



MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

WEBINAR SERIES

Second installment:

June 22, 2022

**MENA: Moving from Cash-basis
to Accruals-basis Accounting**

**Middle East North Africa (MENA):
Moving from Cash-basis to Accruals-basis Accounting**

Hosts	IFAC & World Bank
Date	June 22, 2022 at 15:00–17:00 EEST (Amman, Jordan Time)
Language	Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and Arabic
Conference information	Location: Zoom Webinar Please register ahead of the event

Time	Session Information
Session 1: Opening Session	
15.00 – 15.10	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hatem Kawasmy, AFAA Chairman Jens Kristensen, Practice Manager, Governance, Middle East North Africa, World Bank
Session 2: Setting the Scene	
15.10 – 15.20	Is Cash Still King? Maximising the Benefits of Accrual Accounting in the Public Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Metcalfe, Global Head of Public Sector, ACCA
15.20 – 15.30	Pathways to Accruals – Introducing the Publication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Watkins, Technical Advisor, IPSASB Laura Leka, Principal, IFAC
Session 3: Supporting the Transition	
15.30 – 15.40	World Bank Perspective – Global experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rajat Narula, Lead Financial Management Specialist, Governance, World Bank Mona El-Chami, Senior Governance Specialist, World Bank
15.40 – 15.50	IFAC Perspective – This segment will include an overview of IPSAS adoption status amongst IFAC Member Organizations, challenges reported by PAOs, and what PAOs can do to support the transition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamal Milhem, IFAC PAO Development Advisory Group Member Dana Jensen, MENA Regional Manager, IFAC
Session 4: Case Studies - Learning from Experiences on the Move to Accrual Accounting	
15.50 – 16.00	Saudi Arabia Case Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdulla Al-Mehthil, Assistant Undersecretary, Saudi Arabia Ministry of Finance Dr. Ahmed Al-Meghames, Chief Executive Officer, Saudi Organization for Chartered and Professional Accountants (SOCPA)
16:00-16:10	United Arab Emirates Case Study Ministry of Finance
Session 5: Panel Discussion and Q&A	
16:10-16:55	Moderated by Jens Kristensen, Practice Manager, Governance, Middle East North Africa, World Bank
Session 6: Closing Session	
16.55 – 17.00	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jens Kristensen, Practice Manager, Governance, Middle East North Africa, World Bank

Speakers



HATEM KAWASMY

AFAA Chairman

Hatem has an extensive 23 years of senior management experience. He focused on attracting and building the client relations and leading KPMG Advisory, Audit, and Tax services in Jordan. He is leading KPMG Academy in the market by providing professional training services in Accounting, Finance, and Audit to a wide range of audiences in different industries. Through his experience in advisory services, assurance, and tax consultancy, Hatem gained the capability and expertise to advise commercial companies, not-for-profit organizations and governmental institutions on capacity building, institutional development, business improvement, and strengthening the financial management and internal controls, and taxation.



JENS KROMANN KRISTENSEN

Practice Manager, Middle East North Africa, World Bank

He works on public sector governance and management as well as fiduciary assurance of the World Bank portfolio in the region. Jens is a senior development professional with 20 years' experience in governance and institutional reform through engagements at the Danish Ministry of Finance, the OECD, KPMG Risk Advisory Services, the PEFA Secretariat and the World Bank Group. He has operational and analytical experience in fragile states and middle-income countries in Europe and Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa as well as OECD countries and Middle East and North Africa.



Alex Metcalfe

Global Head of Public Sector, ACCA

Alex Metcalfe is the global head of public sector at ACCA. He leads ACCA's global public sector approach and oversees its public sector research and thought leadership. Alex represents ACCA with key contacts in the public sector, including policymakers within government and international organisations, to share good practices and insights in public financial management and to work together in the public interest. Prior to ACCA, he has worked across central, provincial and local government in the UK and Canadian civil service, including as a senior economist - specialising in tax policy - at the Ontario Ministry of Finance. He has published material across a breadth of public sector topics, including: infrastructure finance, employment law, fiscal policy, immigration and skills, and adult social care. Alex is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), board member of the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants' (CAPA) public sector committee, and on the editorial board for the academic book series Public Service Accounting and Accountability. He studied at Oxford, Cambridge and Queen's universities.



DAVID WATKINS

Technical Advisor, IPSASB

David Watkins spent 34 years in the UK public sector. He began his career at the National Audit Office (NAO), where he gained his Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) qualification. He became a CIPFA Fellow in February 2016. His experience in the NAO was mainly focused on auditing accruals accounts. He moved to HM Treasury in 2000, where he worked on accounting policies for Whole of Government Accounts, including social benefits and tax. Mr. Watkins became secretary to the Financial Reporting Advisory Board and developed the Government Financial Reporting Manual. In May 2006, he became Head of Financial Reporting Policy where he led the move to International Financial Reporting Standards across central government. In September 2008, Mr. Watkins moved to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where he held a number of roles relating to improving processes and procedures. He retired from the public service in April 2013. Between May 2013 and May 2021, he provided consultancy services relating to improving Public Financial Management and migrating to accrual based accounting, mainly in Africa. He has been a team member on a number of IMF missions relating to improving government financial reporting. He was the Chair of CIPFA's Accounting and Auditing Standards Panel (from May 2010 to September 2021) and was a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' Public Sector Global Forum (2007 to 2016).



LAURA LEKA

Principal, IFAC

Laura Leka is a Principal in IFAC's thought leadership team, focusing on initiatives in support of finance and accounting professionals working in business and the public sector. She was previously an Audit Manager at Grant Thornton, specializing in public sector audit in the UK, and prior to that worked for the Audit Commission. She also spent a year on secondment to the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), where she was responsible for managing their public sector and business network programs. Laura is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), and holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Mathematical Physics from the University of Nottingham (UK).



RAJAT NARULA

Lead Financial Management Specialist, Governance, World Bank

Mr. Rajat Narula is a Lead Financial Management Specialist in Middle East and North Africa (MNA) region of World Bank's Governance Global Practice and has been with the Bank for over 23 years, having previously worked in South Asia and East Asia regions of the Bank. He is a Chartered Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor. Besides supporting Public Financial Management reforms and fiduciary assurance issues in MNA region, he also chairs World Bank's Public Expenditure and Financial Management (PEFM) Community of Practice.



MONA EL-CHAMI

Senior Governance Specialist, World Bank

Mona El-Chami is a Senior Governance Specialist at the World Bank Governance Global Practice. She holds a Master's in Business Administration and is a US Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). She is a recognized trainer and assessor of International Organization for Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Supreme Audit Institution Performance Measurement Framework (SAI PMF). She has over 20 years of experience in the areas of governance and financial management, including accounting, internal and external and auditing. She is a core member of the

World Bank Accountability and Oversight Institutions Community of Practice contributing to many studies aiming at assessing and supporting Supreme Audit Institutions. She has been leading a number of accountability and oversight engagements in the MENA region providing support to Supreme Audit Institutions, parliaments, ministries of finance, and other. Prior to joining the Bank, she worked with KPMG, managing consulting engagements in both the private and public sectors, including corporate governance, risk assessments and business process improvement. She had been, as well, a developer and lecturer and of professional training courses in internal audit in cooperation with Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).



JAMAL MILHEM

IFAC PAO Development Advisory Group Member

Jamal Milhem joined the IFAC PAO Development & Advisory Group in January 2018 for the first term 2018-2020 and was reelected for second term 2021-2023. He was nominated in 2018 by The International Arab Society of Certified Accountants (IASCA) and has been a member of the PAOD&AG since then. Mr. Milhem was also elected by the PAOD&AG as the chair of the MENA Working Group.

Mr. Milhem is currently the Executive Director and partner of TAGI in Palestine and a member of the TAGORG executive Management Council (TAGI is an International Audit firm, Member of FOF and one of TAGORG firms with more than 100 offices worldwide). He has more than 28 years of experience in public accounting and advisory services in different countries in TAGI and TAGORG. In addition, he has more than 7 years of experience in higher education in different universities in Palestine related to teaching and development of accounting education programs.

Mr. Milhem has joined the Palestinian Association of Certified Public Accountants (PACPA) in 1997 (PACPA is a national PAO and an IFAC member), and he has been serving as a board member since 2003 and was elected as vice-president of PACPA from 2010 to 2016 and reelected as a vice president since 2018. He also chaired Code of Ethics Committee and Quality Assurance Committee in PACPA. Furthermore, he has been elected as a board member of IASCA since 2011, (IASCA is a regional PAO and an IFAC member). Mr. Milhem was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, AICPA – Montana State (USA) from 2000 till 2011. Mr. Milhem also served as a member of many other national professional committees, e.g. National team for AML risk assessment, National Palestinian WTO Accession Team, steering committee for National Team for Transparency and licensing committees in the Palestinian Capital Market Authority i.e. (financial analyst), (financial consultant), (investment consultant) and (IPO manager).

Mr. Milhem has earned his Bachelor's degree in accounting and auditing in 1992, and Master degree in business administration in 1994 from University of Poona, Symbiosis College, India. He has obtained the CPA certification from Montana State Board of Public Accountants – USA in 1998.



DANA AKIL JENSEN

Regional Manager, IFAC

Dana Jensen is the regional manager for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Caribbean regions under the IFAC Member Compliance Program and the Membership Program to support the adoption and implementation efforts of international accountancy standards and best practices. She holds an MSc from Columbia University (2011) and is currently Prince Sultan University-Banque Saudi Fransi's Fellow in Islamic Finance (2021-2023).



ABDULLA AL-MEHTHIL

Assistant Undersecretary, Saudi Arabia Ministry of Finance

Mr. Abdullah Al-Mehthil became a member of the International Public sector Accounting Standards Board in January 2022, nominated by Ministry of Finance, Saudi Arabia. Mr. Abdullah Al-Mehthil is an Assistant Undersecretary - Deputyship of Accounts & Finance in the Ministry of Finance; he is heading the country's Cash to Accrual program. Mr. Al-Mehthil has more than 20 years of in-depth experience across the public and private sectors in the areas of financial planning, risk management, corporate governance, digital transformation, and accounting & control. Prior to joining

the Ministry, Mr. Al-Mehthil worked for leading conglomerates in Oil & Gas and automotive industries. Mr. Al-Mehthil sits on the Boards and Audit Committees of leading companies in KSA. Mr. Al-Mehthil holds a master's degree in accounting and Information Systems and a bachelor's degree in accounting & Business Administration from the University Of Kansas. In addition to completing a Leadership program in Insead Business School, Mr. Al-Mehthil is a Certified Public Accountant in the US & Certified Public Accountant in Saudi Arabia.



DR. AHMED AL-MEGHAMES

Dr. Ahmed Al-Meghames, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Saudi Organization for Chartered and Professional Accountants (SOCPA)

Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Meghames has been CEO of SOCPA since 2006, and was Deputy Secretary General from 2001-2006. Al-Meghames received a bachelor's degree in accounting from King Saud University (KSU) in 1986, and a master's degree in business administration with accounting as a major at the University of Bridgeport in the US. In 1997, he received a doctorate in the same field of study from Mississippi State University, where he won the

Beta Gamma Sigma Award for the university's top business students. From 1997 to 2001, he served as an assistant professor at the accounting department of KSU.

Dr. Al-Meghames was a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions, Vice-Chairman of the Developing Nations Committee (DNC) at IFAC, and Member of the National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation, Ministry of Higher Education. He was also Chairman of the Management Committee at SOCPA.
