bank Reimagining Public Finance presentation and consultation session [Workshop open to all participants]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BMGF Partner Breakfast and Meeting [By invitation]</p>	
09h30 - 10h30			
<i>10h30 – 11h00 Tea / Coffee Break</i>			
11h00 – 12h30	<p style="text-align: center;">World Bank Reimagining Public Finance presentation and consultation session [Workshop open to all participants]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BMGF Partner Meeting [By invitation]</p>	
<i>12h30 – 13h30 Lunch</i>			
13h30 – 14h00		<p style="text-align: center;">Public Digital Accelerating the uptake of digital/DPI principles and approaches in public finance [Workshop open to all participants]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ODI Advisory Group Meeting [By invitation]</p>
14h00 - 14h30			
14h30 - 15h00			
15h00 - 15h30			
15h30 - 16h00			
16h00 - 16h30			
16h30 - 17h00			