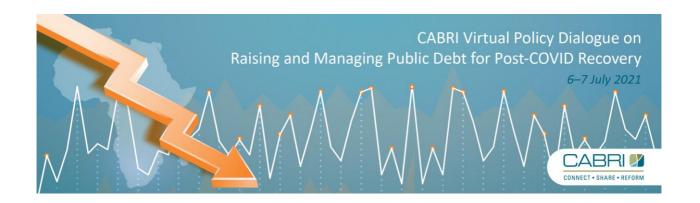
PROGRAMME

Responsible and effective debt management will play a key role in Africa's post-COVID recovery. While exiting the current crisis with sustainable debt remains a priority, public debt managers in Africa are also increasingly concerned with mobilizing financing for development to offset the effects of the pandemic. The pandemic-caused recession shrank the GDP of the Continent by 1.9 percent – the worst performance on record.

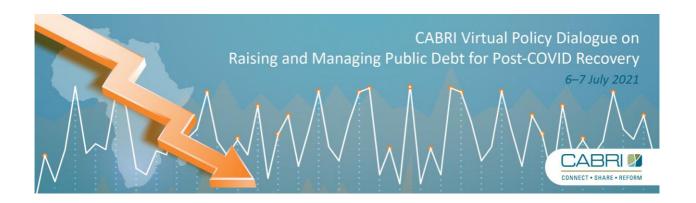
Debt vulnerabilities are also high and rising in many countries. The region's median debt level is projected to peak in 2021, with several countries on an upward debt trajectory, and debt service relative to tax revenues is projected to exceed 20 percent, potentially crowding other critical spending.

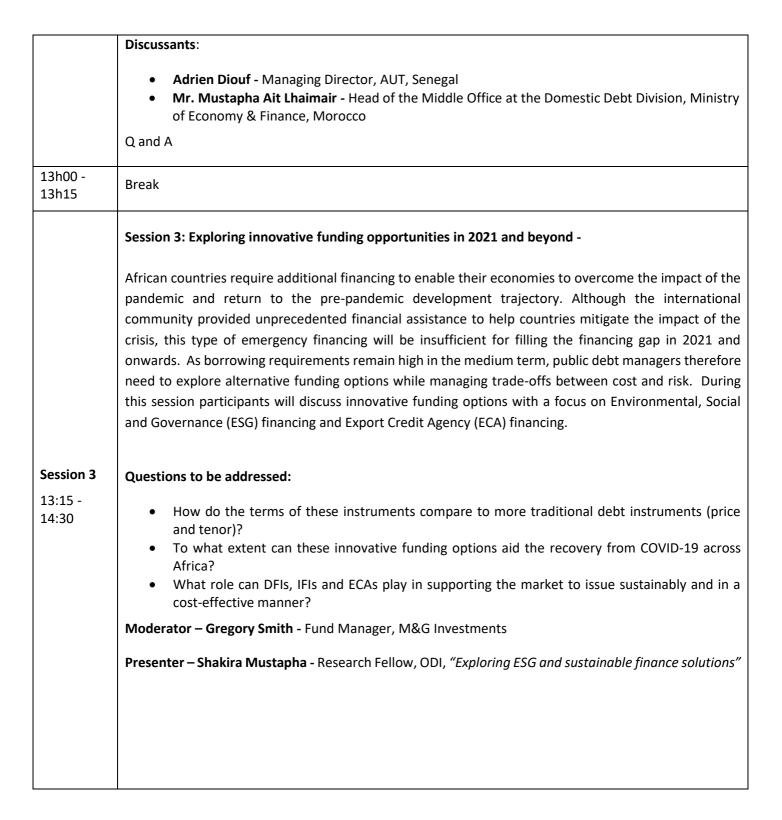
Given these challenges, public debt managers have requested that CABRI facilitate a policy dialogue focusing on the following areas:

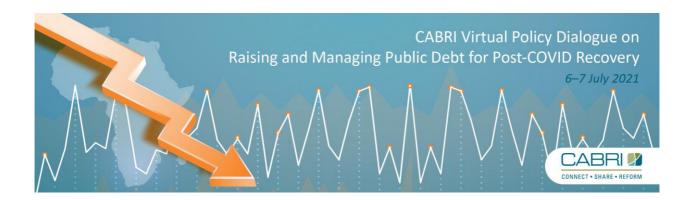
- Managing refinancing risks in a volatile and uncertain environment
- Exploring innovative funding opportunities in 2021 and beyond
- Improving investor relations and market communication during and after a crisis
- Taking stock of recent sovereign debt restructurings and relief operations



| Tuesday, 6 July 2021 | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 11:00 - 11:15 | House rules and welcoming |
| Session 1 11:15 - 12:00 | Conversation among public finance experts on the impact of high debt levels on the fiscus in Africa |
| | The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated existing debt vulnerabilities as well as created new fiscal challenges for governments worldwide. Government officials responsible for managing debt and restoring the health of public balance sheets will discuss the key risks for debt sustainability in Africa and the policy options and actions needed to stabilise debt levels and avoid a systemic fiscal crisis. |
| | Moderator – Johan Krynauw - Programme Manager, Public Debt, CABRI |
| | Panelists: |
| | Arsène M Dansou - Director General: Public Debt Management Agency, Ministry of Finance Benin |
| | Kenneth Mugambe - Director Budget, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda Ms. Tshepiso Moahloli - Deputy Director-General: Asset and Liability Management, Nationa Treasury, South Africa Dr Philipp Krause – Head of Technical, CABRI |
| Session 2 12:00 - 13:00 | Session 2: Managing refinancing risks in a volatile and uncertain environment While providing an important source of financing, increased borrowing from the non-Paris Club and commercial creditors has meant shorter maturities and higher refinancing risks. These risks, togethe with a surge in annual funding needs, may soon pose huge fiscal challenges to governments with high debt service burdens. However, some countries appear to be successfully and proactively managing these risks. |
| | these risks. Strategies and country experiences in managing refinancing risks (with a focus or francophone West Africa) will be discussed and shared amongst participating countries. |
| | Questions to be addressed: |
| | To what extent are countries facing elevated refinancing risks and why? How are public debt managers managing these risks and what is needed to enable countries to lengthen their maturity profile? |
| | Moderator: Cedric Achille Mbeng Mezui - Chief African Bond Markets and Coordinator of African Financial Markets Initiative, African Development Bank |
| | Presenter: Rodolphe BANCE - Head of Quality, Innovation and Reforms, Department of Treasury |







Discussants:

- Gabriel Buck Managing Director, GKB Ventures LDT, London
- **Dick Labonte** Public Debt Management Office, Seychelles

Q and A

End of day 1

| Wednesday, 7 July 2021 | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Key messages from Day 1 | |
| | Session 4: Maintain investor relations and market communication during and after a crisis - | |
| Session 4 11:15 – 12:30 | Regular and effective communication between debt managers and market participants are critical in normal times, and more so, during and after a crisis. In addition to updating debt management websites with relevant information, public debt managers need to be open and transparent on any changes to funding requirements and preferences as well as fiscal challenges. Governments must also keep in regular contact with credit rating agencies, who are best kept appraised of the approaches that are planned to manage the crisis. Creditors also need to be clear on the terms of the products on offer and demand available. This session will therefore bring together both perspectives — debt managers and creditors/investors — to foster a better understanding of each other's needs in the current economic and market environment. | |
| | Questions to be addressed: | |
| | What is the role of investor relations and communication practices in managing risks during a crisis? | |
| | How effective have public debt managers and market participants been in communicating with each other during the COVID-19 pandemic? What areas need to be strengthened and how? | |
| | Presenter – Ms Nevine Mansour - Public Debt Management, Ministry of Finance, Egypt "Egypt's approach to investor relations and market communication" | |
| | Discussants: | |
| | Ms Wanga Cibi - Acting Chief Director, Asset and Liability Management division, South Africa | |

