**GIFT STEWARDS GENERAL MEETING**

**Agenda - 24 to 27 August 2021** (as of August 20)



**Welcome to the 2021 GIFT Stewards General Meeting!**

**GIFT is 10 years old!**

It has been a decade of achievements, innovations, and challenges, with many lessons learned along the way. For the network, 10 years of cooperation, commitment, companionship, building ties, working together and helping each other. The pandemic hit us in 2020, deepening and emphasizing the need for working hard together, and dramatically demonstrating that fiscal transparency, participation and accountability are absolutely key in addressing the deteriorating social and economic circumstances owing to COVID-19: poverty, inequality, exclusion, waste and misuse of public funds. In the face of such painful setbacks, we begin our second decade with a consolidated network, better armed, more experienced and better equipped with knowledge, union and strength.

The 2021 edition of the General Meeting of the Stewards will provide us an opportune moment to get together, celebrate, get updates around the screen, assess the work of our network, and reflect about our future. It is an honor for us to have you join us at this important milestone, thank-you!

**Background**

GIFT’s Stewards General Meeting is the most important meeting 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 2021 Stewards General Meeting sessions will be held online, using the Zoom platform, from 24 to 27 August.

**2021 Stewards General Meeting Summary Agenda**

| **EDT (Washington DC)** | **Europe Central Time** | **Manila****PHT** | Tuesday\* | Wednesday\* | Thursday\* | Friday\* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **24/Aug** | **25/Aug** | **26/Aug** | **27/Aug** |
| 7:30 | 13:30 | 19:30 |  |  | Mainstreaming Public Participation in Fiscal Policies: Lessons from the FOA Project*English-French* |  |
| 8:00 | 14:00 | 20:00 |  | Transparency Principles on Tax Policy and Administration*English-Spanish* |  |
| 8:30 | 14:30 | 20:30 | General Stewards Meeting Opening Session*English-French-**Spanish* | Stewards General Meeting (Assembly)*English-French-**Spanish* |
| 9:00 | 15:00 | 21:00 |
| 9:30 | 15:30 | 21:30 |  |  |  |
| 10:00 | 16:00 | 22:00 |  | Getting the Word Out and Making Waves: Strategic Communication Practices and Tools for Budget Advocacy and Advancing Fiscal Transparency*English-French-**Spanish* |  | Fiscal transparency as a tool to assess the financing cross-cutting priorities (i.e. SDGs, gender, child and youth, and climate change)*English-Spanish* |
| 10:30 | 16:30 | 22:30 | 10 years of advancing fiscal transparency*English-French-**Spanish* | Relevance of Independent Supreme Audit Institutions*English* |
| 11:00 | 17:00 | 23:00 |
| 11:30 | 17:30 | 23:30 |  | Closing Session: Towards a Stronger GIFT Action Network in the Next Decade*English-Spanish* |
| 12:00 | 18:00 | **00:00 (+1 day)** |  | Fiscal Transparency Portals: 10+ years of practice and trends forward*English-Spanish* |  |
| 12:30 | 18:30 | **00:30: (+1 day)** |  |  |  |
| 13:00 | 19:00 | **1:00****(+1 day)** |  |  |  |
|  |
| 16:00 | 22:00 | **4:00** **(+1 day)** |  | Role of local/state govts in GIFT*English-Spanish* |  |  |
| 16:30 | 22:30 | **4:30** **(+1 day)** |  |  |  |
|  |
| 20:00 | **2:00 AM (+1 day)** | **8:00** **(+1 day)** |  | User- engagement initiatives*English-Spanish* |  |  |
| 20:30 | **2:30 AM (+1 day)** | **8:30** **(+1 day)** |  |  |  |
| 21:00 | **3:00 AM (+1 day)** | **9:00** **(+1 day)** | COVID-19 & fiscal transparency: What have we learnt?*English* |  |  |
| 21:30 | **3:30 AM (+1 day)** | **9:30** **(+1 day)** |  |  |
| 22:00 | **4:00 AM (+1 day)** | **10:00 (+1 day)** |  |  |  |

**Annotated agenda**

**Tuesday August 24, 2021**

| **Tuesday August 24** 8,30-9,40 EDT14,30-15,40 CET20,30-21,40 PHT70 minutesTranslation available:**English****French****Spanish**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtd-6vrDMiEta3EgI_DW4YSSp8PHAJ_LyW) | **Stewards General Meeting Opening Session** |
| --- | --- |
| Welcome, agenda and updates from the GIFT Network:* The Stewards General Meeting agenda and the rules of engagement throughout the week
* Updates, projects and plans by the GIFT Coordination Team
* Update on member countries commitments and plans to advance fiscal transparency and participation
* Open discussion

 Resource persons:* GIFT Coordination Team
* All GIFT members
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| **Tuesday August 24** 10,30-12 EDT16,30-18 CET22,30-00 PHT90 minutesTranslation available:**English****French****Spanish**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcodu-qrz4sHtPTq80Pb48VhZk6u_JQIOd-) | **10 years of advancing fiscal transparency** |
| --- | --- |
| The Network was founded in 2011. Much has since been achieved in the advancement of fiscal transparency, participation and accountability, with the Network accumulating an abundance of knowledge along the way. During this period, we have however also experienced failures, difficulties, and setbacks.  In this 90 minutes discussion, we will celebrate the existence of the GIFT network, with its founders reflecting on what motivated its creation, discussing achievements, challenges, obstacles, and reflecting on future perspectives and expectations. We will have a lively open discussion with numerous brief reflections per participant, moderated by the network director. Resource persons:* Florencio Butch Abad, former Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, the Philippines
* Jorge Hage, former Brazil Minister of Control and Transparency,
* Brazil
* Jim Brumby, World Bank Group
* Adrian Fozzard, World Bank Group
* Manal Fouad, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
* Carolina Renteria, IMF
* Sailendra Pattanayak, IMF
* Jason Harris, IMF
* Warren Krafchik, International Budget Partnership (IBP)
* Vivek Ramkumar, IBP
* Sanjeev Khagram, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University
* Murray Petrie, GIFT
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| **Tuesday August 24** 21-22,30 EDT3-4,30 CET9-10,30 PHT90 minutes**English**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAoc-qorjwsHdEJL__lSwGNpap3xLsrTcpu) | **COVID-19 & fiscal transparency: What have we learnt?** |
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| Unparalleled fiscal policy responses to COVID-19 substantially increased risks for decreased transparency, misallocation, inefficiencies and corruption. GIFT, and other key stakeholders, including some of its lead stewards and partners thus appealed for fiscal transparency, citing all the benefits it brings, including in times of emergency. Within this, GIFT members were brought together during 2020 to share thoughts, proposals and solutions. The network’s unique perspective and experience on strategies to advance fiscal transparency was used, leveraging the collective knowledge of its stewards and partners, in order to provide specific, in depth guidance in the context of the pandemic. A product of this was the GIFT *Fiscal Data for Emergency Response: Guide for COVID-19* that was published in August 2020.One year on, IBP’s May 2021 study titled: *Managing COVID Funds: The Accountability Gap* showed that more than two-thirds of the governments within the study, across different regions and income levels, only provided limited or minimal levels of accountability in the introduction and implementation of early COVID-19 fiscal policy responses. In many cases, spending has been done chaotically, behind closed doors, sometimes through the creation of extra-budgetary funds and outside of trusted procurement and budgetary systems (budgeting by decree). Lack of opportunities for affected people to have a say, has had a negative impact on the poor and vulnerable, including women and children. Within the GIFT network there have however been some positive and encouraging findings. In this session we look at some of these, providing key lessons going forward. Resource persons:* Jason Harris, IMF - Global COVID-19 transparency findings
* Suad Hasan, IBP - *Managing COVID funds: The accountability gap*
* Positive ASIA country experiences:
	+ Rolando Toledo - Philippines
	+ Rofyanto Kurniawan - Indonesia
	+ Naranchimeg Luvsansharav - Mongolia

Answering questions regarding their country’s COVID-19 transparency, public participation and accountability: 1. Looking back, what are the highlights of what was accomplished? 2. What were the main challenges? 3. What are the main lessons going forward?* Aura Martinez, GIFT - Using the GIFT *Fiscal Data for Emergency Response: Guide for COVID-19* to conduct in depth analysis in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Georgia
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**Wednesday August 25, 2021**

| **Wednesday August 25**8-9,30 EDT14-15,30 CET20-21,30 PHT90 minutesTranslation available:**English****Spanish**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lcu2tpjwqHNfePomON_4OuTK9sB6FXKNX) | **Transparency Principles on Tax Policy and Administration** |
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| While expenditures and public services are frequently evaluated in many parts of the world to assess whether they are delivering, it is very rare for similar systematic assessments of the performance of tax systems in their entirety, to be undertaken. GIFT’s publication titled: *Making Tax Work: A Framework for Enhancing Tax Transparency* (MTW), authored by Profs. Andrew Baker and Richard Murphy (University of Sheffield), set out a case for achieving greater transparency in the governance and management of national tax systems. The session will also allow participants to address the question about the need of global principles on tax transparency for access to tax information. Based on the Making Tax Work framework, GIFT has developed a new set of global principles that establish standards for transparency, participation, and accountability of domestic tax systems. We believe that the adoption of such principles through a multi-stakeholder process can provide governments with clear expectations and give the public the tools needed to hold governments to account. This session will provide the GIFT network’s first discussion on the Transparency Principles for Tax Policy and Administration.Resource persons:* Alexander Klemm, IMF
* Anna L. Custers, World Bank Group
* Roel Dom/Steve Davenport, World Bank Group
* Marle van Niekerk, National Treasury, South Africa
* Christopher Axelson, National Treasury, South Africa
* Hector Villareal, CIEP, Mexico
* Nathalie Beghin, INESC
* Mihaela Bronic, Institute of Public Finance, Croatia
* Julieta Izcurdia, ACIJ, Argentina
* Chuck Marr, CBPP, USA
* Ricardo Barrientos, ICEFI, Guatemala
* Richard Murphy and Andrew Baker, MTW authors
* Fariya Mohiuddin, IBP
* Jean Ross, tax expert
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| **Wednesday, August 25**10-11,30 EDT 16-17,30 CET 22- 23,30 PHT90 minutesTranslation available:**English****French****Spanish**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvde-rqDwrGNZmxKeevcFRTJjxRy42rNEL) | **Getting the Word Out and Making Waves: Strategic Communication Practices and Tools for Budget Advocacy and Advancing Fiscal Transparency** |
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| The evolution of traditional media platforms and emergence of social and digital channels over the past decade, have opened up a wide range of innovative options for engaging people in budget advocacy efforts. GIFT's High-Level Principle #4 recognizes the critical link between communicating effectively and implementing successful fiscal openness reforms. Communication is at the heart of the delicate cooperation between government, civil society groups and the private sector, providing avenues for information exchange, establishing consensus among divergent opinions and interests, and building the capacities of different stakeholders. While fiscal transparency instruments are clear about the importance of effectively communicating objectives and results, they offer relatively limited advice on how information on the outputs and outcomes of fiscal actions, including social and environmental impacts, should be accessed and communicated. There are also limited references available that specifically tackle strategic communications for budget advocacy work and advancing fiscal transparency. Based on the results of recent community surveys, members and advocates of fiscal transparency and public participation within the GIFT Network are highly interested in learning more from each other on this topic. Thus, the objective of this session is to provide a venue for peer-learning and exchange on existing communication and dissemination strategies/challenges, best practices and practical tools--in the promotion of fiscal policy objectives and results. Specifically, the session aims to: present and explore existing communication and dissemination strategies for budget advocacy work and advancing fiscal transparency; and introduce free and practical tools that can be used in the promotion of fiscal policy objectives and results.Resource persons:* Kristian Ablan, Freedom of Information-Project Management Office, Philippines
* Lorena Caballero, Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, Mexico
* Georg Neumann, Open Contracting Partnership
* Fabrizio Scrollini, Latin American Open Data Initiative (Iniciativa Latinoamericana de Datos Abiertos – ILDA)
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| **Wednesday 25 August** 12- 13,30 EDT18- 19,30 CET00- 1,30 PHT90 minutesTranslation available:**English****Spanish**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUldu6orTstG9aeQ5gEEg5PJOuIWWaTdOpf) | **Fiscal Transparency Portals: 10+ Years of Practice and Trends Forward**  |
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| Principles 1 to 4 of the GIFT High Level Principles on Fiscal Transparency, Participation and Accountability highlight the importance of access to fiscal information.Over the last ten years, there has been increased use of Fiscal Transparency Portals (FTP) as a key tool for informing and engaging with citizens. With that, the global practice has grown, and so has the diversity of design and implementation mechanisms of fiscal transparency and public participation policy incorporating FTP’s. In this session, we will address the evolution of this practice, learn about the FTP’s impact from a government and civil society perspective, discuss trends from the field (specifically from the FTP working group, composed by 10 Latin-American countries), and identify key points for the future of FTP using questions such as: Will FTP’s still be relevant in 10 years? What will they look like?Resource persons:* Costa Rica Innovapp representative
* Croatia MoF representative
* Dominican Republic MoF representative
* Mexico CIEP representative
* Mexico MoF representative
* Nigeria MoF representative
* Ukraine MoF representative
* Uruguay Office of the Budget and Planning representative
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| **Wednesday 25 August** 16- 17 EDT22- 23 CET4- 5 PHT60 minutesTranslation available:**Spanish****English**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpdOmprj4vH9bdP6DvseAITq_fyzxb7awx) | **Role of local/state governments in GIFT** |
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| Traditionally, GIFT has only had members/partners from the national sphere of government authorities. This is mainly due to this level being the main counterparts that GIFT’s lead stewards typically work with. GIFT's operating rules however do not limit membership/partnerships to this sphere.Local levels of government typically have a unique experience in public participation initiatives, given that they are closer to the people. National levels in turn typically have more experience in other areas. This diversity could be leveraged within the network. For instance, local levels of government could learn from national experiences in the use of technology and public financial management issues, while national agencies could learn from local experience in public participation. In this session we learn more about the Open Government’s Partnership’s (OGP) Local initiative and from specific local governments that have expressed interest in joining GIFT. Resource persons:* Patrick Kazyak-Albaladejo, OGP - OGP Local initiative
* Juan Pablo Guerrero, GIFT - What local governments could bring to the GIFT network
* Margarita Barraquer, City of Bogota (Colombia) - How the City of Bogota joining the network benefits the City and the GIFT network
* Erika Jazmin Ortega, State of Guanajuato (Mexico) - How collaboration is mutually beneficial to the State of Guanajuato and to the GIFT network
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| **Wednesday 25 August** 20-22 hrs EDT2-4 hrs CET8-10 hrs PHT120 minutes Translation available:**English****Spanish**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lceGtqTsrEty_SCfMOje5MO_q0uSpJrto) | **User engagement initiatives**  |
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| The Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policies aim to guide fiscal policy makers and other stakeholders in their efforts to improve government performance and public trust. The GIFT network has upheld these principles through a number of initiatives, understanding that they come in a myriad of shapes and formats. These include the user engagement initiatives: the #DataOnTheStreets Rally and the #Dataquest for sustainable development, that allow the use of fiscal information in open formats, and also incorporate different audiences that are traditionally not as interested or involved in analyzing the information being published by the ministries of finance.Over the last years, there has been an increasing number of these efforts, despite the difficulties imposed by social distancing and confinements owing to COVID-19. In this session, we will share updates on the 2021 user-engagement initiatives, as well as discuss the future of these types of exercises through a short workshop around the questions: How do we improve engagement? How to move forward? Will this type of exercise be relevant in 10 years? What will it look like in your country?Resource persons:* Initiative point of contact for: Chile, Colombia, Colombia-Bogotá, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, Mexico-Guanajuato, Mongolia, Philippines
* Alonso Cerdan, Open Government Partnership
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**Thursday August 26, 2021**

| **Thursday August 26** 7:30-9:30 EDT 13:30-15:30 CET 19:30- 21:30 PHT120 minutesTranslation available:**English** **French**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtdeGgrjkvG9YIu001Mh3AiQsi11iOeY1G) | **Mainstreaming Public Participation in Fiscal Policies: Lessons from the FOA Project** |
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| Principle #10 of the GIFT High Level Principles on Fiscal Transparency, Participation and Accountability states that “the public should have the right and opportunities to participate directly in public debate and discussion over the design and implementation of fiscal policies”. The Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policies further emphasized the importance of citizen engagement as a means to ensure that all those with a stake in, affected by, or intended to benefit from fiscal policies have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. Over the last ten years, there has been an increasing number of government and non-government actors that have initiated and sustained efforts in putting such principles into practice, linking it to other transparency, accountability and public financial management reforms geared towards the better achievement of fiscal and development outcomes. One of these on-going efforts is the IBP and GIFT’s Fiscal Openness Accelerator (FOA) Project. Launched in 2019, the FOA Project aims to establish effective mechanisms to allow public participation in fiscal processes at national level in Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, through peer learning, knowledge sharing and technical collaboration.In this session, discussions will focus on lessons, challenges, and opportunities pertaining to the way forward in the co-creation and implementation of mechanisms of public participation and how this contributes to increasing public trust, better public-decision making, and ultimately, achieving fiscal policies goals.Resource persons:* Suad Hasan, IBP
* Country-level FOA process and updates:
	+ Benin
	+ Liberia
	+ Nigeria
	+ Senegal
	+ South Africa
* Reactors
	+ Ketevan Vashakidze/Viktor Baramia, Europe FoundationRichard Villacorte, DILG, Philippines
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| **Thursday August 26** 10:30-12 EDT 16:30-18 CET 22:30- 00 PHT90 minutes**English**[Register here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcO6qrzwtHNXvaM8C9MQL8vSwG-Nw34My) | **Relevance of Independent Supreme Audit Institutions** |
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| Independent audit institutions using internationally-recognized auditing standards are widely regarded as fundamental to financial accountability. This is recognized in GIFT’s High-Level Principle 9: The Supreme Audit Institution should have statutory independence from the executive, and the mandate, access to information, and appropriate resources to audit and report publicly on the raising and commitment of public funds. It should operate in an independent, accountable and transparent manner.Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) should be empowered to provide assurance that reporting on public finances is reliable and free from material misstatement. This is of utmost importance for a transparent public administration, for ensuring the effective exercise of the legislature’s oversight role, and to build public trust in the integrity of fiscal management. In order to be able to fulfil their functions and ensure their potential value, SAIs need to be seen as trustworthy. To gain that trust, they need to be perceived as independent from the government and protected against outside influence. Assisting in this, the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) operates as an umbrella organization for the external government audit community. The INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) supports SAIs in developing countries to sustainably enhance their performance and capacity. IDI’s work is based on the needs and challenges that SAIs experience. In this session we talk about this initiative and other pertinent country experiences.Resource persons:* Jorg K. Petrovic, Slovenia Court of Audit
* Marte Briseid, INTOSAI Development Initiative - SAI independence
* Reactors:
	+ Claire Schouten, IBP Audit Accountability Initiative - Open budgets and harnessing accountability through external public audits, including in COVID-19 responses
	+ Joaquin Caprarulo, ACIJ - Importance of independence of SAIs in public financial management
	+ Amy Edwards, U.S. Treasury & Sheila Thipe, South African National Treasury - Balance required when designing national budgets given the need for SAI financial independence: Challenges and opportunities
	+ Jan van Schalkwyk, Office of the Auditor General, South Africa - How SAIs can ensure financial independence
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**Friday August 27, 2021**

| **Friday 27 August** 8,30-9,30 EDT14,30-15,30 CET20,30-21,30 PHT60 minutes**Translation available:**English SpanishFrench[Register here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcscOmqpjwiGNKZpT1bD-IYlYPLxhKb7Ozg) | **Stewards General Meeting (Assembly)** |
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| The presence of the GIFT Stewards is specifically required for this session to discuss, as an assembly of stewards, two important points:  * The membership of local government fiscal transparency champions;
* The approval of the Transparency Principles on Tax Policy and Administration.

According to the GIFT [Operating](https://www.fiscaltransparency.net/gift-operating-procedures/) Procedures, the Stewards General Meeting is the advisory body of the network, providing a forum for GIFT stakeholders to define and advance the objectives of the initiative. Regarding the first point on GIFT network subnational government membership, the GIFT network has, since its inception, maintained strong cooperative relationships with subnational governments that have shared their experiences in fiscal transparency practices, particularly, in public participation, and that themselves have benefited from the network's peer learning processes. Since 2020, as some local governments expressed their interest in becoming members of the network, the issue has been discussed by the Lead Stewards, with a set of guidelines being drafted. The 2021 Stewards General Meeting provides a good opportunity to broaden the discussion within our network (the guidelines will be distributed soon).  Regarding the second point, GIFT was founded as an action network in 2011 to bring together various stakeholders – governments, international financial institutions, private sector representatives, and civil society organizations – to achieve sustained, measurable improvements in fiscal transparency and inclusive public participation. Through advocacy, high-level dialogue, peer-learning, technical collaboration, innovation, and research, GIFT helps to strengthen and harmonize fiscal transparency norms and standards and promote their effective implementation. As such, we have developed a new set of global principles that establish standards for transparency, participation, and accountability in domestic tax systems. The adoption of such principles through a multi-stakeholder process could provide governments with clear expectations and give the public more tools to hold governments to account (the draft principles will also be distributed soon).  Resource persons:* Vivek Ramkumar, IBP
* GIFT Coordination Team
* Jean Ross, tax expert
* All GIFT members
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| **Friday 27 August** EDT 10-11,30 hrsCET 16-17,30 hrsPHT 22-23,30 hrs90 minutes**English****Spanish**[**Register here**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIvcOmhqTsqGt2sqp4qXxKrsrMUrb1BYivW) | **Fiscal transparency as a tool to assess the financing of cross-cutting priorities (i.e. SDGs, gender, child and youth, and climate change)** |
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| Principles 2, 3 and 4 of the GIFT High Level Principles on Fiscal Transparency, Participation and Accountability stress the importance of governments publishing information on clear and measurable aggregate fiscal policy objectives (2), financial and non-financial information about past, present and forecasted fiscal activities (3), and of communicating the objectives they are pursuing and the outputs they are producing, disclosing the anticipated and actual social, economic and environmental outcomes (4).Over the last ten years, this has led to increasing interest on how to incorporate cross-cutting priorities or objectives into the budget cycle and in the publication of fiscal information and data. Such priorities, such as those related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, gender as well as child and youth sensitive policy-making, and more broadly the objectives of the SDG Agenda that mainstream societal needs, require comprehensive governmental action, as their impact is integrated into people’s livelihoods. In this session, we explore the relationship between these cross-cutting priorities and GIFT’s agenda, look into specific cases of fiscal transparency as a tool or method to address this subject, and explore trends for the next ten years, as we face the outcomes of the global consensus around the 2030 SDG Agenda.Resource persons:* Why is this important for inclusive growth and the future of our world?
	+ Srinivas Gurazada, Head of PEFA Secretariat
	+ Andrew Blazey, OECD, Deputy Head of Division Public Management and Budgeting
* Natalia Carfi, Open Data Charter - The role of open data in linking cross-cutting priorities: Climate change adaptation and mitigation, COVID-19 recovery and fiscal transparency.
* Specific examples.
	+ Luigi Peter Ragno, UNICEF Egypt - Children and youth budget tagging
	+ Julieta Izcurdia, ACIJ (Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia) - Reflections from Argentina
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| **Friday 27 August** 11,30-12,30 EDT17,30-18,30 CET23,30-00,30 PHT60 minutesTranslation available:**English** **Spanish**[Register here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-6hqjspH90cX4OEzgCePV00yUmZFoJW) | **Closing Session: Towards a Stronger GIFT Action Network**  |
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| In closing the 2021 General Meeting of the Stewards, this session aims to facilitate an interactive reflection between and among GIFT members and partners towards building a network of champions advocating for more open budgets and piloting innovative practices through the use and promotion of user-centered tools and approaches -focusing on the evolution of network priorities over the years. We will reflect on these through interactive solidarity events and informal sharing discussions between and among stewards and partners.Resource persons:* Aura Martinez, GIFT - GIFT’s role in overcoming challenges to fiscal transparency in the next decade
* Closing reflections and key takeaways from GIFT stewards and partners:
	+ Uruguay Budget Office representative
	+ Colombia MoF representative
	+ Daniel Torres, MoF, Dominican Republic
	+ Jorge Umaña, Innovapp, Costa Rica
	+ Benjamin Fuentes C., INTOSAI Development Initiative
	+ El Salvador, FUNDE representative
	+ Dominican Republic, Fundación Solidaridad representative
	+ Chile, Observatorio del Gasto Fiscal representative
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