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East AFRITAC Steering Committee Welcomes the Center's Support to Member States

The Steering Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Africa Regional Technical Assistance Center East (East AFRITAC) met in Lilongwe, Malawi on April 4, 2017 to assess the Center's operations and discuss forward looking plans. The Committee endorsed the Center's strategic goals to support its member countries' objectives to increase government revenues, improve spending efficiency, develop the financial sectors, produce good quality data to support policy making, and promote regional integration. The Committee also discussed financing issues. Officials from six of the seven member countries (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) attended, together with development partners (the European Union, the United Kingdom, Germany, the U.S., and the African Development Bank).

In his opening remarks, Mr. Charles Chuka, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Malawi and chairman of the meeting, highlighted Malawi's efforts to entrench macroeconomic stability and increase growth in recent years and the role played by IMF and other partners' technical assistance and training to support these efforts. He underscored a number of concrete achievements of East AFRITAC countries supported by the Center ranging from better tax administration to improvements in fiscal data and national accounts.

The Steering Committee members lauded the range of work delivered by the Center during the fiscal year that ends this month, as well as the flexibility to address changes in circumstances and countries' priorities. In particular, the Center's efforts to foster peer learning across the region was welcomed. Steering Committee members also commended the implementation of a new framework that will significantly strengthen the quality and availability of information to assess technical assistance and training and improve the results of future activities.

Steering Committee members also welcomed the efforts made to improve the dissemination of information on the Center's activities and coordination with development partners, notably through the Center's [Facebook page](#), its revamped [website](#), and the dissemination of

quarterly newsletters. They encouraged continued outreach and close coordination with development partners in the field.

Lastly, the Committee endorsed next fiscal year's work plan recognizing that financing uncertainties call for an initially less ambitious set of operations with a contingency plan to scale up activities as additional financing may become available later this year. In this regard, development partners reaffirmed their intention to secure more financing for the Center while member countries expressed their commitment to deliver their financial contributions in a timely fashion.

Background

East AFRITAC, located in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is one of ten regional IMF technical assistance centers around the world. It provides capacity-building assistance in core areas of expertise of the International Monetary Fund including: revenue administration; public financial management; macro-fiscal analysis; financial sector regulation and supervision; monetary policy and operations; financial market infrastructures and payments; national accounts and price statistics; and government finance statistics. Its Steering Committee, which is composed of the member countries, the IMF, and development partners, oversees and provides strategic guidance to the Center. Development partners currently financing the Center are the European Union, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Useful links:

[East AFRITAC](#)

[IMF Technical Assistance](#)

[Factsheet: IMF Technical Assistance Centers](#)