

Washington D.C., April 23, 2015.

Dear colleague,

This is a kind reminder of the roundtable discussion on a set of draft Principles on Public Participation in Fiscal Policies and Budget Making that will take place on Thursday April 30, from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, in Washington DC. The meeting is aimed at obtaining the input and knowledge of Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) experts to these principles, which have been developed through various workshops on public participation in national budget processes.

Since July 2014, these workshops have engaged key stakeholders in public financial management and experts on public participation to review the draft Principles, and make recommendations; during 2015, GIFT held another three workshops, in Mexico, Indonesia and South Africa, in order to discuss the principles with officials and civil society representatives from different contexts and with different perspectives.

GIFT is particularly interested in engaging SAIs in this discussion, given two concomitant developments: on the one hand, some forms of public participation have long been in place, such as hot lines for the public to report concerns and more recently deeper and innovative forms of public engagement in the audit phase of the budget cycle have been taking place in some countries with promising results; on the other hand, there may be a tension between public participation in audit process and the autonomy of the audit Institutions. We know that the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions guideline on communication recognizes the very important contribution that wider input to the work of the SAI, including from the general public, can make to the effectiveness of the external audit work (<http://www.intosai.org/issai-executive-summaries/view/article/issai-12-the-value-and-benefits-of-supreme-audit-institutions-making-a-difference-to-the-liv.html>).

The general objective for GIFT is to obtain a broad, plural and diverse discussion around these principles in order to produce a final version in the second half of 2015, including a set of indicators for public participation, tools for measuring its impact and illustrative evidence of cases around the world (the motivations for the principles, the draft principles and a draft set of indicators for public participation are attached). This objective can only be attained if the round of consultations on the principles of public participation in fiscal policies include meetings with specialists from audit institutions.

GIFT, with the support of two lead stewards, the World Bank and the International Budget Partnership, is pleased to organize this workshop with experts and key stakeholders, including representatives of SAIs from Korea, Brazil, India, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Philippines (please see the agenda and the list of participants below). The roundtable will take place at the World Bank Washington Headquarters, in order to facilitate video and audio conference facilities and to make sure that if you cannot join us in person, you can participate by remote means.

We thank you in advance for your kind attention and look forward to your participation in the event. Best regards,

**Juan Pablo Guerrero**  
**Network Director**  
**Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency**  
**Fiscaltransparency.net**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE AUDIT PHASE OF THE BUDGET: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

**Joint GIFT-IBP-WORLD BANK Seminar**

**Thursday, April 30, 2015, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Venue: The World Bank- i building, 1850 I Street, N.W, Washington DC, 20433**

**Room number for the meeting: I 7-022**

**Agenda**

9:00-9:15 *Opening Remarks*

Speakers: Jeff Thindwa (Practice Manager, Governance and Inclusive Institutions, Governance Global Practice, The World Bank); Warren Krafchik (Executive Director, International Budget Partnership)

9:15-10:30 *The GIFT draft Principles on Public Participation in Fiscal Policies and Budget Making*

Speakers: Vivek Ramkumar (International Advocacy Director, International Budget Partnership) / Juan Pablo Guerrero (Network Director, Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, GIFT)

10:30-10:45 *Coffee-tea*

10:45-12:00 *Experiences of Public Participation in SAI functions & activities*

*Panelists (10 minutes each): representatives from SAIs from USA, Brazil, Korea, India, the United Kingdom and the Philippines; comments by experts from the World Bank and the OECD.*  
Facilitator: Warren Krafchik

12:00-13:15 *The tensions between independence and public participation: experiences and challenges (10 minutes each). Representatives from SAIs from USA, Brazil, Korea, Mexico, India, the UK and the Philippines; comments by experts from the World Bank and OECD.*

Facilitator: Keith W. McLean (Lead Social Development Specialist, the World Bank)

13:15-14:15 *Lunch*

14:15-15:15 Breakout session into working groups: Principles for public participation in SAIs functions and activities

15:15-16:30 *Lessons for GIFT and next steps (Ramkumar, Krafchik, Guerrero)*

<b>Participants in person</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Amitabh Mukhopadhyay; Director (Retd.), Comptroller and Auditor General of India</li><li>- Seongjun Kim; Director-General, Research, Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI), Korea</li><li>- Daniel M. Vieira; Secretary, Tribunal de Contas da União, Brazil</li><li>- Benjamin Nelson; Government Accountability Office, United States of America</li><li>- Vivien Suerte-Cortez, Manager; Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia &amp; the Pacific, Philippines</li><li>- World Bank: Jeff Thindwa, Keith W. Mc. Lean, Carolina Vaira, Sruti Bandyopadhyay</li><li>- IBP: Warren Krafchik, Vivek Ramkumar</li><li>- GIFT: Juan Pablo Guerrero, Brian Mullally</li></ul>
<b>Participants in video/teleconference</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- David Goldsworthy; International Operations Manager National Audit Office, UK</li><li>- Elia Armstrong; Chief, Development Management Branch, Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)</li><li>- Sara Fyson &amp; Oskar Karneback; Global Partnerships and Policy Division, OECD</li></ul>