

DMFAS Programme News

February 2012

Inside This Issue

1. 8th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference
2. 8th DMFAS Advisory Group Meeting
3. Summary of the conclusions
4. DMFAS Donors Consultation Meeting
5. New DMFAS project in Indonesia
6. DMFAS 6 update
7. Successful closing of partnership with IDI
8. Selected events
9. Contact info



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
UNCTAD
8th UNCTAD DEBT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
 14-16 November 2011, Geneva

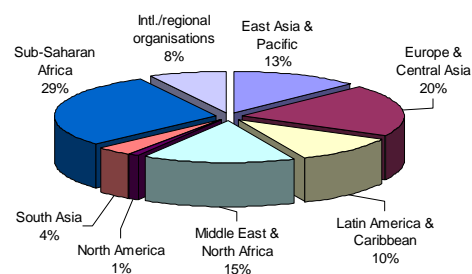


The 8th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference took place from 14 to 16 November 2011 in Geneva.

It is the only UN conference of its kind and is organized biannually by UNCTAD. The Conference provides a forum for sharing experiences and exchanging views between Governments, international organizations, academia, the private sector, and civil society on current issues in public finance, debt management and debt crisis prevention.

The Conference attracted the highest level of participation compared to earlier conferences, both in terms of numbers, and countries/institutions. 380 participants attended from 107 countries and 16 international and regional institutions (see graph). In addition, among the participants were an unprecedented number of high-level officials, including the President of the Republic of Iceland, Ministers, Central Bank Governors and other senior officials.

Confirmed participants by region



L-R: H.E. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland, Mr. Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil, Junior Minister, Ministry of Environment and Development Cooperation, Norway, H.E. Mr. Hernán Lorenzino, Secretary of Finance, Argentina, Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary General, UNCTAD.

Escaping the debt trap: finding the way out

This year the focus of the Conference was on the impact of the global financial crisis, and on different country experiences in debt crisis containment and management. The Conference has been acknowledged as a major forum to share valuable country experience in debt management strategies and practices, including the use of DMFAS. The feedback from participants was very positive and the Conference has provided guidance for UNCTAD's future work on debt management.

Contributions and presentations from the speakers are available at: <http://www.unctad.org/dmfas/>

8th DMFAS Advisory Group Meeting

The 8th DMFAS Advisory Group Meeting was held in Geneva on 17 and 18 November 2011, following the 8th Debt Management Conference. Almost 200 participants from capitals of current and potential beneficiary countries, donors and partners attended the meeting.

The Advisory Group Meeting provided the opportunity for donors, beneficiaries and development partners of UNCTAD's DMFAS Programme to examine the Programme's capacity building activities in debt management, the technical and functional features of its debt management and financial analysis system (DMFAS), and the future direction of the Programme. The 2 areas of focus were the DMFAS Programme's four-year Strategic Plan for 2011-2014 and the Programme's work plans for 2011 and 2012.



Highlights

- **DMFAS 6** is a positive evolution: satisfaction about the new improvements, and necessity to continuously monitor the performance of DMFAS 6 to quickly resolve any problems.
- **Continued importance of capacity-building:**
 - Stressed the importance of continued capacity-building and the maximum use of modern training methods.
 - Requested the DMFAS Programme to expand its scope to cover areas such as capital markets and public-private partnerships.

Summary of the conclusions

The Advisory Group adopted a set of recommendations in the form of 49 conclusions addressed to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, covering DMFAS' Strategic Plan, work plans, the DMFAS 6 software, capacity-building activities, coordination with other providers, monitoring and evaluation and financing of the Programme.

The main conclusions were:

- Continued relevance of the Programme's work
- Synergies with UNCTAD's research and analysis work
- Agreement on the strategy and work plans
- Value of establishment of regional DMFAS support centres
- Appreciation of the cooperation with other providers
- Positive results of the reform of the financing of the Programme
- DMFAS 6 (see Highlights)
- Capacity-building (see Highlights)

DMFAS Donors Consultation Meeting

The Annual DMFAS Donors Consultation Meeting was held in parallel to the breakout groups of beneficiary countries in the margin of the 8th Advisory Group Meeting.

It was the occasion to welcome the European Union as a new donor to the multi-donor Central Trust Fund. The European Union, represented by the European Commission, signed an agreement of three million Euros for the period 2012-2014.

Donors expressed their appreciation and satisfaction with the Programme's results. Fruitful exchanges took place during the meeting and useful suggestions were made, in particular in regards to monitoring and evaluation, which will be added to the Programme's work plans.

In parallel, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland have reaffirmed their commitments to support the DMFAS Programme.

The Donor community of the DMFAS Programme declared at the plenary session of the Advisory Group that *"we recommend the DMFAS Programme as one where we as donors see clear results and are ensured of a good return on our development funding"*.



DMFAS 6 update

At the end of 2011, the features included in the first block of the DMFAS 6 Systems Development Plan were delivered and integrated after undergoing testing by our user representatives and current users.



This includes all DMFAS 5.3 functions and the following new features:

- the instrument approach of the new debt securities module
- the enhanced auction platform sponsored by Panama
- the debt reorganization module
- the short-term and private sector debt modules
- the expansion of systems operations
- enhancements to the open source query tool
- completion of the control panel components including the powerful Security module and the new auditing module.

In conjunction with the documentation team, work was carried out on the graphical user interface. As a result, DMFAS 6 is currently available in English, Spanish and French.

A new version of the technical documentation (e.g. Systems Architecture, Systems Security, Error Handling) was elaborated. Furthermore, a new framework was defined to facilitate the development of interfaces with other applications; it will soon be tested in a user-institution.

The stability of the new version allows the DMFAS Programme to advance with its 2012 distribution plan. Preparations have already begun for the implementation of DMFAS 6 in Gabon, Madagascar, Indonesia, Congo, Mongolia and Uganda.

Over the coming weeks, a number of additional or improved features will become available. These include: Extension to system auditing, Automatic prepayment and buy-back and an Update of the Application Framework that will facilitate the future integration of the planned workflow functions.

New DMFAS 6 project in Indonesia

One example of a project aimed at installing DMFAS 6 in a country is the project signed with Indonesia. After 24 years of successful cooperation with the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia, a new technical cooperation project was signed in November 2011, supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

The purpose of the project is to strengthen public debt management in Indonesia through enhanced reporting and analytical capabilities, upgraded DMFAS installations and strengthened IT capacities. The first activity of the project was training of DGDM officials on conversion of the DMFAS 5.3 database to DMFAS 6 format, organized in Geneva in December 2011.



L-R: Messers. Surawan Tri Atmaja, Muller Sagala, Balliram Baball, Marcelo Tricarico, Ilham Nugroho

Successful closing of partnership with the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI)

In November 2011, the "Transregional Capacity Building Programme in Public Debt Management Audit" conducted by the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) came to a successful end and was closed during an exit meeting held in Geneva.

This Programme started in 2008 and the DMFAS Programme was one of the cooperating partners involved, together with the INTOSAI Working Group on Public Debt (WGPD), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The objective was "to enhance professional and organizational capacity of target Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) in public debt management audit". The DMFAS Programme's contribution was to provide its expertise and training in debt management to participating SAIs and introduce them to the use of DMFAS. A total of 30 SAIs from countries in Africa, Asia and Europe benefited from the Programme, of which 23 use DMFAS in their debt management offices.

Selected current and Upcoming Events

DMFAS 5.3 Technical Workshop, Togo, February

DMFAS Statistics Workshop, Burundi, February

DMFAS 6.0 Reporting functionalities, Egypt, February

Technical training (DBA) on DMFAS 5.3, Cambodia, March

Workshop on creating interface - conceptual design, Honduras, March

DMFAS 6.0 Installation and functional training, Gabon, March,

DMFAS 6.0 Installation, maintenance training and basic features, Madagascar, March

DMFAS 5.3 Basic functional training, Guinea Bissau, March

Debt statistics workshop, Paraguay, March

Debt data validation workshop and validation of interface TABMIS-DMFAS, Vietnam, March

DMFAS 6.0 Training on analytical features, Georgia, March-April

DMFAS 5.3 Advanced functional training, Zimbabwe, March-April

Data validation workshop, Lebanon, April

Data validation workshop, Oman, April

DMFAS 6.0 Training on analytical features and debt portfolio analysis, Uganda, April

Contact Info

Correspondence should be sent to:

DMFAS Programme, UNCTAD

Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 917 5924, Fax. +41 22 917 0045

E-mail: dmfas@unctad.org

DMFAS Helpdesk: dmfas.helpdesk@unctad.org

