



East AFRITAC,
P.O. Box 10054
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Tel: 255-22-223-5353
Fax: 255-22-223-4204

Web site: www.eastafritag.org

Building macroeconomic capacity in East Africa



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Member Countries and Development Partners Discuss East AFRITAC's Contribution to Capacity Development in East Africa

The Steering Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s East Africa Regional Technical Assistance Center (East AFRITAC) held its 21st meeting on April 1, 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Committee welcomed the Center's capacity development work to support member countries' efforts to mobilize more revenue, spend better, develop sound financial sectors, produce high-quality data to support policy making, and promote regional integration.

Member Countries:

Eritrea

Ethiopia

Kenya

Malawi

Rwanda

Tanzania

Uganda

In his opening remarks, Mr. Julian Banzi Raphael, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Tanzania and chairperson of the meeting, noted that several development partners and member countries have made important financial contributions to East AFRITAC. He encouraged member countries to make their remaining contributions to the Center, which will be critical to the implementation of the full work plan for next financial year (FY 2020, May 2019-April 2020).

Steering Committee members welcomed the findings of the recent independent evaluation of East AFRITAC and the Center's plan to implement the evaluation's recommendations. They commended the Center for the range and the quality of the support provided to its member countries. They also welcomed the demand-driven and hands-on nature of the support, the integration of training and technical assistance, and the efforts made to facilitate peer learning across the region, including through collaboration with other regional partners. Steering Committee members encouraged continued outreach and coordination with development partners in the field.

The Committee endorsed the work plan for FY 2020. It also discussed prospective capacity development needs and priorities in East Africa, in the context of the preparation of East AFRITAC's next 5-year phase (2020-25).



Participants at the meeting included officials from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, and representatives from regional organizations (East African Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa) and development partners (European Union, Germany, United Kingdom, and the European Investment Bank; and China, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, and the African Development Bank as observers).

Background

East AFRITAC is hosted by the Tanzanian authorities in Dar es Salaam and works with Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The European Union, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the European Investment Bank support the Center, alongside the IMF and member countries.

The IMF's [capacity development](#) efforts are part of its core mandate and help governments modernize their economic policies and institutions. A global network of [regional capacity development centers](#) anchor IMF support for economic institution building and are complemented by [global thematic funds](#) for capacity development. They are financed jointly by the IMF, external development partners, and member countries.

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