**GIFT GENERAL STEWARDS MEETING**

**Annotated Agenda - 24 to 28 August 2020**

**Background**

GIFT’s General Stewards Meetings are the most important meetings of the network. According to GIFT’s [Operating Procedures](http://www.fiscaltransparency.net/accountability/), all members should make an effort to attend them, as the meetings provide a forum for the network’s members and partners to define and advance the objectives of the initiative and to exchange their experiences in promoting fiscal transparency and participation. The 2020 General Stewards Meeting sessions will be held online, using the Zoom platform, from 24 to 28 August.

Thank you to all the stewards and partners that have already confirmed their attendance to next week’s meeting sessions. Please see below an annotated agenda for the meeting. If you have not yet registered for the sessions you will be attending, please do so using the link below. **This is very important as only pre-registered participants will be able to access the sessions.** Registration link:   [Registration Form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9V9h1BcsEVRUeWnkv3xlHAunQIqgqYxGlnstIsyqw5fDrrw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**2020 General Stewards Meeting: program and annotated agenda**

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| **DC** | **Europe Central Time** | **Manila**  **PHT** | **24/Aug** | **25/Aug** | **26/Aug** | **27/Aug** | **28/Aug** |
| 1:00 | 7:00 | 13:00 |  |  | Training Session on fiscal open data, GIFT Coordination Team (1am EDT) |  |  |
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| 2:00 | 8:00 | 14:00 |  |  |  |  |
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| 7:30 | 13:30 | 19:30 |  |  |  |  | Modernization of Financial Management Information Systems- Headed by CABRI (English-French) -  *7:30 am to 9 am (EDT)* |
| 8:00 | 14:00 | 20:00 | Opening meeting (English-Spanish-French) - *8 am to 11 am (EDT)* | Trends in Fiscal Transparency (FT) digital technology (English-French) -  *8 am to 9:30 am (EDT)* | Public Participation (English-Spanish) -  *8 am to 10 am (EDT)* | Public Participation (English-French) - *8 am to 10 am (EDT)* |
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| 9:00 | 15:00 | 21:00 | Innovative uses of FT/data for gender - Lighting Talks  (English-Spanish)-  *9 am to 10 am (EDT)* |  |
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| 10:00 | 16:00 | 22:00 | Evaluating Fiscal Transparency (English-Spanish) -  *10 am to 11 am (EDT)* |  |  | Next Steps meeting (English-Spanish-French) -  *10 am to 11 am (EDT)* |  |
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| 11:00 | 17:00 | 23:00 |  | Open Response + Open Recovery: an Open Government approach in Economic Recovery policies (English-Spanish) -  *11 am to 12:30 pm (EDT)* | Accountability in COVID-19 responses (English/French) -  *11 am to 1 pm (EDT)* | Fiscal Reform in the context of COVID19- Headed by Civil Association for Equality and Justice (ACIJ) & with featured participation of the Open Contracting Partnership (Spanish) -  *11 am to 1 pm (EDT)* |  |  |
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| 12:00 | 18:00 | 0:00 |  |  |  |
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| 13:00 | 19:00 | 1:00 | Trends in FT digital technology - Lighting talks (Spanish) -  *1 pm to 3pm (EDT)* | Open meeting room (How to “Fail Fast” in digital fiscal transparency) (Spanish) -  *1 pm to 14:30 pm (EDT)* |  |  |  |  |
|  | Social Get-together – *1:30 pm (EDT)* |  |  |
| 14:00 | 20:00 | 2:00 |  |  |  |
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**Annotated agenda**

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| **Monday 24 August**  8h-11h EST  14h-17h CET  20h-23h PHT  Translation available:  English  French  Spanish | **Opening session: GIFT Stewards: Plans, commitments and updates**  Facilitated by Juan Pablo Guerrero |
| - General introduction to the 2020 GIFT General Stewards Meeting (objectives, agenda and housekeeping general considerations).  - The GIFT coordination team will explain how members register and share their plans and efforts in fiscal transparency and public participation.  - Around the table discussion where stewards and partners provide updates on their work on fiscal transparency and participation in their respective areas. Each member has 3-5 minutes to share their news and pledges.  - At the end of this session, participants should have a clear idea of the main areas and trends of work around the table, identifying areas of convergence and opportunities for collaboration.  The following stewards and partners have confirmed their participation in this session:   * The Government representatives of the Philippines, Mexico, Costa Rica, Georgia, Liberia, Benin, Indonesia, Colombia, Guatemala and the World Bank, IMF, IBP, IFAC, the OECD, Open Contracting Partnership, Global Integrity, ILDA-Latam, Innovaap Costa Rica, Europe Foundation, CBPP-USA, CIEP-Mexico, CABRI, Funde-El Salvador, Social Watch Benin, Emerging Markets Alliance, INESC-Brazil, ACIJ-Argentina and Fundar-Mexico. |

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| **Monday 24 August**  13-15h EST  19-21h CET  1-3h PHT (25 August)  Session in Spanish  No translation available | **Trends in digital fiscal transparency (lighting talks) - Spanish**  Facilitated by Lorena Rivero |
| - The goal is to facilitate a swift and fluid conversation between fiscal transparency digital tools’ implementers, to share trends in digital tools for the publication, communication and reuse of fiscal data information.  - This session consists of lightning talks. They will be "lightning" because each of the organizations will have 4 minutes to present a specific innovative practice, related to **their fiscal transparency portals (or other digital tools).** After every 3-4 presentations there will be space for questions and discussions regarding the implementation details. The presenters have been asked to choose only one practice, such that a fair amount of detail can be provided.  Presentations:   * Sunny Villa- CIEP, Mexico * Gustavo Merino - Ministry of Economy, Argentina * Julieta Izcudia- ACIJ, Argentina * Office of Planning and Budget, Uruguay (name to confirmed) * Lorena Caballero- Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Mexico * Enrique Zapata- CAF- Latin American Development Bank * Fiscal Expenditure Observatory, Chile (TBC) * Ministry of Finance, Chile (TBC) * Ministry of Finance, El Salvador (TBC) * Ministry of Finance, Guatemala (TBC) |

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| **Tuesday 25 August** 8h-9:30h EST  14h-15:30h CET  20h-21:30h PHT  Translation available:  English  French | **Trends in digital fiscal transparency (lighting talks)**  Facilitated by Lorena Rivero |
| - Facilitate a swift and fluid conversation between fiscal transparency digital tools’ implementers, to share trends in digital tools for the publication, communication and reuse of fiscal data information.  - This session consists of lightning talks. They will be "lightning" because each of the organizations will have 4 minutes to present a specific innovative practice, related to **their fiscal transparency portals (or other digital tools).** After every 3-4 presentations there will be space for questions and discussions regarding the implementation details. The presenters have been asked to choose only one practice, such that a fair amount of detail can be provided.  Presentations:   * Zukiswa Kota- Imali Yethu representative & PSAM, South Africa * Prudence Cele- National Treasury, South Africa * Fernando Almeida Barbalho- Treasury, Brazil * Clarissa T. Bautista- Department of Budget and Management, The Philippines * Enrique Zapata- CAF- Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina * OECD, Open Government Data * Omar A. Guerrero, Alan Turing Institute * Ministry of Finance, Indonesia (to be confirmed) * Seknas-Fitra, Indonesia (to be confirmed) * Ministry of Finance, Mongolia (to be confirmed) * U.S. Department of the Treasury (to be confirmed) |

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| **Tuesday 25 August**  10h-11h EST  16h-17h CET  22h-23h PHT  Translation available:  English  Spanish | **Evaluating fiscal transparency**  Facilitated by Juan Pablo Guerrero |
| - How to objectively evaluate improvements in fiscal transparency has always been a priority for GIFT members.  - The global norms and standards on fiscal transparency are key references to guide the efforts of our members in the field.  - The session will discuss how fiscal global standards can support governance and anti-corruption, including notable practices and common challenges.  - The format will include presentations of technical experts and implementers with time for Q&A.  Presenters:   * Concepción Verdugo, International Monetary Fund * Ekaterine Guntsadze, Head of the Budget Department & Natia Gulua, Deputy Head of the Budget Department Ministry of Finance of Georgia * Anjali Garg, Head of the Open Budget Survey & David Robins, Program Officer, Open Budget Initiative, International Budget Partnership * Taneh G. Bruson, Deputy Minister of Budget and Development Planning, Ministry of Finance of Liberia |

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| **Tuesday 25 August** 11h-12:30h EST  17h-18:30h CET  23h-00:30h PHT  Translation available:  English  Spanish | **Open response and open recovery: Open Government's focus on stimulus and economic recovery policies**  Facilitated by Rosario Pavese- OGP |
| - History reminds us that when resources are mobilized as quickly as in the response to COVID-19, there is a risk of corruption and that money does not reach those who need it most.  - In response to the pandemic, OGP launched the ["Open Response + Open Recovery"](https://www.opengovpartnership.org/campaigns/open-response-open-recovery/) campaign with the aim of incorporating open governance into stimulus packages and safety nets. The opening allows citizens, civil society and businesses to design programs and "track money."  - In this session we will share experiences of how governments and civil society organizations participating in the OGP are beginning to incorporate principles of openness such as transparency and accountability in their pandemic response and recovery efforts.  - This will be a panel discussion with audience engagement.  Participants:   * Juan Pablo Guerrero, welcoming remarks * Sanjay Pradhan, OGP CEO * Claudia Marcela Numa, Ministry of Finance and Antonio Navarro, Office of the Presidency, Colombia * Civil Society, Mexico * Gustavo Merino, Ministry of Economy and Carolina Cornejo, Ministry of Modernization, Argentina * Planning Secretariat/Point of Contact, Paraguay * Prince Clem Ikanabe Agba, Minister of Budget and National Planning, Nigeria |

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| **Tuesday 25 August**  13-14:30h EST  19-20:30h CET  1h-2:30h PHT (26 August)  Spanish- No translation available | **Open session: how to "fail forward" on digital fiscal transparency issues**  Facilitated by Lorena Rivero |
| - Innovation comes with learning from complicated or failed situations that forced us to rethink, analyze, correct and open different routes. But we rarely talk about this. This session will be dedicated to the recognition of how to "Fail Forward" in digital fiscal transparency issues.  - We invite you to an open conversation, with no formal presentations, in which each participant shares experiences about what has been corrected, removed or replaced, reformulated or still to be resolved and decides on courses of action (for example, tools that have not had the expected impact due to lack of users or that fall into obsolescence due to lack of updating, among other options).  Open discussion session, we hope that those who presented successes in Monday's lighting talks session will also share their failures and learnings about stumbling without falling. To sign up for the list of people who will share their experiences, please send an email to lorena@fiscaltransparency.net |

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| **Wednesday**  **26 August**  1h-3h EST  7h-9h CET  13h-15h PHT  No translation available | **Training session on fiscal open data**  Facilitated by Raquel Ferreira |
| - Training/workshop session on open data for beginners with a special focus on fiscal open data. Lorena Rivero will cover practices to publish open data, from initial to advanced, will present data standards related to the fiscal arena and how to link data.  - The workshop will allow attendees to identify mistakes in data publication that hinder data quality and reliability, as well as its potential to be reused.  - This will be an immersive session for anyone interested in starting to publish open data and reform their systems to be Open by Default. |

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| **Wednesday**  **26 August**  8h-10h EST  14h-16h CET  20h-22h PHT  Translation available:  English  Spanish | **Public Participation in fiscal policies: The GIFT experience**  Facilitated by Raquel Ferreira |
| * Latest global developments on public participation presented by the World Bank. * Examples from two countries (Brazil and Sierra Leone) that have successfully implemented public participation initiatives. * Brief 3 minute updates from countries currently undertaking initiatives; on the status of these initiatives, what they have learnt and the challenges they are facing. * The format of the session provides for presentations and then engagements with these presentations in the form of Q&A and a breakout session, providing for peer to peer engagement/learning on public participation initiatives motivating others to start undertaking similar initiatives; and assisting those already undertaking initiatives to formulate ideas and overcome challenges. * In the breakout session, stewards will discuss amongst themselves challenges being facing on: * Initiating public participation initiatives in their countries. * The identification of objectives. * The identification and planning of interventions. * Lessons learnt and ideas for overcoming challenges.   Participants:   * Sruti Bandyopadhyay: World Bank: Mainstreaming citizen engagement: A global perspective * Daniel Avelino: The Brazilian experience * Abu Bakarr Kamara: Budget Advocacy Network and Matthew Dingie: Ministry of Finance: An example from Sierra Leone * Brief update from countries’ Ministry of Finance and CSO representatives: * Chile - Amaya Fraile & Victoria Gubbins Smith, Ministry of Finance & Comisión del Gasto Público * South Africa – Prudence Cele, National Treasury & Zukiswa Kota, Imali Yethu representative & PSAM * Nigeria – Dr. Anne Nzegwu, Ministry of Finance & Auwal Musa * Senegal – Mor Diouf, Ministry of Finance * Benin – Rodrigue Chaou, Ministry of Finance & Dieudonné Houisson, Social Watch * Liberia – Taneh G. Bruson, Deputy Minister of Budget and Development Planning, Ministry of Finance |
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| **Wednesday**  **26 August**  11h-13h EST  17h-19h CET  23h-01h PHT  Translation available:  English  French | **Accountability in COVID-19: Resilient fiscal transparency for emergencies**  Facilitated by Juan Pablo Guerrero |
| * The GIFT coordination team will present the Fiscal Data for Emergency Response: Guide for COVID-19, with the incorporation of the additions, comments and suggestions received through open consultation. * In the next section, facilitators will answer to the questions:   + What has worked well in holding or improving transparency in the current context of COVID-19.   + What do you wish you had known or done before to have a more resilient fiscal transparency?   + What new ideas could we try in order to improve fiscal transparency in similar contexts?   + After five-six months (aprox) into this experience, what unanswered questions remain related to fiscal transparency. * All participants will have a chance to be part of the reflection of those questions in breakout rooms. * The session will combine short presentations, lightning talks, brainstorming dashboards and breakout rooms.   Presenters and breakout facilitators:   * Lorena Rivero- GIFT Coordination Team * Richard Allen- International Monetary Fund * Kathrin Frauscher & Lindsey Marchessault- Open Contracting Partnership * Hana Zoričić- Government of Croatia |

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| **Thursday 27 August**  8h-10h EST  14h-16h CET  20h-22h PHT  Translation available:  English  French | **Public Participation in fiscal policies: The GIFT experience**  Facilitated by Raquel Ferreira |
| * Latest global developments on public participation presented by the World Bank. * Examples from two countries (Brazil and Sierra Leone) that have successfully implemented public participation initiatives. * Brief 3 minute updates from countries currently undertaking initiatives; on the status of these initiatives, what they have learnt and the challenges they are facing. * The format of the session provides for presentations and then engagements with these presentations in the form of Q&A and a breakout session, providing for peer to peer engagement/learning on public participation initiatives motivating others to start undertaking similar initiatives; and assisting those already undertaking initiatives to formulate ideas and overcome challenges. * In the breakout session, stewards will discuss amongst themselves challenges being facing on: * Initiating public participation initiatives in their countries. * The identification of objectives. * The identification and planning of interventions. * Lessons learnt and ideas for overcoming challenges.   Participants:   * Sruti Bandyopadhyay: World Bank: Mainstreaming citizen engagement: A global perspective * Daniel Avelino: The Brazilian experience * Abu Bakarr Kamara: Budget Advocacy Network and Matthew Dingie: Ministry of Finance: An example from Sierra Leone * Brief update from countries’ Ministry of Finance and CSO representatives: * Chile - Amaya Fraile & Victoria Gubbins Smith, Ministry of Finance & Jeannette von Wolfersdorff, Fundación Observatorio del Gasto Fiscal de Chile * South Africa – Prudence Cele, National Treasury & Zukiswa Kota, Imali Yethu representative & PSAM * Nigeria – Dr. Anne Nzegwu, Ministry of Finance & Auwal Musa * Senegal – Mor Diouf, Ministry of Finance * Benin – Rodrigue Chaou, Ministry of Finance & Dieudonné Houisson, Social Watch * Liberia – Taneh G. Bruson, Deputy Minister of Budget and Development Planning, Ministry of Finance |

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| **Thursday 27 August**  11-13h EST  17-19h CET  23h-1h PHT  Session held in Spanish, with translation available to  English | **Tax reform in the context of the pandemic: the civil society perspective, coordinated by Asociación Civil por la Justicia y la Igualdad, Argentina** Facilitated by ACIJ |
| * Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and governments in Latin America in an open dialogue to strengthen government capacity to increase national revenue without harming lower income sectors. * Additionally, the Guide to Fiscal Data for Emergencies will be presented, with particular emphasis on revenue and tax benefits. * Exchange experiences and proposals from civil society to move towards more progressive tax systems with the capacity to guarantee rights. To have the eyes of state agents and representatives of international organizations on the possible changes, their challenges and limitations. * Panel of very brief presentations and exchanges between participants and the public.   Presenters:   * ACIJ * Paulina Castaño- Fundar - (Pronunciamiento P&D) * Carmela Zigoni- INESC * ICEFI   Participants of the Conversation:   * Héctor J. Villarreal, Director of CIEP * Paolo de Renzio, IBP * World Bank representative (Stephen Davenport) * Government representatives |

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| **Friday 28 August**  7:30h-9h EST  13:30-15h CET  19:30h-21h PHT  Translation available:  English  French | **Modernization of Financial Management Information Systems (FMIS)**  Facilitated by the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) |
| * Over the past three decades, the provision of information within Public Financial Management (PFM) has been revolutionized by FMIS. FMIS, automated solutions for planning, executing, and monitoring revenue and expenditure, form an integral part of the PFM system. * However, across the world, FMISs, and perhaps more particularly integrated FMIS (IFMIS), have fallen short in their objectives of facilitating data-driven decision-making, timely and smooth budget execution, integrated service delivery, mitigating against wasteful expenditure, and increasing transparency, participation and accountability. * The session will begin with a semi-formal panel discussion facilitated by CABRI. The floor will then be opened to participants to pose questions to CABRI or the panelists and provide insights into the work their organization or ministry is doing to improve information systems in PFM. * The session will facilitate cross-continental peer learning amongst PFM and IT professionals on common challenges and lessons learnt in designing, procuring and using ICT in PFM. It will share key insights from CABRI’s research on information systems in PFM in Africa with other international organizations interested in strengthening data capabilities and information systems and improving internal and external information sharing for greater efficiency and accountability.   Participants:   * Neil Cole- CABRI   Ministry of Finance representatives from Ghana, Rwanda, Benin, Nigeria and Argentina |

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| **Friday 28 August**  9h-10h EST  15h-16h CET  20h-21h PHT  Translation available:  English  Spanish | **Innovative uses of FT/data for gender - Lighting Talks**  Facilitated by Lorena Rivero |
| * A series of lightning talks (short talks of 5 minute intervals) where stewards will present their experience and practices on the use of fiscal transparency to reduce gender gaps and gender based violence. * The talks will seek to identify and share interesting examples of publishing gender budgeting data, and the use of fiscal transparency and data for better decision making and accountability. * The session will include research, tools and practices by civil society organizations, as well as progress from ministries in the matter.   Participants:   * ACIJ- Argentina * Georg Neumann, Open Contracting Partnership * Leonardo Buitrago, Ministry of Finance of Colombia * INESC * Ministry of Finance of Argentina   As we try to stay up to date, if you have an innovative plan or practice related to fiscal data and gender, please contact [lorena@fiscaltransparency.net](mailto:lorena@fiscaltransparency.net). |

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| **Friday 28 August**  10h-11h EST  16h-17h CET  22h-23h PHT  Translation available:  English  French  Spanish | **Closing session: Next steps**  Facilitated by Juan Pablo Guerrero |
| * This is the closing session of the General Stewards Meeting providing reflections on the meeting, and the next steps emanating from it. * Participants will get the opportunity to speak again and share their concluding proposals and thoughts. * Reflections will be provided on:  1. Country action plans 2. Ongoing public participation project 3. COVID-19 actions 4. Upcoming online fiscal transparency course 5. Ongoing tax transparency work 6. Social media follow ups 7. Other proposals emanating from around the table |

**Last, but not least, the RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Get to know your fellow stewards and partners and have some FUN doing it! There could even be a prize or two up for grabs!

Now that we are all becoming digital experts, create a Zoom background for the General Stewards Meeting showcasing something special about your country. We will be on the lookout for them, looking for the ones that capture our hearts and make us want to visit your country!

Do you have a special talent? Can you sing like a bird; do martial arts; make everyone laugh with your comedy routine? Show off your talent by sending a short (1 minute or less) video made on your smart phone to [info@fiscaltransparency.net](mailto:info@fiscaltransparency.net). These videos will be shared at the Get Together Session.

The Get Together Session is on Thursday 27 August at 13:30 EDT and 19:30 CET / Friday 28 August at 1:30 PHT … yes, your special talent may just be staying awake if you are in the PHT time zone! Chat and get to know each other in a more relaxed informal way. We’ll talk about the creative Zoom backgrounds shown throughout the week and your special talents too.