

## **Closing remarks: Nike – Practice Manager, Governance Global Practice**

### **FASE Roundtable: Accounting Technicians – a catalyst for accelerating economic and inclusive growth**

**Casablanca, Morocco October 11 to 12, 2022**

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**Greetings, ladies and gentlemen. All protocols observed.**

#### **Thank you**

I start by expressing my appreciation.

- Thank you, participants (physical and virtual participants), for accepting our invitation. My team has informed me that you were all actively engaged in the roundtable. Your valuable contributions enhanced the conversations.
- Thanks to the speakers for your time and for sharing insightful and thought-provoking insights and experiences. You equipped, challenged, and inspired the participants. You also enriched the actions we need to take to implement impactful, relevant, and sustainable accounting technician qualifications in the five countries participating in the roundtable and Africa.
- Thank you, OEC Morocco, for partnering with us, the Bank, to host the roundtable, which I understand has been very productive and successful.
- Thank you, the Austria Ministry of Finance, for providing resources for the FASE program and participating in the roundtable. We appreciate your support to the accountancy profession.
- And finally, I thank my Bank team, for organizing this successful Roundtable. Thank you, Anara, Regina, Cornelia, Jean Charles, Lefaria, Ousmane, and Patrick.

#### **Achievements of the objectives of the roundtable**

As a reminder, the objectives of the roundtable were:

- To promote the role of accounting technicians as catalysts for accelerating economic and inclusive growth.
- To share experiences of designing and implementing accounting technician qualifications

- To engage in the role of different stakeholders in implementing accounting technician qualifications.

It's my understanding that you have successfully achieved these objectives. Kudos.

- You confirmed that accounting technicians serve an important role and that there is a need to establish or strengthen the accounting technician programs in our countries to ensure that qualified graduates are employable: to meet the requirements of employers.
- You now have a deeper understanding of the FASE program as the Bank team provided a broader overview of the program, current achievements and the next steps.
- You shared experiences on approaches being followed in the 5 countries in designing or strengthening the accounting technician programs. I hope you learned ideas from each other on how you can further strengthen your program and how to promote the qualifications to attract many learners.
- I hope you have a better understanding of the roles of the different institutions in the accounting technician programs value chain: the PAO, the training institutions, the government, the students, and the development partners.

### **Key actions**

Based on the information I received from my team on deliberations during the roundtable, I challenge you to consider implementing the following actions:

Firstly, determine the accounting technician terminology to be used in your country and actively promote the terminology. It was evident that the term is not commonly understood and is causing confusion in some countries. Ideally, the terminology should be common in all the countries to facilitate the regional movement of qualified accounting technicians and avoid confusion to employers. Therefore, as discussed during the roundtable, we, WB, will engage with IFAC and PAFA to assist you in determining the right terminology and also initiate a global initiative to determine and define the correct terminology and criteria for accounting technicians for global adoption.

Secondly, ensure the programs that you are strengthening or developing are recognized in the country. That is, they are registered with the national qualification authorities and fit within the national qualification framework. Therefore, if your program is currently not registered, I

invite you to take appropriate actions to ensure its registered and information is communicated widely to all the stakeholders.

Thirdly, clearly define and describe the roles of the different institutions in the accounting technician value chain. In this regard, I encourage you to identify all the institutions that should be involved (PAO, training institutions, government, students), host conversations with all the institutions to clearly agree on the specific roles for each institution, document and share the agreed roles with all the institutions, and regularly evaluate and review the roles.

Fourthly, initiate or strengthen marketing campaigns for the accounting technician programs targeting employers, students, parents, and the government. You should consider engaging marketing consulting firms to assist you in designing and rolling out campaigns targeting different audiences and using different channels.

Fifth, continue accelerating the implementation of FASE activities in your respective countries.

We, WB, remain committed to partnering with you in implementing the above actions and continue supporting you to successfully and impactfully implement the FASE activities in your respective countries.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Finally, I thank you for your impressive work in your respective countries to implement the FASE program. Successful implementation will increase the number of qualified accounting technicians, which is critical in improving their lives and achieving resilient, sustainable, and inclusive growth.

Thank you for your attention and safe travel back home.