**Joint Regional Peer Learning Virtual Workshop:**

**Public Investment Management**

**Date: 2-6 November 2020**

1. **Background**

**Public Investment Management Units (PIM units) have been established across the region in recent years.** These intend to serve more effective project appraisal, selection and implementation of capital projects, in light of increased infrastructure spending and alternative actors in service provision (PPPs, SOEs, non-concessional financing).

**To undertake their role effectively, PIM units require cross dimensional skills** (planning, appraisal, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation) with functions that cut across different stages of the PFM cycle and require close coordination with more standard Ministry departments such as macro, budget, cash planning and the accountant general’s department. Close coordination is also required for departments responsible for externally financed projects, PPPs and SOE oversight. To support these functions, many PIM units are adopting IT systems often referred to as Public Investment Management Systems (PIMIS) or Integrated Project Databanks to track a project in every stage of the cycle from inception to ex-post evaluation.

**PIM units are at different stages of maturity across the region.** Their ability to play the sole gatekeeping function for all capital projects has been mixed.[[1]](#footnote-1) In some countries, quite complex appraisal models and practices have been attempted, but are not having much traction to influence budget decision making. These have tended to concentrate on new projects, but fiscal space limitations, restrict the use of these skills.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**The issue of fiscal space in for capital budgeting and project prirotization has become increasingly important as a result of COVID-19.** A number of countries have had to scale back their investment and reprioritize which projects will receive funding. Similarly, the SOE sector is also having to scale back investment in light of large reductions in income generating activities.

to implement support packages, placing further emphasis on the need to prioritize key investment projects.

**Integration of both IT systems development and the functional relationship between PIM units and mainstream Ministry IT systems and departments remains largely in flux.** There are signs of a duplication of roles and responsibilities in some countries and ongoing debates persist as to whether the unit should be based in the Finance or Planning Ministry in countries where these ae separated.

1. **Peer Learning Objectives**

**The workshop aims to bring together selected countries from East, West and Southern Africa with established PIM units** to: (i) share lessons in their reform transition; (ii) discuss options to update/recalibrate their reform plans based on lesson learning if required, and; (iii) and develop a collegial link across the continent.

1. **Peer Learning Themes**

This workshop will focus on the following themes:

1. The changing role of PIM in the region;
2. The impact of COVID-19 on capital budgets;
3. Decision making processes for appraising and selecting projects and linkages to the budget process;
4. Reform enabling areas: Internal organization of PIM departments and links to the wider Ministry and Public Investment Management IT Systems;
5. Establishing a PIM reform road map and capacity building plan.
6. **Organization**

**The workshop objectives will be achieved through a mixture of facilitation methods over five half day sessions.** These willinclude both presentations of international good practice and sharing of experiences via country presentations and group discussions as per the attached schedule.

**Due to regional travel restrictions, the workshop will be conducted virtually**. [Zoom](https://www.webex.com/) will be used as the main video conferencing platform and participants can access plenary sessions using this [Link](https://imf.webex.com/imf/e.php?MTID=ma898f64ce3a1f7ff0ccb060eb0acd701). All presentations and material will be shared electronically to participants through the cloud platform [Box](https://www.box.com/en-gb/home) and can be accessed through this [link](https://imfbox.app.box.com/folder/121455900609). Separate meeting links will be shared for the group sessions. There may be an option to undertake a physical follow up workshop when travel safely resumes.

**The workshop is intended to be highly interactive, so will be structured around targeted group discussions in order to foster peer learning between participants.** Plenary discussions each morning will include all participants. Following these, interactive group discussions will be conducted. Three of these will be anglophone groups, one lusophone and one francophone with targeted country presentations and discussions.

**Each country team is asked to prepare a 15 minute presentation on each theme highlighting what has worked, remaining challenges and reform priorities.** This should be done prior to the workshop and will be used to guide the group discussions and to prepare mini country action plans. The plenary session on the final day will distil the cross cutting thematic lessons learnt from the group sessions.

1. **Target Participants**

Participants should be Heads of PIM units, Deputies and senior technical officials. The workshop will be limited to three participants from each country.

1. **Administrative Arrangements**

**Nominations for the Workshop should be emailed to AFW2 not later than 17th October 2020**

**All nominations and enquiries should be sent to the following workshop coordinators:**

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| **Kubai Khasiani****Primary Workshop Coordinator**Tel: +233- 507984483e-mail – bkhasiani@imf.org | **Selase Kofi****Secondary Workshop Coordinator**Tel: +2335077275767Email: SDusi@imf.org  |

1. This role is intended to slow or restrict projects entering the budget which are not viable and/or not ready for implementation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A number of countries are overcommitted in the development budget and face a situation of negative fiscal space, meaning they face “second best” project prioritization, which is a form of selecting a project based on the lowest fiscal cost to Government through arrears, penalties and legal fees. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)