



# INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center

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## Webinar on Post-Crisis Revenue Generation for Tax Administration

June 28-July 1

METAC organized a regional webinar jointly with the IMF's Kuwait-based Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF), which primary objective was to provide countries with guidance on how tax administrations can address the consequences of COVID-19, while being mindful of its economic impact on businesses and individuals. Over 45 participants from 14 countries across the METAC and Gulf Cooperation Council regions attended the webinar. Discussions were informed by the results of a questionnaire completed in advance by the tax administrations of participating countries. Those questionnaires showed that a range of tax administration and tax policy initiatives had been implemented or were under consideration, with the most common being : (1) making compliance easier, and ensuring compliance with COVID-19 relief measures; (2) pursuit of non-filers and unpaid tax debts, and offering instalment payment plans; (3) widening the scope of VAT/GST and/or excise duties—e.g. higher taxes on luxury goods.

Using the results of the questionnaires, and experience from other countries, the METAC team provided guidance on a multi-dimensional country-specific approach in planning the recovery of revenue collections following the pandemic. This approach covered areas such as compliance risk management techniques, including risk assessment criteria to guard against increased misreporting of incomes, enhanced provisions of taxpayer services, and expanding and improving tax administration services in support of taxpayer registration, filing and payment compliance. A successful implementation of the approach requires adequate resources, governance, and communication. Tax Administrations were encouraged to use the knowledge gained during the webinar to develop their own recovery plans to strengthen revenue collection and generation. In this regard, METAC offered to provide further bilateral support.