



## **FOA Learning Activity:**

### **International Experiences on Mainstreaming Public Participation through Pre-Budget Consultations**

**June 11, 2021 | 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM (Pretoria time)**

With the support of the US Department of State, the Fiscal Openness Accelerator ([FOA](#)) project was launched in 2019 by the International Budget Partnership and the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency with the objective of building the technical capacity of selected governments to improve fiscal transparency in Benin, Liberia and Nigeria, and to support the implementation of a public participation (PP) pilot in the budget cycle in such countries in addition to Senegal and South Africa. The ministries of finance in each of the five countries signed a memorandum of understanding to agree on the scope of the project and to commit to a set of activities and deliverables. Among other activities, each country established an Advisory Group, composed by civil society organizations and government representatives, to discuss and select the public participation mechanism.

After internal consultations on the Pre-Budget Consultations/Workshops as a pilot public participation mechanism in the National Treasury done in April to May 2021, the South Africa FOA Advisory Group has met in May 17, 2021 and decided on the following next steps to conduct the following activities to further enhance the design and integrate the pre-budget consultations into South Africa's national budget process and calendar:

1. Peer-Learning Activity on International Experiences on Pre-Budget Consultations
2. Advisory Group Meeting/Workshop on Identifying Form, Function and Scope, and Action Planning on the Pre-Budget Consultations/Workshops initiative

To assist the South Africa Advisory Group, GIFT/IBP proposes the following activity design and programme for the Learning Activity on International Experiences on Pre-Budget Consultations to be conducted in partnership with the National Treasury.

#### **Event Objective:**

The event aims to:

1. Discuss and present relevant international experiences on mainstreaming public participation in pre-budget consultations; and
2. Facilitate international benchmarking and exchange on lessons, challenges and practical areas/ entry points to mainstream public participation in the Pre-Budget Consultations/Workshops in South Africa



**Provisional Programme (2 hours)**

Time	Activity
1:30 - 1:40 PM	<p><b>Welcome Remarks and introductions around the table (10 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SA National Treasury</li><li>• GIFT Coordination Team</li></ul>
1:40 - 2:40 PM	<p><b>Presentation on the International Experience of Public Consultations on Fiscal Policy (GIFT/IBP) (45 minutes)</b></p> <p>Representatives from the GIFT/IBP team shall be sharing about specific public participation mechanisms from selected countries and address the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. What are the big goals/project objectives of the pre-budget consultation /mechanism?</li><li>b. Who are the target audience/stakeholders/ users of the mechanism?</li><li>c. What is the nature and form of the public consultations facilitated (e.g. face-to-face events, online platforms, traditional media, etc)? What specific opportunities for public engagement does the mechanism provide? How did it close feedback loops?</li><li>d. How do you measure the impact of the initiative? Please share any performance indicators you use to monitor and track the progress of its implementation (i.e. number of people reached, target policy outputs/outcomes, events conducted, reports published, etc)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What were the early results/policy impact of the project? What budget documents or policies did it influence? Please share examples of changes in practice or policy that were made that were influenced by citizens inputs from pre-budget consultations.</li></ul></li><li>e. Please describe the institutional arrangement that supported the implementation of the initiative (mandate of the office in charge; composition of the team in terms of number and technical capacity; inter or intra-agency coordination set-up; etc).</li><li>f. What are the enabling factors that allowed the pre-budget consultation to happen? Please share any specifics on the legal framework or instrument (e.g. laws, executive issuances, normative instruction, technical assistance from international development partners, etc) that allowed or framed the meetings.</li></ol>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>g. How did the initiative ensure inclusion and take into account inputs from marginalized sectors in the design and implementation of the mechanism?</li><li>h. What are the challenges in the implementation of this public participation mechanism?</li><li>i. What are the key lessons that you learned from the implementation of this reform initiative?</li></ul>
2: 40 - 3:25 PM	<b>Open Discussion</b>
3:25 - 3:30 PM	<b>Closing Remarks and Next Steps</b>