Joint CoP Plenary

Moscow, 25-29 May 2014

Fiscal Transparency and Accountability

Summing up

SUMMARY

- **Accessibility and transparency** of information – supported by IT and FMIS reforms

- **Quality** of information
  - Aligning information to international standards
  - Role of internal and external audit to ensure processes, information etc robust

- **Engagement** of citizens
  - Input to decision making – end users of government services – tax payers
  - Transparency, access and **trust in Govt**

- **Tools** – citizen budgets, other budget documents, interactive web based tools for feedback and further analysis of data, IMF and OECD codes and guidelines

TOOLS

Useful **techniques** to assess, monitor and compare fiscal transparency against internationally accepted standards(PEFA, OBI, IMF evaluations, WB studies)

- **IT and internet** provide the means for greater transparency – more comprehensive, accurate and timely information

- Variation across the region, some notable examples of **good practices** shared

- Awareness of users and **uses of information**, two way process (to and from public sector)

- Increasing **accessibility and sophistication** (open data)

- **Limitations on systems and capabilities**

- **Quality and comparability** of information – establishing common standards and quality control

- **Quality verses quantity** – need to ensure it is used (costs vs benefits of provision)

- How to increase the **quality and impact of user engagement** and participation?

- **Confidentiality** – are there legitimate reasons for non-disclosure of information?

NEXT STEPS

- Learning from **international good practices**
  - We heard in discussion groups the valuable reform work that each country is planning in this area

- Making best use of **standards, guidance, techniques** and tools – fit for purpose

- Understanding and **communicating** with non-public sector
  - What do they need?
  - How can they help government work better?
  - Cost effective, reliable and timely engagement

- **PEMPAL** can support this work through the initiatives that COPs have identified before and during this meeting

Thank you !