

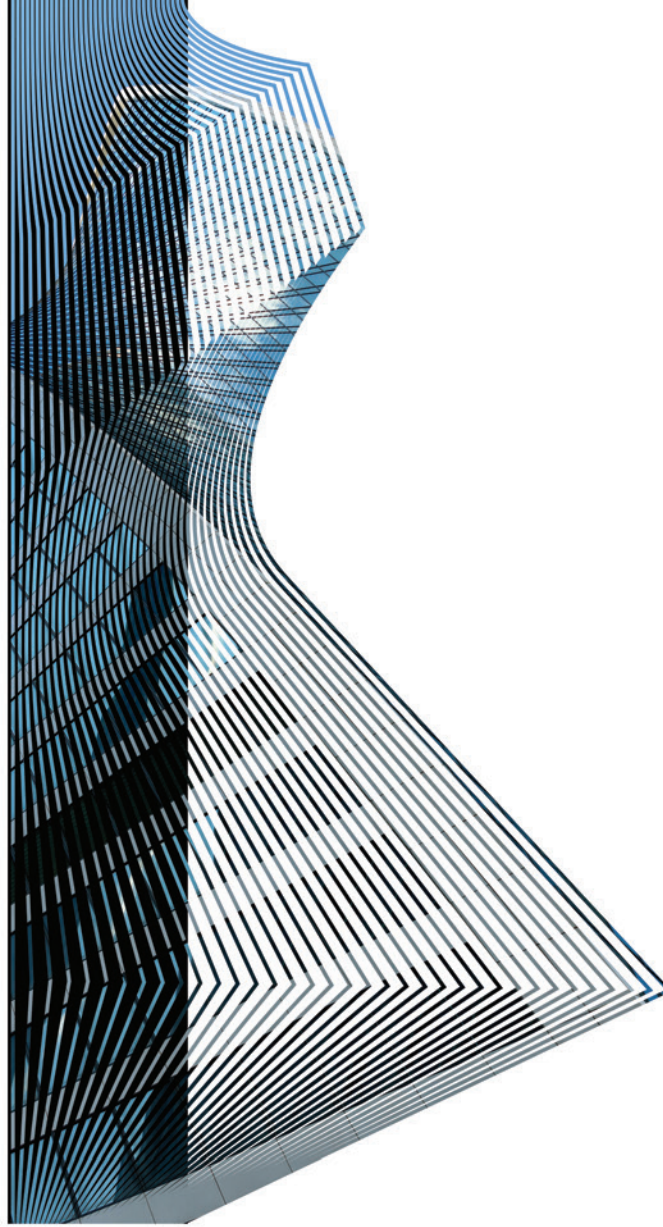
**CFRR** >>

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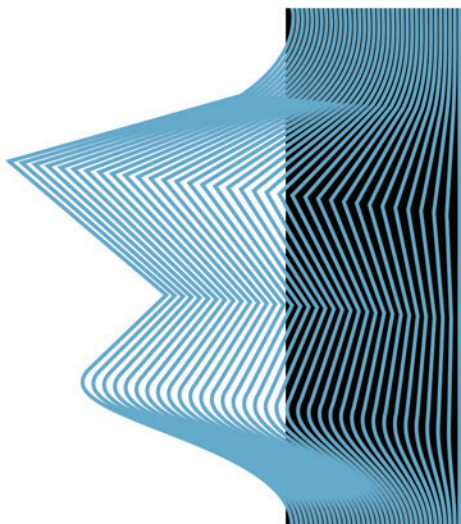
 **STAREP**



2022 Ministerial Conference

# **FINANCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING FOR DEBT TRANSPARENCY AND A RESILIENT RECOVERY**

November 30, 2022 • Vienna, Austria





2022 Ministerial Conference

# FINANCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING FOR DEBT TRANSPARENCY AND A RESILIENT RECOVERY

November 30, 2022 • Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria

## FOREWORD

The Ministerial Conference “Financial and Sustainability Reporting for Debt Transparency and a Resilient Recovery” takes place at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, on November 30, 2022. It is organized by the World Bank Centre for Financial Reporting Reform (CFRR), celebrating its 15th anniversary, and is hosted by the Austrian Ministry of Finance.

The Conference convenes some 250 high-level delegates, including Ministers of Finance from partner countries, senior government officials, international development partners, high-level representatives from the public and private sectors, professional and academic communities, and experts from key international and EU institutions.

Discussions center on how reliable and transparent financial and non-financial information in the public and private sectors can support improved decision making, debt transparency, and a resilient recovery in these challenging times. Technical workshops on November 29 and December 1 complement and further expand on the Conference themes for professionals and senior officials involved in all three programs.

The Ministerial Conference is organized as part of three CFRR-implemented programs:

- The Public Sector Accounting and Reporting (PULSAR) program, which supports the enhancement of participating countries’ public sector accounting (PSA) and financial reporting frameworks in line with international standards and in accordance with good practices, in order to improve government accountability, transparency, and performance.
- The Road to Europe: Program of Accounting Reform and Institutional Strengthening for Small and Medium Enterprises (REPARIS for SMEs) for the Western Balkan countries, which aims to improve the business environment, especially for SMEs, by helping European Union (EU) candidates/potential candidates to align their financial reporting systems with the EU’s legislative frameworks for corporate financial reporting; and
- The Strengthening Auditing and Reporting in the Countries of the Eastern Partnership (STAREP) program, which helps to create a transparent policy environment and effective institutional framework for corporate reporting.

After over two years of pandemic restrictions, the Ministerial Conference is a good opportunity to come together for an interactive exchange of knowledge and experience and to renew existing networks and develop new ones.

# AGENDA

**08:00** | Registration and welcome coffee

**09:00** | Introduction to the day

### Speaker

- **Arman Vatyan**, Lead Financial Management Specialist, PULSAR Program Manager, The World Bank

**09:05** | Welcoming and opening remarks

### Speakers

- **Anna Bjerde**, Vice President, Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank
- **Harald Waiglein**, Director General for Economic Policy, Financial Markets and Customs Duties, Ministry of Finance, Austria
- **Barbara Schedler Fischer**, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in Austria

### Moderator

- **Dan Boyce**, Practice Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Governance Global Practice, PULSAR Steering Committee Chair, The World Bank

### Focus themes

- Impact of COVID-19, war, energy crisis, refugee crisis, high inflation on economy, and environment.
- How financial information can support risk management and recovery process.

**09:25** | Setting the context for the ministerial panel: Economic and environmental challenges

### Speakers

- **Anna Bjerde**, Vice President, Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank
- **Thomas Wieser**, Economist, Bruegel
- **Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien**, Board Member, International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) **[via video]**
- **Gemma Sanchez-Danes**, Acting Head of Secretariat Sustainability Reporting, European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)
- **Gernot Netinger**, Head of ÖBB-Group's Corporate Finance Department, Austrian Railways Group, ÖBB-Holding AG

### Chair

- **Dan Boyce**, Practice Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Governance Global Practice, PULSAR Steering Committee Chair, The World Bank

### Focus themes

- How to get ready for economic challenges ahead.
- Finding fiscal space for increased spending, maintaining sustainable levels of debt.
- Sustainability reporting-benefits and challenges.
- How financial and sustainability reporting can help both public and corporate sectors manage the recovery going forward.

**10:30** — Coffee and networking break

**11:00**

**Ministerial discussion panel: The importance of financial and non-financial information at times of crisis**

**Panelists**

- **H.E. Hekuran Murati**, Minister of Finance, Kosovo
- **H.E. Fatmir Besimi**, Minister of Finance, North Macedonia
- **Arman Poghosyan**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Armenia
- **Svitlana Vorobey**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Ukraine

**Discussant**

- **Sebastian Molineus**, Regional Director for the South Caucasus, The World Bank

**Chair**

- **Arturo Herrera Gutierrez**, Global Director, Governance Global Practice in the Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions Practice Group Vice Presidency, The World Bank

**Focus themes**

What is on the minds of Ministers of Finance in these challenging times – how to more effectively produce and use financial and sustainability information going forward?

**12:15** — Lunch

**13:45**

**Keynote address**

**Speaker**

- **Harald Waiglein**, Director General for Economic Policy, Financial Markets and Customs Duties, Ministry of Finance, Austria

**14:15**

**Panel I: High indebtedness – responsible and transparent debt management and reporting**

**Speakers**

- **Ivailo Izvorski**, Practice Manager, Global Macro and Debt Analytics in the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice, The World Bank
- **Andreas Bergmann**, Director, Department Public Sector, School of Management and Law, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

**Panelists**

- **Vladimir Arachelov**, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Moldova
- **Nazim Gasimzade**, Director, State Treasury Agency, Azerbaijan

**Chair**

- **Fabian Seiderer**, Practice Manager for Governance, Public Sector, and Financial Management in the Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank

**Focus themes**

- Economist views on rising debt levels in public and private sector.
- International public sector accounting standards – transparency and debt reporting, definitions and measurement of debt and liabilities.

**15:30** | Coffee and networking break

**16:00**

**Panel II: Digital innovations for crisis response, recovery, and communication**

**Speakers**

- **Matthias Lichtenthaler**, Head of Digital Transformation, Austrian Federal Computing Centre
- **Michael Wiese**, Certified Auditor, CFE, Assurance Research and Development Leader, Ernst & Young
- **Emily Middleton**, Partner, Public Digital
- **Antonia Grafl**, Senior Public Financial Management Expert, Institute of Public Management, School of Management and Law, ZHAW

**Focus themes**

- Gov Tech and digital technologies.
- Data storytelling in the public sector.
- Digital transformation for SMEs, enhancement of financial management competencies for growth.

**Chair**

- **Fabian Seiderer**, Practice Manager for Governance, Public Sector, and Financial Management in the Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank

**Moderator**

- **Tiago C. Peixoto**, Senior Governance Specialist, Governance Global Practice, The World Bank

**17:25**

**Closing remarks**

**Speaker**

- **Arturo Herrera Gutierrez**, Global Director, Governance Global Practice in the Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions Practice Group Vice Presidency, The World Bank

**17:40** | Cocktail reception

## BIOS OF THE SPEAKERS



**ARMAN VATYAN**

Lead Financial Management Specialist, PULSAR Program Manager, The World Bank

Arman Vatyán is currently the focal point for the World Bank's governance program in Central Asia where he oversees the implementation of the Bank's governance work program. He is the program leader for Europe and Central Asia's PEMPAL program, and the program manager for PULSAR. He has more than 20 years of experience in leading critical financial management initiatives and reforms, including in public sector and corporate accounting and financial reporting, public internal and external audit, financial management information system, and public internal control in more than 25 countries in Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, and Middle East North Africa regions. He represents the World Bank as an observer in the European Commission European Public Sector Accounting Standards Expert Group. Since 2008, he also leads PEMPAL's Internal Audit Community of Practice of 23 countries and other successful regional public financial management programs. Prior to joining the Bank, he worked in a Big 4 audit firm providing corporate governance, strategic planning, management information systems, restructuring, acquisition, and privatization advice to governments and large public interest entities. He has more than 20 years of teaching experience as trainer and visiting lecturer at universities, and to MBA programs and regional programs. He has also organized and been a keynote speaker in more than 50 international and regional conferences. He holds PhD and MS in management information systems and is a certified chartered accountant in the UK and Canada.



**DAN BOYCE**

Practice Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Governance Global Practice, PULSAR Steering Committee Chair, The World Bank

Dan Boyce is Practice Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the World Bank's Governance Global Practice. His unit covers 11 countries in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia. In his current role he is responsible for overseeing quality in the World Bank's Governance work, including operational financial management work and capacity building activities in public sector management. Themes addressed by the Governance Practice include those related to justice reform, state owned enterprises, and public financial management, among others. He also has leadership of regional initiatives related to Public Expenditure Management and Public Sector Accounting. Previously he managed the World Bank's financial management unit for Latin America and the Caribbean. He is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Florida A&M University and a Master's and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.



#### **ANNA BJERDE**

Vice President, Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank

Anna Bjerde became World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia on May 1st, 2020. In this position, she leads the World Bank's strategic, analytical, operational and knowledge work in the region. Prior to this, she was Director of Strategy and Operations for the Middle East and North Africa region at the World Bank. Before that, she oversaw the Bank's strategies, lending and analytical work for sustainable development, covering all six of the Bank's regions. She also held a deputy Vice President role in the Europe and Central Asia region in 2014-15. She has over 25 years of experience working in development in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia, and South Asia. She is a recognized leader in economic development, with a specific interest in inclusive growth and sustainable development. She is a proficient leader and manager, with experience overseeing large and decentralized workforces and country offices, as well as forging strong bilateral and multilateral partnerships. She has a Master's in Business and Economics from the University of Stockholm.



#### **HARALD WAIGLEIN**

Director General for Economic Policy, Financial Markets and Customs Duties, Ministry of Finance, Austria

Harald Waiglein is Director General for Economic Policy, Financial Markets and Customs Duties at the Austrian Ministry of Finance. He was appointed Director General in 2012, after having worked in various areas including taxes and the political offices of two Ministers of Finance since 2007. His current responsibilities include ECOFIN and Eurogroup affairs, international financial institutions, export credit agencies, development assistance, macroeconomic analysis and advice, financial markets regulation, and customs duties. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the European Financial Stability Facility, Chairman of the EU Financial Services Committee, and Director for Austria at the European Stability Mechanism.



#### BARBARA SCHEDLER FISCHER

Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in Austria

Barbara Schedler Fischer is Minister and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Austria, leading the political and economic teams of the Embassy. She took up her position in summer 2021. From 2016-2021 she served as Chief of Staff and then as Deputy Head of the Peace and Human Rights Division at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. In that role she was responsible for policy development and project management in the areas of human rights, humanitarian diplomacy, migration, and the deployment of Swiss civilian experts. From 2012-2016, she was Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Ottawa, Canada. At headquarters, she acted as Deputy Head of Human Resources for the Directorate of Political Affairs from 2008-2012, following postings as a diplomat in Vienna and in Beirut. Preceding her diplomatic career, Ms. Schedler Fischer worked several years for a Swiss bank and for the Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. She studied English Literature and Linguistics as well as History and Communication at the Universities of Zurich and Aberdeen (Scotland).



#### THOMAS WIESER

Economist, Bruegel

Thomas Wieser was the Brussels based President of the Euro Working Group and Chairman of the EU's Economic and Financial Committee from 2012 to 2018, responsible for the preparation of the negotiations and decisions of EU Finance Ministers. At present he is associated with Bruegel, the Brussels Think Tank, as Non-Resident Fellow. In 2019/20 he chaired the EU's High Level Group of Wise Persons on the European Financial Architecture for Development, and in 2019/20 the European Commission's High Level Forum on Capital Markets Union. More recently he was the EU representative in the G7 Panel on Economic Resilience.

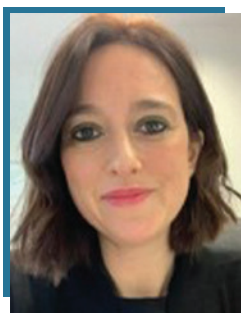


#### NDIDI NNOLI-EDOZIEN

Board Member, International Sustainability Standards Board

Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien was appointed as a full-time member of the ISSB in June 2022, effective 15 July 2022. Her career has focused on building connections between business and sustainable development, working across multinational and indigenous companies, public institutions, and civil society organizations—in Africa and Europe—to initiate sustainable development initiatives. She served as the inaugural Group Chief Sustainability and Governance Officer of Dangote Industries Limited—one of Africa's largest manufacturing businesses—from 2017 to 2020. In this role, she was responsible for developing the company's sustainability culture, strategy, and reporting across 14 countries. She has also served on several boards, committees, and initiatives focused on corporate culture, impact investing, sustainability reporting, and governance. She has a PhD in Social Ethics, Cultural Adaptation, Sustainability, and Governance from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Germany and a Bachelor's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.





#### **GEMMA SANCHEZ-DANES**

Acting Head of Secretariat Sustainability Reporting, European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)

Gemma Sanchez-Danes joined the Sustainability Reporting pillar of EFRAG in October 2021 and became acting Head of Secretariat in May 2022. She is responsible for leading and coordinating the work of Secretariat in drafting the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) that cover Environmental, Social and Governance topics, which will be mandatory for European companies in scope. The first set of draft ESRS were issued by EFRAG on the 15 November 2022. Prior to joining EFRAG, she was an audit partner at PwC Spain with an expertise in financial services, in particular insurance. She trained as a UK Chartered Accountant and worked in the UK and Spain with PwC across a range of listed financial services companies.



#### **GERNOT NETINGER**

Head of ÖBB-Group's Corporate Finance Department, Austrian Railways Group, ÖBB-Holding AG

Gernot Netinger is Head of Group Corporate Finance at ÖBB-Holding AG dealing with strategic financing, treasury, structured financing, investor relations, and restructuring. He has more than 25 years of experience in various financing matters in one of the largest mobility service providers in Europe. He is also a managing director of ÖBB-Financial Services GmbH and OmegaTelos GmbH and a member of the board of directors of Eurofima. He graduated from the Vienna University of Economics and Business.



#### **H.E. HEKURAN MURATI**

Minister of Finance, Kosovo

Hekuran Murati is Minister of Finance, Labor and Transfers since 2021. He has extensive experience, especially as an activist and independent analyst, where he has been recognized for his activism and analysis on many major issues of public interest. He worked in the Ministry of Finance as Public Debt Division Lead and then as a consultant at the World Bank. He also worked at the Central Bank of Kosovo. He completed his undergraduate studies in Business Management at the American University in Kosovo, while his graduate studies in Investment Management at Hochschule Bremen & University of North Carolina Wilmington, with a focus in International Finance.



#### **H.E. FATMIR BESIMI**

Minister of Finance, North Macedonia

Fatmir Besimi became Minister of Finance of the Republic of North Macedonia in September 2020. Before this he was an associate professor at the faculty of business and economics within the South-East European University, as well as a visiting senior fellow (associate professor) at the London School of Economics and Political Science, European Institute. He managed many projects and initiatives related to the public sector, economy, finance, energy, etc. He has won several awards and certificates of acknowledgment, including the 'Order of the Star of Italy - Grand Officer' award under a decision by the President of Italy for his contribution to the improvement of the bilateral relations between the two countries during the Italian Presidency of the EU Council. He is an honorary member of 'Young Global Leaders for 2010', as well as a member of 'European Future Leaders'. He was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European affairs in the Government for two terms of office – from March 2013 until May 2014 and between June 2014 and March 2016. He was also appointed as Minister of Defence from August 2011 until February 2013 and Minister of Economy for two terms of office between August 2008 and July 2011. Other governmental responsibilities include co-chairman of the council for economic growth and sustainable development within the Prime Minister's office from August 2017 until May 2019, special advisor to the Prime Minister in the period between August 2017 and April 2019, co-chairman of the National investment committee, National IPA coordinator, coordinator for the instrument for pre-accession assistance and bilateral financial support on national level as Deputy Prime Minister for EU Affairs, and as a member of the national security council as Minister of Defence.



#### **ARMAN POGHOSYAN**

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Armenia

Arman Poghosyan has over 15 years of public sector experience in the fields of taxation, accounting, and auditing. He became Deputy Minister of Finance of Armenia in 2018 and is coordinating development of the government's tax policy as well as regulatory issues in the accounting and auditing spheres. Before his appointment as a Deputy Minister he held various positions in the State Revenue Committee and the Ministry of Finance of Armenia. He has a PhD in economics and lectures at various educational institutions in Armenia. Several of his articles on taxation, accounting, and audit have been published.



#### **SVITLANA VOROBAY**

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Ukraine

Svitlana Vorobey was appointed as Deputy Minister of Finance of Ukraine in March 2020. She is responsible for the formation of tax policy and issues relating to international taxation, as well as for the formation of policy in the field of accounting and regulatory support of auditing activities. She has 42 years of experience, 19 of which in the civil service. In the 1980s, she worked as a trade services inspector. In the 1990s, she was the deputy director of a number of commercial enterprises. In 1999-2010 she progressed from State Tax Inspector to the Director of the Payments Administration

Monitoring Department of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine. In 2014-2015, she headed the Department of Information Exchange and Analysis of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine. She became Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Tax and Customs Policy of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine in 2017. She graduated from the Kyiv National Trade and Economic Institute and the Classical Private University. She has a Master's degree in Law.



#### SEBASTIAN MOLINEUS

Regional Director for the South Caucasus, The World Bank

Sebastian Molineus is the World Bank Regional Director for the South Caucasus since July 1, 2019, where he is responsible for developing the World Bank's country strategies, managing the portfolio of lending, advisory, and convening services, coordinating with development partners, and engaging with other key stakeholders on economic growth and poverty reduction in the region. He joined the World Bank Group in 2002, initially managing IFC corporate governance reform programs in Russia and across the Middle East & North Africa region. In 2008 he joined the World Bank in Washington as a Senior Operations Officer responsible for financial and private sector development and then became a Practice Manager for the Capital Markets Global Practice in 2012. He was appointed as Director to the Finance & Markets Global Practice in 2014 and in 2018 became the Director for the Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, he worked at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in the Financial, Fiscal, and Enterprise Affairs Division. He holds an MBA from the HEC School of Management in France, and a Master's from the University of Passau's School of Law in Germany.



#### ARTURO HERRERA GUTIERREZ

Global Director, Governance Global Practice in the Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions Practice Group Vice Presidency, The World Bank

Arturo Herrera is Global Director for Governance Global Practice since July 2022. He has extensive experience in governance, as a practitioner and from the development and academic perspectives. His priorities as Global Director include leading the formulation of strategy and engagement of the Bank's work on public institutions and country-level governance, especially in fragile, conflict, and violent settings; maximizing the effectiveness of operational support for public financial management and public procurement; and fostering excellence in the Governance Practice's work on public sector administration and operational support for legal and judicial reforms. He first joined the World Bank in 2010 as Senior Public Sector Management Specialist in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. He held various positions in the Bank, including as Sector Manager in LAC and as Practice Manager in the Governance Global Practice for the LAC and East Asia and Pacific regions in the Global Unit, before leaving the World Bank Group in 2018. Between 2018 and 2021 he held leadership positions in the Government of Mexico, as Co-Head of the Finance Team in the Presidential Transition Team, Deputy Finance Minister, and as Minister of Finance and Public Credit. He has also taught in the areas of Monetary and Banking and Macro and Micro Economics at both El Colegio de Mexico and New York University where he completed his doctoral studies in Economics.



#### **IVAILO IZVORSKI**

Practice Manager, Global Macro and Debt Analytics in the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice, The World Bank

Ivailo Izvorski is Practice Manager for the Macroeconomics, Growth, and Debt Global unit of the World Bank. From December 1, 2022, he will take the position of the Chief Economist for the Europe And Central Asia region. Mr. Izvorski joined the World Bank in 2005. He is one of the coauthors of *Diversified Development: Making the Most of Natural Resources in Eurasia*. He has worked on countries in Europe, Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and Africa for the World Bank, the Institute of International Finance, and the International Monetary Fund. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University.



#### **ANDREAS BERGMANN**

Director, Department Public Sector, School of Management and Law, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

Andreas Bergmann is a Full Professor of Public Finance and Director Public Sector at the ZHAW School of Management and Law since 2002. He was Chair of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) from 2010 until 2015, after serving the Board as a public member since 2006. He is a member of the Swiss Accounting Standard Setter for the Public Sector since 2009, and a member of the European Commission Accounting Advisory Group since 2010. He is a scientific advisor on public financial management reforms in Switzerland, Europe, Central Asia, Latin America, South East Asia, and to various international organizations. From 2003 to 2009, he was the Scientific Advisor for the public sector accounting reforms at the federal and state level in Switzerland. In 2010, he was a Visiting Professor at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. He was a member and later Chair of the advisory committee for GFSM2001/ESA95 implementation in Switzerland. In 1999, he joined ZHAW as a Senior Lecturer and became a Full Professor in 2002. He started his career as a business consultant before joining the Ministry of Education of the State of Zurich as a Project Manager for New Public Management Reforms/Head of Controlling. He holds a Diploma from Lancaster University, and a Master's degree and a Ph.D. from St. Gallen University.



#### **VLADIMIR ARACHELOV**

State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Moldova

Vladimir Arachelov is State Secretary (Deputy Minister) at the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Moldova since February 2022. Previously, since 2008, he worked as a consultant covering public finance management, public administration reform, strategic management, and business process management areas, working with different institutions/ projects such as the World Bank, European Union, UNDP, GIZ, etc. He earlier worked in the public and private sector in various positions as Chief Accountant, Head of Public Internal Financial Control Harmonization Unit, and Financial Inspector.



#### NAZIM GASIMZADE

Director, State Treasury Agency, Azerbaijan

Nazim Gasimzade is Director of the State Treasury Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan and a member of the PEMPAL Executive Committee. He is an expert in program, project, and strategic management. Throughout the years he has led several large and medium sized projects. He was at the helm of moving the Treasury Information Management System from a distributed legacy platform to a consolidated enterprise resource planning platform and was the architect of establishing a private cloud system in the State Treasury. He has several State and international awards for his contributions. Aside from his government career, he has worked for several private banks, consulting companies, as well as Fortune 500 companies. When time permits, he teaches project management courses. He has a BA degree in Economics, MA degree in Information Technology, and he is a graduate of the Executive Leadership program of the Kennedy School of the Harvard University.



#### FABIAN SEIDERER

Practice Manager for Governance, Public Sector, and Financial Management in the Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank

Fabian Seiderer is Practice Manager for Governance, Public Sector, and Financial Management in the Europe and Central Asia region of the World Bank. He joined the Bank in 2010 as a Senior Public Sector Specialist in the Middle East and North Africa Region. He has since held various positions including Lead Public Sector Specialist for the South Asia region, based in Sri Lanka, and Lead Public Sector Specialist for the East Asia and Pacific region, based in Thailand. In these capacities, he has led policy dialogues, teams, and programs in middle income countries on a broad range of issues, including public financial management, fiscal and performance budgeting reforms, state-owned enterprise reforms, operational financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. He graduated in economics at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France, completed a Master's in Development Economics in Paris, and a Master's in European Integration in Bonn, Germany.



#### MATTHIAS LICHTENTHALER

Head of Digital Transformation, Austrian Federal Computing Centre

Matthias Lichtenthaler serves as the Head of Digital Transformation within the managing board of the Federal Computing Center of Austria. He coordinates various initiatives as part of the Digital Roadmap for Austria – including Public Private Partnership Solutions, bridging between Public and Private Sector. In the past he developed extensive experience in Content and Data Management, Cognitive Analytics and Process Automation. Currently he works with a focus on adapting latest technology trends like Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain for the public sector. Previously, he led the Digital Business at Accenture in Austria.



#### MICHAEL WIESE

Certified Auditor, CFE, Assurance Research and Development Leader, Ernst & Young

Michael Wiese is responsible partner for research and development at EY and a member of multiple international committees for the future development of the audit profession, including the German Institute of Public Auditors. As part of the international network at EY he accelerates the focus areas “data-driven audit techniques” and “artificial intelligence in auditing” in different responsibilities. He studied Business Economics at the University of Essen, Germany. His PhD at the Chair of Auditing, Corporate Accounting and Controlling focused on the concept of a data driven audit. He passed the exam for Certified Public Accountant in 2013.



#### EMILY MIDDLETON

Partner, Public Digital

Emily Middleton is a Partner at Public Digital. She leads the firm’s international team, including support to governments and development partners to strengthen their digital capabilities, and research on topics including digital public financial management and open source in government. Emily previously led the design of the London Office of Technology and Innovation at the Greater London Authority. She has worked on financial technology to improve cash transfers with UNICEF Innovation and has also worked for the EU Delegation to Ethiopia. She started her career at the Boston Consulting Group, where she worked on digital transformation initiatives with clients in the financial and public sectors in the UK, Malaysia, and Indonesia. She also serves as a Board Trustee and a member of the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee for global children’s charity Plan International UK.



#### ANTONIA GRAFL

Senior Public Financial Management Expert, Institute of Public Management, School of Management and Law, ZHAW

Antonia Grafl is a Senior Public Financial Management Expert at the Institute of Public Management of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences. In this role, she works as an international consultant for various institutions such as the World Bank, the European Union, and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, advising governments around the globe. In addition to financial communication, her thematic focus is on greening public financial management, public policy, and reform design. Before joining the ZHAW Institute of Public Management, she served in supervisory, advisory, and managerial capacities in several public sector institutions including government agencies, state owned enterprises, and international organizations, such as the World Bank.



#### TIAGO C. PEIXOTO

Senior Governance Specialist, Governance Global Practice, The World Bank

Tiago C. Peixoto is a political scientist and a Senior Governance Specialist at the World Bank. Since joining the institution in 2010, he has been working with governments to develop digital solutions for better public policies and services. Prior to joining the World Bank, he managed projects and consulted for a number of organizations such as the European Commission, OECD, and United Nations. He has been honored as one of the 20 Most Innovative People in Democracy, and as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Digital Government. He is a recipient of the Louis Brownlow Award of the American Society of Public Administration for the best article written by a practitioner. His work has featured in both mainstream and specialized media, and he has published in *The British Journal of Political Science*, *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*, *UCLA Law Review*, among others. He holds a PhD and a Masters in Political Science from the European University Institute, as well as a Masters in Organized Collective Action from Sciences-Po Paris.

THE CFRR CELEBRATES  
ITS 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
AS PART OF 2022  
MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE



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