**General Stewards Meeting**

Agenda

Mexico City, March 8-9, 2017

**Background**

As per Section 3 of the [Operating Procedures](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/Operating_procedures.pdf), the General Stewards Meetings, to be attended by GIFT members at least twice a year, act as the network’s advisory board. Participants provide a forum for GIFT stakeholders to define and advance the objectives of the initiative and to exchange their experiences in promoting fiscal openness understood as fiscal transparency, participation, and accountability. Government agencies that are GIFT stewards are to share actions and plans to increase fiscal transparency, participation and accountability in their area of responsibility in their countries.

Moreover, per section 4 of the cited document, stewards assure that GIFT represents an effective and efficient multi-stakeholder action network; expand the network to cover as many stakeholders as possible within the fiscal and budget community and continuously work to improve the credibility and impact of GIFT streams of work. Stewards comprise the action network and establish GIFT’s value proposition, core strategies, and main areas of action. They are charged with defining the guiding principles and norms and ensure that they continue to evolve to meet the value proposition of the network; along with setting the global agenda and providing strategic advice to the action network.

**General Stewards Meeting Context and Objectives**

This year marks a moment of transition for GIFT. As the World Bank’s Development Grant Facility (2013-16) has concluded, the first independent [evaluation](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/documents/Evaluation_Plan.pdf) has been delivered, the lead stewards have defined, on September 2016 and January 2017, the core strategic objectives and areas of work for the next phase of the multi-stakeholder action network --2018 to 2021--, and the size of the network has grown to 37 committed members, GIFT ends its launching phase to enter on an enhancement phase, that will require institutionalizing gains achieved thus far, deepening and diversifying key strategies, monitoring, learning and correcting the course if necessary, and building enduring connectivity and vibrancy of the network.

Following the Lead Stewards Meeting held in Washington D.C. on January 17, in which [eight new members were accepted](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/documents/New_Members_GIFT.pdf); [GIFT’s 2017 Workplan](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/workplan_2017.pdf) and budget was approved; and GIFT’s 2018-2021 Strategy was reviewed, the Mexico City March 2017 General Stewards Meeting will be the space to welcome new members, get updates on stewards’ activities on fiscal transparency, discuss [GIFT's strategy for its new 2018-2021 phase](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/documents/StrategyNote_2018.pdf), as well as its 2017 Workplan. Furthermore, we will engage on a discussion on the Public Participation Guide and the Open Fiscal Data Package, looking to expand work on these areas.

Reflecting GIFT’s global nature and scope, the Department of the Treasury and Public Credit of Mexico will be hosting the meeting with GIFT’s Coordination team. Hearing about the Ministry’s latest plans to advance fiscal transparency, including efforts to link the budget open data with that of public procurement, is part of the agenda, and shows how change is indeed happening in the Global South. As usual, the meeting’s agenda is intended to promote peer learning and sharing common ideas and concerns about the future.

Specific objectives are:

* Welcoming GIFT’s eight new members, and learn about their recent actions and plans to advance fiscal transparency;
* Stocktaking on fiscal transparency advances and failures by sharing updates, sharing common ideas and concerns about the future, and identifying areas and activities for collaboration;
* Discussing GIFT’s strategy for its next phase (2018-2021), and the 2017 workplan;
* Conversing about work around the publication of budget information in open data and visualizations, and round public participation in fiscal policies, and how stewards can engage; and
* Learning about the Mexican Treasury’s latest achievements and plans for fiscal transparency.

**Preparing for your participation as a Steward in the meeting**

As you will see in the Agenda below, as a Steward, you are required to present on day 1, staring at 9:30 am in the “Updates around the table” session, that runs until 13:00. Please prepare a 5-7 minute presentation that responds to the following questions:

FOR GOVERNMENTS & CSOs
1. What are the news in terms of the milestones in fiscal transparency and public participation achieved in your country?
2. What have been the lessons learned and failures in implementing these new actions, casting light on what has worked and what has not?
3. What are your plans to push for increasing fiscal transparency, participation and accountability in your area of responsibility in the following 3 years?
4. What has been helpful about GIFT's support and what will be helpful looking ahead? How can the GIFT network (Stewards, partners and coordination team) support your plans?

FOR INTERNATIONAL CSOs
1. What are the news in terms of fiscal transparency and public participation in your institution/organization?
2. What have been the lessons learned and failures in implementing these new actions, casting light on what has worked and what has not?
3. What are your plans to push for increasing fiscal transparency, participation and accountability in your area of responsibility in the following 3 years?
4. How your institution/organization can support countries' plans?

f you are planning to prepare slides for your presentation, please limit it to 5-6 slides, that may be presented in up to 7 minutes, and send them to tania@fiscaltransparency.net no later than March 6th (new deadline).

Later on day 1, the Strategy for GIFT’s new phase (2018-2021) will be presented and discussed. As a Stewards, you will be requested to provide your feedback and identify how GIFT’s strategy might enhance your own fiscal transparency agenda (i.e. how can you, your experience and plans support peer learning and collaboration in the GIFT network). We kindly ask that you review the [Strategy note](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/documents/StrategyNote_2018.pdf) that has been approved by the Lead Stewards, prior to the meeting for an agile conversation in this session. You are not required to prepare a presentation or notes, but you will be asked to keep your intervention to 5 minutes.

 The rest of the sessions will be either specific presentations or involve working in groups, for which no prior preparation is needed.

**List of referenced documents** (with links)

1. [GIFT’s Operating Procedures](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/Operating_procedures.pdf) (Approved on July 7-8, 2015)
2. [Final Report on GIFT’s First External Evaluation](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/documents/Evaluation_Plan.pdf) (December 2, 2016)
3. [Summary & Conclusions of the Strategic Planning Meeting for GIFT](http://fiscaltransparency.net/documents/Report-StrategicPlanning-GIFT.doc) (Washington DC 28 September 2016)
4. [Strategy Note for the New Phase of GIFT 2018-2021](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/documents/StrategyNote_2018.docx) (Second version-January 31, 2017)
5. [GIFT Work Plan for 2017](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/workplan_2017.pdf) (Second version - January 31, 2017)
6. [Report to the Lead Stewards on New Members.](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/documents/New_Members_GIFT.pdf) (January 2017)
7. GIFT Lead Stewards Meeting Minutes (Washington D.C., January 17, 2017)

Meeting venue: Department of Foreign Affairs (Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores) 1st Floor of Plaza Juárez No. 20, Cuauhtémoc, Centro, 06010 Ciudad de México

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| ***Day 1*** |
| **Time** | **Session** | **Presenter** |
| 8:30 | Registration & coffee |  |
| 9:00 | Welcome | - **Fernando Galindo**, Under Secretary of Expenditures (TBC), Department of the Treasury and Public Credit representative- **Juan Pablo Guerrero**, GIFT Network Director |
| 9:15 | Meeting objectives & agendaWelcome to new GIFT members | **- Juan Pablo Guerrero** |
| 9:30 | Updates around the table. Sharing experiences in advancing fiscal transparency and participationEach participant will have **5 minutes** to share their latest activities on fiscal transparency, as well as their plans to advance on the matter. They will reflect on the lessons learned in implementing such actions, casting light on what has worked and what has not and what they have learned about the minimum conditions required to advance fiscal transparency. Finally, stewards will share their views on how GIFT's support has been useful and what will be useful looking ahead?  | **Order of presentations**:Participants will present in the order they are seated; but, country CSO & government in pairs, first; then, international organizations.Facilitated by: **Tania Sánchez**, GIFT Coordination team |
|  | *To prepare for this session, consider the following questions:****FOR GOVERNMENTS & CSOs****1. What are the news in terms of the milestones in fiscal transparency and public participation achieved in your country?2. What have been the lessons learned and failures in implementing these new actions, casting light on what has worked and what has not? 3. What are your plans to push for increasing fiscal transparency, participation and accountability in your area of responsibility in the following 3 years?4. What has been helpful about GIFT's support and what will be helpful looking ahead? How can the GIFT network (Stewards, partners and coordination team) support your plans?****FOR INTERNATIONAL CSOs*** *1. What are the news in terms of fiscal transparency and public participation in your institution/organization?2. What have been the lessons learned and failures in implementing these new actions, casting light on what has worked and what has not? 3. What are your plans to push for increasing fiscal transparency, participation and accountability in your area of responsibility in the following 3 years?4. How your institution/organization can support countries' plans?Also, please refer to the summary of results of GIFT's independent evaluation (annex 1 below)* |
| 11:00:00 | Coffee break |  |
| 11:30 | Updates around the table (continued) | - Facilitated by: **Tania Sánchez**, GIFT Coordination team |
| 12:30 | Stocktaking: Where are the network members now? What milestones have been achieved? What are the most relevant areas and mechanisms of network collaboration in the near future? | - **Murray Petrie**, GIFT Coordination team |
| 13:00 | Lunch |  |
| 14:30 | GIFT’s future: the Strategy for the next phase (2018-2021) Presentation of the main components of the strategy note discussed by Lead Stewards (on the January 17th Meeting), including the renewed emphasis on placing the people at the core of GIFT’s future work and its implications; and GIFT’s core activities for 2018-2021.Q&A | - GIFT Coordination team |
| 15:15 | GIFT’s Workplan 2017Q&A | - **Juan Pablo Guerrero** |
| 15:3016:00 | Break-out SessionStewards will provide their feedback and identify how GIFT’s strategy might enhance their own fiscal transparency agenda.Report back and final comments on GIFT's future | Group 1: Spanish speaking, facilitated by: **Tania Sánchez**Group 2: English speaking, facilitated by: **Murray Petrie** |
|  | *To prepare for this session, refer to the 2018-2020 Strategy Note and consider the following questions:1. What are your views of the strategy?2. In what areas would you like to get involved?* |
| 16:30 | Coffee break |  |
| 17:00 | Discussing sustainability. How to preserve fiscal transparency gains through political transitions? Comments around the table | Facilitated by: **Juan Pablo Guerrero** |
|  | *To prepare for this session, consider the following questions:In your country's experience,*1. *What is the role of professional public service?*
2. *How significant is the role of demand, i.e. involvement and support of civil society and the media?*
3. *Does international influence make a difference? Which influences: governments, IFIs, markets?*
4. *What has been the role of legislation? Has the new administration changed the law, is it being ignored, or there was not a law?*
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| 17:50 | Final comments - Wrap up of the day | - **Juan Pablo Guerrero** |
| 18:00 | **End of day 1** |
| 20:00 | **Stewards Dinner**GIFT will offer a dinner for all stewards, as an opportunity for an informal exchange and conversation about common interests |

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| ***Day 2*** |
| **Time** | **Session** | **Presenter** |
| 8:30 | Welcome coffee |  |
| 9:009:159:5010:30 | Open Fiscal Data Package (OFDP)What is the OFDP? Piloting the OFDP: what are the implications and benefits? What are the planned next steps?Experiences and lessons learned piloting the OFDP by Croatia, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, and UruguayBrazil and Philippines respond, providing comments on concerns, risks, advantages and disadvantages, based on their experience implementing open data strategies. Breakout SessionsDiscussion on how the network can support OFDP.Groups will be divided into: 1. Introductory level (countries considering to start implementing); 2. Advanced level (countries that have already started); 3. The user's perspectiveReporting back: results and commitments | - **Diana Krebs**, Open Knowledge International (remote participation)**Boris Marcius**, State Treasury, Croatia; **Carlos Mendoza**, Ministry of Public Finances, Guatemala; **Diego Gonnet**, Office of Planning and Budget, Uruguay; **Rafael Palau**, Ministry of Finances, Paraguay; **Lorena Rivero del Paso**, Department of Finance and Public Credit, México; **Mauro Tapajós Santos**, Ministry of Planning, Development and Management, Budget Federal Office, Brazil; **Amelita Castillo**, Department of Budget and Management, the Philippines.Facilitated by: **Claire Schouten**, **Tania Sánchez** and **Tarick Gracida**- Facilitated by **Juan Pablo Guerrero** + **Tania Sánchez** |
|  | Break out groups will be:Introductory level group to review: Minimum requirements to implement the OFDP; Staff needed; Piloting with SHCP's programmer help Advanced level group to discuss: What are your concerns? How did Mexico solve some of these concerns? How do you imagine a second version of the packager? What advice would be helpful for new countries in piloting the OFDP?The user’s perspective group to discuss: How is the public using the data? How useful is it? What is the impact? |
| 11:00 | Coffee break |  |
| 11:30 | Mexico presentation of its Open Contracting Platform, and next steps (linking OFDP with procurement data)Q&A | - **Lorena Rivero del Paso**, Department of the Treasury and Public Credit, Mexico- **Kathtrin Frauscher**, Open Contracting to complement on the linkages with procurement data- Moderated by: **Raquel Ferreira**, Department of the National Treasury, South Africa |
| 12:15 | Open SessionOpen session to discuss specific issues defined by confirmed participants preferences.Some topics could be: -an area from the strategy note (e.g., public participation in fiscal policy; links between fiscal transparency and areas that directly affect citizens an issue; IT tools); -new topics that could be addressed by the network in a way that it is more useful that tackling them individually; -suggestions on how the network works, the way it engages, governance issues | -Moderated by: **TBD** |
| 13:15 | Lunch |  |
| 14:45 15:0015:30 | Public participation in fiscal policies- Public participation principles, adjustments, measurements; connection to OGP- Presentation of the Guide and an invitation to getting involved in populating, using and promoting it Breakout SessionsDiscussion on how the network can support public participation initiatives, and/or documentation of new cases for the GuideReporting back: results and commitments | - **Murray Petrie**- **Tania Sánchez**- Facilitated by J**uan Pablo Guerrero**, **Tania Sánchez** and **Murray Petrie**- Facilitated by **TBD** |
|  | *For break-out sessions, groups will be primarily divided by language to discuss their current or planned public participation mechanisms. Questions to be discussed are: 1. What are you currently doing on public participation? What is your level of action? What can you share? 2. Identify basic facts: budget phase, participation for a specific program, does it involve other line ministries? 3. Based on the above, identify experiences from which it is valuable to learn 4. Identify if there are experiences that you would like to nominate for documentation and inclusion in the Guide*  |
| 16:00 | Enhancing GIFT's technical assistance and peer-to-peer learning agenda: ongoing and new areas for specific cooperationBased on the conversations along the 2 days, the group will be able to identify new areas of common interest and opportunities for cooperation among network members.  | -Facilitated by **Juan Pablo Guerrero** |
| 17:00 | **Concluding remarks** | - Department of the Treasury and Public Credit, **Mexico representative** |
| 17:30 | **Final conclusions and next steps** | - **Juan Pablo Guerrero**, GIFT Coordination team |
| 17:30 | End of day 2 |

**Hotel venue:** Hotel NH Centro Histórico
 Palma No.42, Col. Centro
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**Annex 1. Summary of findings of the Independent Evaluation of GIFT (2013-2016)**

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| * GIFT is a successful network, uniquely placed as a learning platform to offer support for reforms aimed at increasing fiscal transparency, public participation and accountability.
* GIFT is highly relevant and, crucially, that convergence and increased coherence around the norms and standards on fiscal transparency would not have happened without it (p.47).
* The network plays the role of “matchmaker” and “facilitator,” bringing together international financial institutions, governments, academic institutions, donors, private sector and civil society stakeholders engaged in providing greater fiscal transparency (p.33), while connecting practitioners with high technical knowledge across the globe and providing access to practical technical assistance (p.49).
* GIFT’s unique comparative advantage is its convening power, which enables all the major institutions to sit around one table, bringing key actors together, to challenge them and to encourage them to work in a coordinated way: **a multi-stakeholder action network that transcends official actors and civil society, bringing diverse interests together to promote effective cooperation.**
* With regard to peer to peer knowledge sharing GIFT brings results by: providing a forum for practical discussions between government staff; providing a forum for discussions between governments and the civil society and the private sector, helping countries in discussions with IFIs, providing direct technical advice to governments, and Government-government and government-and-CSO support and work occurring beyond events organized by GIFT but that were made possible by GIFT. (p. 36)
* In terms of new technologies/ open budget data, GIFT has produced significant results in developing “a tool for publishing micro-level budget and fiscal information in open data formats and with data visualization and data analysis tools produced to help non-experts use financial data”. However, to ensure outcomes and impacts, it is important that the Open Fiscal Data Package adequately target user groups in respective countries to make sure that user groups gain sufficient capacity to use the data analytically when budget data is published on the Open Fiscal Data Package platform. (p. 42)
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