**The Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency - COVID-19 Risks and Mitigation**

**Dear members of the GIFT Community,**

As you are aware, the situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to develop and is changing constantly, as the entire global community seeks to protect itself, gather facts and take appropriate actions to inhibit its spread.

Guidance from authorities and lessons learned from countries impacted early on, tell us that “social distancing” to minimize exposure is essential to lessening the spread and duration of the virus. As a member of the global community, GIFT and IBP are fully supporting this effort.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely. The safety and well-being of our staff, members and partners of the Network, are our highest priority, and it is in that light that we are taking the decisions described below.

**Operating Status:**

Per the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [(CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov/) and community authority guidelines, the Washington D.C. office is closed with all staff working remotely through April 10. We will notify our community members with as much advance notice as possible should we need to extend this arrangement.

The remote working modality is the usual format for GIFT team and consultants in other countries outside the USA. We will continue working within this format and following the directives and guidance from national and community authorities, such as health departments, and national and local governments.

At the same time, as you know, GIFT is well structured to cope with the current situation. You will be very soon be hearing from us about the continuation of our programs and activities through remote means: we will be definitely see you and hear you soon in online meetings, screen share, webinars, web conferencing, peer learning and messaging. We will be as close as always.

**Travel:**

All international travel remains suspended through April 30th. Domestic travel is subject to authority’s directives and guidelines on internal movements. At minimum, we are:

* Adhering to local authority directives, including social distancing, staying at home, and avoiding large gatherings
* Domestic travel by public transportation is actively discouraged, whether for business or personal purposes
* Webinars and virtual meetings will be the communication methods we will use until the possibility of traveling is restored.

**Adjustments regarding the GIFT projects and activities (OGP MDTF, World Bank, US State Department, Hewlett & Luminate grants)**

We will organize remote meetings with each partners country to follow up on specific activities, evaluate how their priorities have changed due to the COVID 19 crisis and re-plan efforts when necessary.

We will prepare a revised work plan taking into account the countries new situation and capacities, and, keeping in mind that the situation is continually changing.

**Thank you and please stay safe and sound, taking care of yourself, each other, and your loved ones.**