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**IMF's AFRITAC South (AFS) Steering Committee endorses the launch of a new funding program on debt management and calls for further work on governance and corruption, gender, climate, big data, and digitalization**

The 2021 [AFRITAC South](#) (AFS)<sup>1</sup> Steering Committee Meeting was held virtually on June 11 and 14. Member countries and development partners discussed the concrete outcomes of AFS [capacity development](#) (CD) in revenue mobilization, public finance management and financial stability and inclusion, and medium-term CD priorities. The meeting was chaired by Dr Kealeboga Masalila, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Botswana and incoming Chair of the Steering Committee.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Masalila issued the following statement:

“Members commended the center for the agile response to new requests from countries to help them mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the special support to countries facing fragile conditions. The Committee welcomed the successful shift to the virtual mode of delivery thanks to the authorities’ adaptability.

“The Committee reiterated the need for more support in the areas of governance and corruption, gender, climate resilience, digitalization, and data, while carrying on with CD in traditional areas.

“Members took note of the budget situation, characterized by a small financing gap, and welcomed the European Union’s recent decision to increase its financing to the center. Members noted the progress on the ongoing mid-term external evaluation and the importance for AFS stakeholders to participate in the surveys and interviews to be conducted by the evaluators in the forthcoming months.

“The Steering Committee endorsed the following recommendations: (i) the FY22 work plan with increased CD in emerging areas and to priority countries; (ii) a resumption of in-country CD delivery when travel conditions permit; (iii) a new funding program in debt management; and (iv) an extension of the current phase or carry forward of excess balances.

“The June 2021 Steering Committee Meeting was attended by officials of member countries (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), representatives of contributing partners (the European Union, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Southern African Development Community, Germany, United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, the People’s Bank of China, and European Investment Bank), and

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<sup>1</sup> The Center serves Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. AFS development partners are the European Union, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Southern African Development Community, Germany, United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, the People’s Bank of China, the Netherlands, European Investment Bank, and Australia.

representatives of observer agencies (the African Union Commission and the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa).”

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