

# Joint Review of Fiscal Transparency and Participation Reforms: Revisiting the approach

South Africa

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014

- How to improve the joint country review process?
- How to maximise learning for peer countries?
- How to make the review more targeted, content-wise?
- How to better support host country in maximising usefulness from review process?
- General feedback/ suggestions

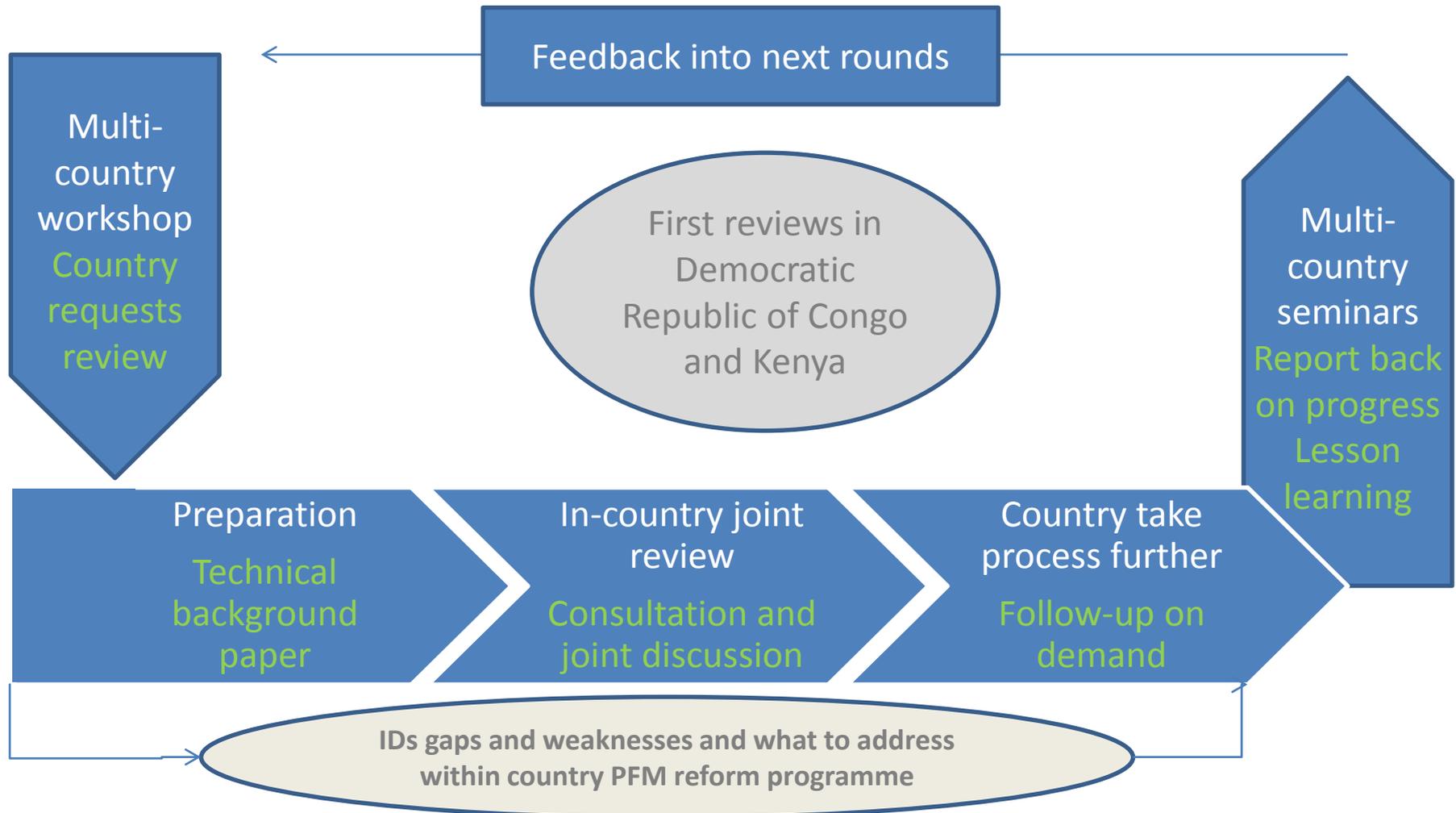
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# The joint country review approach

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- **Preparation phase:** 2 months before review – background memo, interview framework
- **Week long review:** 5 days in country
  - ✓ Qualitative research: Meetings with various stakeholders
  - ✓ Last day: half-day workshop with all stakeholders – presentation of main findings and discussion
- **Post-review phase:** Summary of findings and opportunities for reform in report
- **Formulating a road map:** Completing next steps matrix
- **Follow up and monitoring progress:** On a yearly basis

# Demand-driven joint process of reviewing and strengthening transparency and participation



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## Role of host country (1)

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### Ministry of Finance:

- Necessary condition: commitment and ownership from country under review at a high level (PS/ Deputy Minister or Minister) on the review process, but also on the fiscal transparency and participation agenda
  - ✓ Committed senior budget official part of the review team
  - ✓ Helps coordination and attends all meetings, circulates and makes available documentation
  - ✓ Consults with Ministry on commenting and reviewing preparatory memos and post-review report.
- Objective: formulation of road map – implementation of opportunities for reform
- SBO responsible for reporting back to country team on progress and at final workshop
- Starting point for ongoing collaboration and support from CABRI and IBP
- Liaison possible with in-country PFM donor group

### **CSO in host country:**

- ✓ Helps coordination and attends all meetings, circulates and makes available documentation
- ✓ Consults with wider CSO grouping on commenting and reviewing preparatory memos and post-review report and generally guiding the review process
- ✓ Responsible for engaging Ministry on road map in implementation phase and tracking progress
- ✓ Responsible for reporting back to country team on progress and at final workshop

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## Role of peer countries

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- Two or three peer country (1 CSO, 1 senior budget official per country)
- Review and comment on background memo, interview framework during preparation phase
- Lead various interviews during review phase
- Share examples and lessons learnt from home country
- Review and comment on report and road map?

→ How to strengthen usefulness of participation in review for peer countries?

Lead peer reviewer?

Write sections of report?

## Feedback on sessions:

- Most relevant sessions – closing workshop (Kenya/DRC), parliament session (DRC)
- Least relevant: central government sessions
- Splitting team those that require all present or not, then debrief
- Smaller groups enable more open exchange and discussion
- General questions to be left out, dig in deeper on certain issues



**Who should lead interviews?**

**Which actors should be prioritised?**

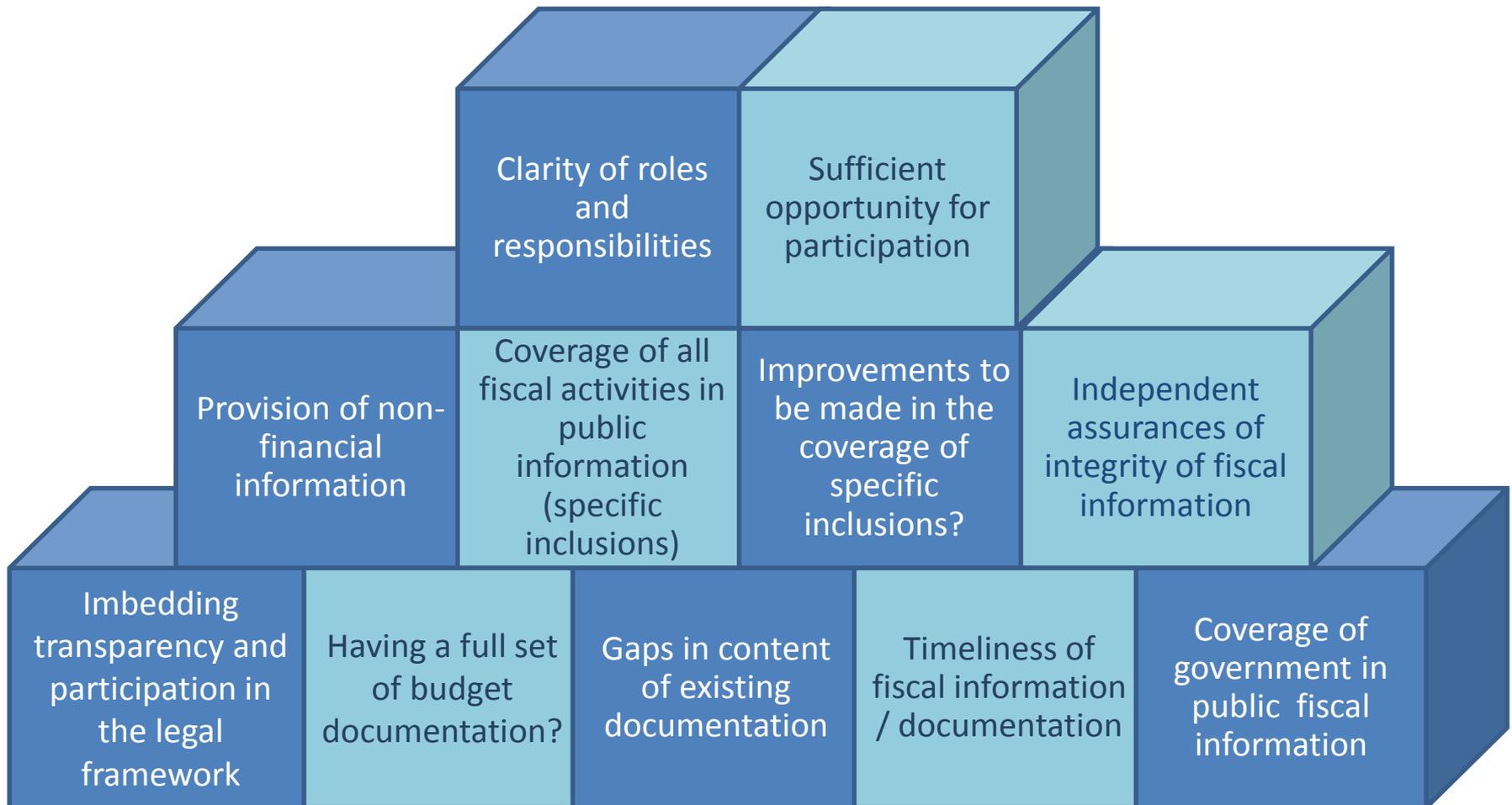
**When and how to prepare for interviews?**

**When and how to debrief?**

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# Scope of project: Query building blocks

Identification of gaps and weaknesses in terms of:



- Important in preparation phase
- Background memo prepared with overview of PEFA/OBI/ legal and institutional background
- **How to narrow focus on priorities while covering what is important?**

Self evaluation from country during preparatory phase? Template to be filled in?

Country to identify:

- key challenges and areas where progress could be relatively easy
- areas of where political blockages may mean feasible progress less likely

Feedback => Pay attention to wider issues:

- ✓ Debt
- ✓ Line ministries
- ✓ Legal framework, etc

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## Report and road map

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- Report summarises discussions from the closing workshop
- Report writing led by PFM consultant in last two country reviews
- Key priorities for reform included in the report
- Report reviewed by joint country review team
- Next steps matrix to be completed by country as a starting point for formulation of road map
- Circulation of report and road map to broad stakeholder grouping
- Road map is country owned document and responsibility
- Details: responsible actors involved, timelines, complexity of reform, lead actor, specific actions
- Follow up in next workshop, then on a yearly basis

➔ **How to keep broad stakeholders involved during implementation process?**

**How to ensure implementation/momentum at country level?**

**How can CABRI and IBP support implementation of reforms?**

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## Feedback

- Intense rhythm, need breaks
- Accommodation for local participants at hotel or fund transport
- Excursion at the end of review
- Parallel sessions so daily routine is lighter