

# News from the DMFAS World

December 2017

Issue 22



## 11th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference

### Inside this issue:

- 11th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference 1
- 11th DMFAS Advisory Group meeting 2
- New debt data sharing platform in Panama 3
- Côte d'Ivoire, a country in search for excellence 4
- Did you know: DMFAS fact sheets on basic debt concepts 5
- Current and upcoming events 6

The 11th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference took place from 13 to 15 November. This biennial conference, the biggest of its kind for debt management experts and practitioners, was attended by over 109 countries, 12 international institutions, and by representatives from NGOs and academia.

The Conference was opened by the

### 11th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AT THE CROSSROADS:  
What Role for Public Debt Management?

13–15 November 2017  
Palais des Nations, Geneva



es in the composition and risk exposure of debt. She recalled that the prevention and resolution of debt problems is at the foundation of all development efforts.

The key note speech was then deliv-



Opening of the 11th Debt Management Conference

Deputy-Secretary General of UNCTAD, Ms. Isabelle Durant. She emphasized the increasingly volatile international context, the steady increase in the debt burden accumulated in many developing countries, and the profound chang-

ered by H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations and Vice-President of the ECOSOC.



Keynote speech by H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King

She asked how best to manage debt – in all its increasingly complex forms – as a financing instrument for transformational development.

She confirmed that prevention and resolution of debt problems

are critical for development. She also highlighted the paradoxical situation in which middle-income countries that are highly vulnerable, are overlooked in the provision of concessional lending by the international community, which she calls the "middle income trap", illustrating the point by describing the situation prevailing in the Caribbean region. She then called upon the international community to change the paradigm of the current approach to ODA and to concessional lending to adopt a holistic approach to

realize the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action agenda.

During the three days of the conference, panelists debated debt related topics including financing for development and debt. The Conference further discussed state contingent debt instruments and responsible financing.

Other important issues addressed included operational risk management and integration of the debt systems into national financial management systems.

The results of the satisfaction survey showed that a large majority of participants considered that the conference was a unique event and a great opportunity to exchange of experiences and learn from experts.

If you want to learn more on these topics, presentations are available on the internet website of the DMFAS Programme: [unctad.org/dmfas](http://unctad.org/dmfas).

## DMFAS Advisory Group Meeting



The DMFAS Advisory Group met in Geneva on 16 and 17 November 2017 in Geneva back-to-back with the 11th Debt Management Conference. Nearly 160 participants from 45 current and potential DMFAS user countries, donors and partners attended the meeting.

The Advisory Group Meeting is a forum where beneficiaries, donors and development partners of UNCTAD's DMFAS Programme discuss capacity building activities in debt management, its Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS), and the future direction of the Programme. This year, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan also shared their DMFAS experience with the participants.

**Main conclusions of the 11th DMFAS Advisory Group meeting include:**

- Satisfaction with the progress in implementing 2016-2019 strategic plan
- High relevance of the DMFAS Programme for developing countries, partners and donors
- Agreement with the Programme's strategic priorities

- Support for the new debt data quality assessment methodology (Debt-DQAM) to systematically assess the quality of the data recorded in debt management systems based on best practices and international standards
- Importance of further integration with other relevant financial management systems
- Importance of developing the new version DMFAS 7 in order to ensure that the technological platform of the system is upgraded as required by changes in the software industry
- Implementation of monitoring and evaluation, including external mid-term evaluation of the 2016-2019 strategic plan
- Continued provision of high quality services
- Feasibility study on implementing Software as a Service (SaaS) or hosting service for DMFAS 7
- Importance of continued cooperation and partnership with other technical assistance providers

- Business model : endorsement of the proposed adjustments of the cost-sharing arrangements
- Support for the fund-raising strategy of the Programme
- Endorsement of work plan 2018-2019, in particular in relation to the development of DMFAS 7 and new capacity building modules
- Importance of operational risk management and need to develop tools and training solutions

The donors of the DMFAS Programme also met on 16 November 2017 and addressed the Advisory Group the next day. Representatives from the European Commission, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Switzerland participated in the meeting. In their statement, donors emphasized that “the DMFAS Programme is a key pillar of debt management efforts globally.”

globally and contributes to important public goods, such as transparency, and a publicly available repository of related knowledge.”

The conclusions and country presentations are available on the DMFAS website. [unctad.org/dmfas](http://unctad.org/dmfas)

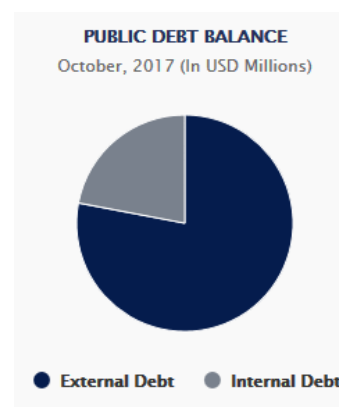


DMFAS Advisory Group plenary session

## New debt data sharing platform in Panama

During the 11th Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Advisory Group meeting, Panama presented the new website of the Directorate of Public Financing of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, where key debt related information is published and available to the public. In particular, capital market information including auction calendar, auction results and yield curves, as well as information on total debt balances and services are readily available.

The website is directly linked to the DMFAS debt database managed by the Directorate of Public Financing, and information can be filtered by date and type of debt through user friendly fields. Reports can be generated in the form of tables or graphs on demand. In addition, the extranet section allows international organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to access and review their actual disbursements and debt projections in real time. The website is available in Spanish and English.



“The website is directly linked to the DMFAS debt database.”



Furthermore, the “Kids Zone” teaches the younger generation on debt concepts through games and coloring pages on debt and savings.

Visit the Directorate of Public Financing of Panama website at:

<https://fpublico.mef.gob.pa/es> (Spanish version) or <https://fpublico.mef.gob.pa/en> (English version)

## Côte d'Ivoire, a country in search for excellence



Mr. Dago presented the experience of Côte d'Ivoire during the DMFAS Advisory Group meeting

"By decree, the Public debt department received, in December 2016, the new mission to participate in the follow up of PPPs "

Achieving good practices in debt management and be at the vanguard is easier said than done. But, Côte d'Ivoire is an exemplary country in this regard. It has not only achieved the minimum standards in debt management over the years but has the intention to surpass them to become a leader in the West African region in debt management and a proficient DMFAS user.

The 11th DMFAS Advisory Group meeting was an opportunity for Côte d'Ivoire to share its success story with the DMFAS community. The presentation is available on the DMFAS website: [http://unctad.org/divs/gds/dmfas/news/Documents/DMFAS\\_AGM\\_2017\\_CotedIvoire.pdf](http://unctad.org/divs/gds/dmfas/news/Documents/DMFAS_AGM_2017_CotedIvoire.pdf)

One of the first major reform actions was based on the finding that the in-house-developed debt management software was no longer responding to the needs of the Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement (Ivoirian debt management office). Hence, in 1998, the authorities took two important decisions: they decided to acquire UNCTAD's DMFAS software and reviewed the overall institutional arrangements in line with international best practices, leading the debt office to be placed within the Ministry of Finance.

In 2014, the country upgraded to DMFAS 6 under an ambitious project that was aimed at modernizing equipment, upgrading skills of the debt officers and linking DMFAS with the Ivoirian integrated public finance management system (SYGFIP). In 2016, Côte d'Ivoire further refined its debt management institutions

by reorganizing the debt office in line with the Front-Middle-Back office model.

The Ministry of Finance diversified its financing structure to implement projects conducive towards its development strategy, following the diversification of its economy. Côte d'Ivoire increased the use of market instruments over more traditional multilateral and bilateral loans, particularly with the issuance of local government securities. The country was amongst the first in the region to emit Eurobonds and Sukuks (Islamic finance instruments). DMFAS 6 was a catalyst in this initiative as the software is designed to accommodate these developments.

The country also started to use other modes of financing in pursuit of its growth objectives, including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). These financial "tools" have been popularized for over 25 years around the world, including in developing countries. However, like many other countries, Côte d'Ivoire is realizing that this mode of financing comes with some inherent challenges such as increasing contingent liabilities, hence pressuring fiscal policy with the generation of additional debt.

By decree, the Public debt department received, in December 2016, the new mission to participate in the follow up of PPPs together with the National Committee for PPPs. With this new role, Côte d'Ivoire proactively approached the DMFAS Programme, within the framework of the current technical assistance project, to better understand the implications and to improve management of PPPs from a debt management view point.



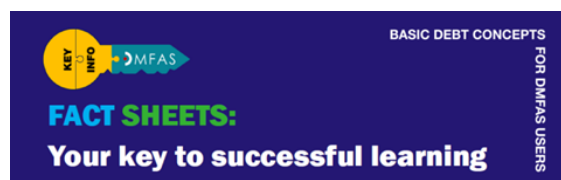
A first brainstorming workshop on PPPs took place in Geneva, from 20 to 24 November 2017, with four staff from the Ministry of Finance, to shape concerns on impact over contingent liabilities and the needs for a module in DMFAS to facilitate the monitoring of PPPs.

The workshop identified several characteristics that will allow the identification, the systematization and the recording of PPPs incurring explicit contingent liabilities, and the type of reports that would help identifying risk factors within PPPs. Côte d'Ivoire and UNCTAD further agreed

to build a library of PPPs to ensure in-depth analysis of different types and possible impact on debt management.

With its proactive approach, Côte d'Ivoire contributes to enhancing the software for the benefit of the entire DMFAS community. The country offered during discussions at the Advisory Group Meeting last November to be a key partner in DMFAS developments, including for the development and testing of DMFAS 7.

"The country is offered ... to be a key partner in DMFAS developments, including for the development and testing of DMFAS 7."



## DMFAS fact sheets on basic debt concepts

**Have you heard about our fact sheets, one of our latest learning products? They are designed to explain basic debt concepts.**

They cover topics such as the following:

- What is debt?
- Why and how does a government borrow?
- Why is the back office important?
- Why do standard definitions on debt exist?
- Understanding the coverage of the debt database
- How to classify debt data: international standards

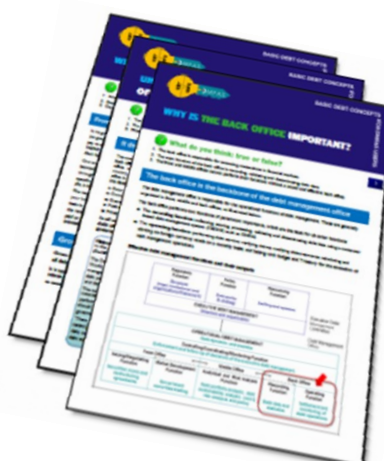
The intended target audience is new staff assigned to back-office functions in the debt management office and in charge of recording data in the DMFAS software, with little or no previous knowledge in debt.

Each fact sheet is short and to-the-point, generally running from two to no more than four pages. Fact sheets provide extensive illustrations, charts and tables to convey concepts in a more synthesized format.

Frequent examples are also provided to reinforce the concepts being introduced. Fact sheets are written in a straightforward way to make the learning experience as optimal and pleasant as possible.

Where can you find these fact sheets? All of the ones currently available have been published in the Client Area of the DMFAS web site under "self-learning material". For now, you'll be able to download 13 of them which are in convenient PDF format. As other fact sheets become available--in fact, a total of 25 have been planned--we will be placing them in this space.

Fact sheets provide valuable support for successful learning.





## Current and planned upcoming events

The full list of activities is also available at: <http://unctad.org/dmfas>.

- Côte d'Ivoire workshop on Public Private Partnerships, Switzerland, November 2017
- Gabon study tour, Morocco, November 2017
- Debt Management Performance Assessment mission (partner collaboration), Madagascar, November-December 2017
- DMFAS 6 advanced functional training, Province of Rio Negro, Argentina, December 2017
- Mid-term project evaluation mission, Togo, December 2017
- Final project evaluation mission, Albania, December 2017
- DMFAS 6 basic functional training, Zambia, December 2017
- DMFAS 6 basic functional training, Rwanda, January 2018
- Mid-term project evaluation mission, Honduras, January 2018
- Workshop on creating interface, Togo, January 2018
- DMFAS 6 conversion, installation and maintenance training, Guinea-Bissau, January–February 2018
- DMFAS 6 basic functional training, Ecuador, February 2018
- DMFAS 6 installation and maintenance training, Ecuador, February 2018



**DMFAS**  
PROGRAMME

UNCTAD  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 5924  
Fax: +41 22 917 0045

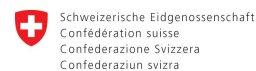
E-mail:  
[dmfas@unctad.org](mailto:dmfas@unctad.org)

## Donors

This newsletter is produced by the DMFAS Programme with the support of the following donors: Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

WEBSITE:

[UNCTAD.ORG/DMFAS](http://UNCTAD.ORG/DMFAS)

*This newsletter is not an official UNCTAD document and does not reflect official opinion from UNCTAD or any of the donors of the Programme.*

Photo credit: © Tetordre | Megapixel.com  
Clipart credit: PresenterMedia