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JUNE 16, 2022

AFRITAC South Steering Committee endorses the capacity development plan for FY23 and the new phase (FY24-FY28) with increased focus on governance, climate, gender, digitalization, and data.

The 2022 Steering Committee (SC) of the International Monetary Fund's Regional Technical Assistance Center for Southern Africa (AFRITAC South – AFS) met in Gaborone on June 15-16 under the Chair of Dr. Kealeboga Masalila, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Botswana.

The SC discussed the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation and proposed implementation action plan, the Fund's regional capacity development (CD) strategy, and AFS CD priorities for FY23 and the new phase starting May 2023.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair issued the following statement:

"Members and observers commended the center's enhanced engagement with authorities to support policy responses during the COVID-19 pandemic and welcomed the transition to mixed CD delivery modalities (in-field, virtual, and hybrid) with due consideration to the nature of CD and in-country digital challenges. The SC also welcomed the scaling-up of CD services on global topics, including to address governance and climate vulnerabilities, gender inequalities, and digital and data gaps.

The SC took note of the key recommendations of the mid-term external evaluation of AFS phase II and discussed the actions proposed to further improve CD delivery in the new phase. The SC considered the center's budget and fundraising situation and welcomed the financial contribution from member countries and development partners. The program for the new phase was presented.

The SC endorsed (i) the FY23 work plan; (ii) the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation and the responses of the IMF; (iii) creation of new positions to support a scaling-up of CD on the global topics; (iv) a mid-year program review as recommended in the mid-term evaluation; (v) a downward revision of the extension period of phase II, in case expected member country contributions are not secured; and (vi) maintaining contributions from members, excluding host country, at US\$500,000 for phase III. The SC requested members with pending contributions to help close the funding gap to ensure full implementation of the FY23 CD plan."

The June 2022 SC Meeting was attended by officials of member countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, 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, and the People's Bank of China), and representatives of observer agencies (the African Union Commission and the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa)