

20 - 21 FEBRUARY 2024

REPORT OF THE 4TH PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE FOR FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

STRENGTHENING PFM FOR
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN
FRANCOPHONE AFRICA



IPSASB



ALGIERS, ALGERIA



INTRODUCTION

The public sector plays a critical role in defining a country's economic, social, and political agenda. Government officials frequently establish the regulations governing business and market operations. Moreover, their expenditure, whether allocated to infrastructure, education, health, security, or other sectors, forms a cornerstone of economic activity, and has a direct impact on citizens' livelihoods.

It therefore follows that a country's political leadership, working collaboratively with other stakeholders, should establish effective public financial management (PFM) systems to ensure the efficient use of resources, create the highest level of transparency and accountability and to sustain long-term economic development. Countries with strong, transparent, and accountable PFM systems tend to deliver services more effectively and fairly. Trust between the government and its citizens are also enhanced.

Since holding its first PFM conference for French-speaking countries in Africa in Dakar, Senegal in 2015, the organisers have continued to sustain the PFM reforms dialog between the accountancy profession and key stakeholders in the public sector with a view to influencing a positive change in the management of public resources for the benefit of the citizens of Africa. In the subsequent events held in 2016 and 2022 in Antananarivo and Lome respectively, the focus progressively shifted towards the implementation of the commitments made at previous gatherings.

The 4th African Conference on Public Finance Management was held in Algiers, Algeria, on 20 - 21 February 2024. Under the patronage of His Excellence the Minister of Finance of the Peoples Republic of Algeria, the conference was organised by the Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA) and the Fédération Internationale des Experts-Comptables Et Commissaires Aux Comptes Francophones (FIDEF), in partnership with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) and hosted by Conseil National de l'ordre National des Experts Comptables (CN-ONEC Algérie).

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

Themed 'Strengthening PFM for Sustainable Economic Development in Francophone Africa,' the main objective of the Algeria conference was to foster collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders in the Francophone Africa region to enhance Public Financial Management (PFM) for sustainable economic development. A greater emphasis was placed on tracking progress made since the 2022 Lome meeting and in formulating a robust strategy for accelerating the agreed actions for impactful outcomes. The conference programme is included in the appendix 1 below.

PARTICIPANTS

The Algeria PFM conference was a great success attracting over 200 delegates from 25 countries in the Francophone Africa region. In attendance were Heads of Courts of Audit, Inspectorate Generals of State and Finance, Senior Financial Comptrollers, Comptroller Generals of State Office, members of Public Accounts Committees, Leaders of Professional Accountancy Organizations, and representatives of Development Partners among other key stakeholders.



THEMATIC AREAS COVERED

The conference covered six key thematic areas, with carefully selected topics and speakers, each addressing critical aspects of PFM for sustainable economic development and in the spirit of alignment with the outcomes of the Lome conference. The thematic areas covered are as highlighted below:

1

PAOs Engaging in the Public Sector for Rapid Results

PAOs play a pivotal role in shaping the financial landscape of the countries in which they are established. Discussions here centred on exploring ways in which PAOs can actively engage with the public sector as trusted advisors to achieve rapid and tangible results.

2

Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Money Laundering, including Corruption

The fight against illicit financial flows, money laundering, and corruption is paramount for ensuring the integrity of public finances and fostering sustainable development. Discussions under this session focused on the role of public financial management (PFM) practices in detecting and preventing these illicit activities. Participants exchanged insights on strengthening regulatory frameworks, implementing effective monitoring mechanisms, and promoting transparency to combat financial crimes.

3

Strengthening Public Financial Management in Africa: Collaborative Capacity Building for Enhanced Service Delivery

Capacity building is the bedrock of effective PFM. This segment focused on collaborative efforts in building a capacitated and competent workforce to serve the public sector's PFM ecosystem to ensure improved service delivery. By sharing best practices, experiences, and resources, the focus would be to create a cadre of skilled individuals capable of navigating the complexities of public financial management.

4

Amplifying Africa's Voice in International Standard-Setting – IPSASB 2024 – 2028 Strategy Consultation

Proactive participation in international standard-setting is a prerequisite to Africa's adoption of the international standards. During the session, participants engaged in guided dialogue on the IPSASB Strategy for 2024 – 2028 thereby ensuring that the final strategy considers the unique challenges and needs of Africa.

5

Sustainability Reporting in the Public Sector

Integrating sustainability reporting into public sector financial management is essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and environmental stewardship. The session explored the growing importance of sustainability reporting and its implications for public sector entities. By adopting sustainable practices and disclosing relevant environmental, social, and governance (ESG) information, governments can enhance their credibility, build trust with stakeholders, and contribute to long-term socio-environmental objectives.

6

Enhancing Public Sector Accountability Through Accrual Reporting

Accrual reporting plays a key role in enhancing accountability and decision-making within the public sector. By adopting accrual reporting standards, governments can provide more accurate and comprehensive financial information, enabling stakeholders to assess performance, allocate resources effectively, and hold public officials accountable for their stewardship of public funds. The session provided participants an opportunity to deliberate the challenges and opportunities associated with accrual-based accounting and explore strategies to accelerate its adoption and implementation in Francophone Africa.

KEY CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS/ TAKEAWAYS

At the conclusion of the two-day event, several recommendations were made, and actionable steps identified for key stakeholders in Francophone Africa. The recommendations are outlined below:

a.

Accelerate the Adoption and Implementation of PAFA and FIDEF, Public Sector Engagement Framework for PAOs in French-speaking Countries in Africa

The Public Sector Engagement Framework is currently being implemented in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, and Tunisia. Participants agreed to advance the implementation of the Framework in the region to facilitate PAOs active involvement in public sector initiatives. It is recommended that the Framework be adopted by all participating countries and that the PAOs and relevant key public sector representatives take the actions necessary to facilitate its successful implementation.

b.

Accelerate the Adoption and Implementation of Accrual-based IPSAS

There is limited information on the adoption and implementation of accrual-based IPSAS as reflected in the IFAC International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index. Participants agreed on the urgency to accelerate the adoption and implementation of accrual-based IPSAS in Francophone Africa, aligning financial practices with international standards. It is recommended that key stakeholders collaborate effectively to facilitate the adoption and implementation of accrual-based IPSAS.



c.

Accelerate IPSAS Implementation Support

PAFA has developed a guideline ([IPSAS Implementation Roadmap for Africa](#)) to facilitate PAOs in providing the much needed technical support to governments that have already or are about to embark on an IPSAS implementation journey. Participants agreed that there is need for a customised approach in providing the support to meet the specific circumstances of each country. It is therefore recommended that a Centre of Excellence be established at PAFA in partnership with FIDEF serving as a hub for knowledge exchange and capacity building on various aspects of PFM.

d.

Establish Close Collaboration with Policy Makers to Influence PFM Reforms

The accountancy profession's involvement in PFM is both an opportunity and a public interest responsibility. However, in many countries the PAOs are yet to establish appropriate mechanisms for engaging with key public sector representatives. To garner widespread support for and accelerate PFM reforms, the participants agreed on the need to establish close collaborations among key stakeholders in the public sector accountancy and audit ecosystem at country and regional level. It is recommended that – with their extensive expertise and knowledge of the subject – PAOs position themselves as trusted advisors to policy makers to influence PFM reforms in Francophone Africa.

e.

Advance the IPSASB Projects on Sustainability Reporting and Natural Resources

The IPSASB is leading in the development of International Public Sector Sustainability Reporting Standards. The IPSASB had also issued one Consultation Paper related to natural resources, with an Exposure Draft planned for later in 2024. Participants agreed that the standards are critical for Africa's economic development, environmental sustainability, and integration into the global community. By adopting these standards, African nations can improve transparency, attract investment, and ensure the responsible management of their natural wealth for the benefit of current and future generations. It is therefore recommended that stakeholders in the region participate actively in the development of the standards by responding to the Exposure Drafts and other calls made by IPSASB.

f.

Update the IFAC International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index

About 40% of jurisdictions in the Francophone Africa region are included in the [IFAC International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index](#). Participants agreed to actively facilitate the update of the index reinforcing the Francophone Africa's commitment to international standards that support financial accountability. It is recommended that It is recommended that PAFA and FIDEF undertake a survey to establish the state of play as it relates to public sector reporting frameworks applicable across the continent to inform future policy decisions.

MOVING FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION – PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important that actions be taken to implement the recommendations to maintain the momentum and ensure relevant stakeholders are adequately engaged. Detailed below is the plan for implementing the recommendations

1.	Key Recommendation	Responsible and Relevant Stakeholders	Actions	Timeline	Success Indicator
	<p>Accelerate Adoption and Implementation of PAFA and FIDEF, Public Sector Engagement Framework for PAOs in French-speaking Countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAFA • FIDEF • Implementing PAOs • Country Steering Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each implementing PAO to establish Country Steering Committee comprising relevant key public sector representatives. ✓ PAO to drive development and implementation of an action plan for effective engagement with various stakeholders in the public sector. ✓ PAFA and FIDEF to organise monthly virtual meetings with each implementing PAO to guide and advise on implementation of the Framework and monitor progress. ✓ PAFA and FIDEF to organise quarterly virtual meetings for implementing PAOs to share experiences. ✓ PAFA and FIDEF to organise biannual virtual meetings for all Country Steering Committees to assess progress on implementing the PFM Africa recommendations. 	<p>Monthly, commencing April 2024</p> <p>Quarterly, commencing quarter 3 2024</p> <p>September 2024 March 2025 September 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At least four PAOs actively implementing the Framework ✓ Country Steering Committees established ✓ Monthly virtual meetings held, and actions noted, and progress tracked. ✓ Quarterly virtual meetings held and attended by at least 75% of implementing PAOs; experience shared ✓ Biannual virtual meetings held and attended by at least 75% of Country Steering Committees

2.

Key Recommendation

Accelerate Adoption and Implementation of Accrual-based IPSAS

Responsible and Relevant Stakeholders

- Regional Economic Groupings (REGs)
- Ministries of Finance
- Courts of Audit
- Parliament/Public Accounts Committees
- PAOs
- National Standards Setters
- Development partners and Donors
- PAFA
- FIDEF

Actions

- ✓ PAFA and FIDEF to undertake advocacy and outreach engagements to create necessary awareness.
- ✓ PAOs to conduct national stakeholder consultations.
- ✓ Parliament/REGs to enact necessary legislation.
- ✓ Ministries of Finance to establish IPSAS implementation steering committee.
- ✓ Ministries of Finance to establish necessary PFM infrastructure
- ✓ PAOs to build the capacity necessary to progress this reform

Timeline

Significant progress by February 2026

Success Indicator

- ✓ At least 4 countries actively pursuing this reform
For each of these countries:
- ✓ Advocacy events held
- ✓ Relevant legislation enacted / in progress
- ✓ IPSAS implementation steering committee established
- ✓ National implementation strategy developed / being developed
- ✓ Capacity building initiatives ongoing

3.	Key Recommendation	Responsible and Relevant Stakeholders	Actions	Timeline	Success Indicator
	Accelerate IPSAS Implementation Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAOs • PAFA • FIDEF • IFAC • IPSASB • Development Partners and Donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PAOs, in collaboration with key public sector stakeholder representatives, to organise IPSAS training ✓ PAFA, FIDEF, IFAC and IPSASB to create awareness of and facilitate access to readily available IPSAS implementation support tools. ✓ FIDEF and IFAC to support translation of relevant IPSAS implementation support into French. ✓ PAFA to establish a Centre of Excellence to provide support on various aspects of PFM 	Significant progress by February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ At least one IPSAS training held per year ✓ IPSAS implementation support publicised, made available, and accessed ✓ Relevant IPSAS implementation support translated into French

4.	Key Recommendation	Responsible and Relevant Stakeholders	Actions	Timeline	Success Indicator
	Establish Close Collaboration with Policy Makers to Influence PFM Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAOs • Ministries of Finance • Courts of Audit • Public Accounts Committees • Regional Economic Groupings • Development Partners and Donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PAFA and FIDEF organises and holds virtual check-in every 6 months till next conference to maintain the momentum ✓ The 4 pilot countries implementing the public sector engagement framework includes in their strategy a clear plan for engaging with their public sector stakeholders 	Significant progress by February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two virtual meetings held in a year bringing together all relevant stakeholders ✓ Positive progress reports during monthly, quarterly, and biannual meetings

5.	Key Recommendation	Responsible and Relevant Stakeholders	Actions	Timeline	Success Indicator
	Advance the IPSAS Projects on Sustainability Reporting and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAFA • FIDEF • IPSASB • Ministries of Finance • PAOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PAFA and FIDEF, with the support of the IPSASB and in collaboration with PAOs, to facilitate national input to the IPSASB's public consultations on sustainability reporting and natural resources 	Dec 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Awareness raising webinars held (attended by at least 50% of French-speaking countries in the PAFA/FIDEF membership) ✓ Virtual roundtables to seek input held (attended by at least 50% of French-speaking countries in the PAFA/FIDEF membership) ✓ At least 50% of French-speaking countries in the PAFA/FIDEF membership responded to the IPSASB's public consultations or contributed to the PAFA response

6.	Key Recommendation	Responsible and Relevant Stakeholders	Actions	Timeline	Success Indicator
	Update the IFAC/IPSASB International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAOs • Ministries of Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PAOs to proactively facilitate responses to surveys to update the Index 	December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Responses from 66% of French-speaking countries in the PAFA/FIDEF membership



CONCLUSION

PFM Africa provided a platform for robust discussions and collaborative efforts to strengthen PFM in Francophone Africa. The recommendations serve as a roadmap for implementing concrete measurable actions over the next two years that will contribute to sustainable economic development through enhanced PFM. The outcomes of this conference are expected to resonate in the policies and practices of the participating countries, fostering positive change and progress in Francophone Africa.

OUTLINE OF CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Time	Topic	Relevant Organisations – from which to draw speakers / speakers
DAY 1		
09:00 – 10:30	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAO Algeria Pan African Federation of Accountants International Federation of Accountants Fédération Internationale Des Experts-Comptables Et Commissaires Aux Comptes Francophones World Bank Ministry of Finance, Algeria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdelkrim Bouhouche, President, PAO Algeria H.E Abdelaziz Fayed, Minister of Finance, Algeria Walid ben Salah ,Vice. President, PAFA Darlene, Nzorubara, Principal, IFAC Mamour Fall, Delegue General , FIDEF Saidou Diop, Lead Public Sector ,World Bank
10:30 – 11:00	Health Break	
THEME 1: CREATING VALUE FOR THE CITIZENS OF AFRICA		
11:00 – 12:30	Public Sector Engagement Framework for PAOs in French-speaking Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the Engagement Framework Practical Approach to Implementing the Engagement Framework <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot PAOs showcasing their approach to public sector engagement using the Engagement Framework. Public sector stakeholders' experience engaging with PAOs. Opportunities and challenges in using the Engagement Framework, what is next, who will take up the call, opportunities to collaborate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicodeme Adzra, Member PFM TAG, PAFA - Moderator Abdelkrim Bouhouche, President, PAO Algeria Yacouba Traore, President ONECCA, Burkina Faso Agodio Nubukpo Fafavi, President, PAO Togo Anis Wahabi, PAO, Tunisia) Gbane Abou, Vice Chairman, AAAG Discussion with participants
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Money Laundering, including Corruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding IFFs in Africa: Trends and Impact Role of PAOs in AML Efforts Role of the Legislature in combating corruption and economic crimes Case Studies and Success Stories from Selected PAOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yawo Djidotor, Vice President – FIDEF - Moderator Yacouba Traore, President ONECCA, Burkina Faso Darlene Nzorubara, Principal, IFAC Hon. Issouf Traore, AFROPAC ·Salem Sam, PAO Algeria Mor Dieng, President, PAO Senegal, Patrick Gamassa, President, PAO Republic of Congo
15:00 – 15:30	Health Break	

Time	Topic	Relevant Organisations – from which to draw speakers / speakers
THEME 2: STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA: COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ENHANCED SERVICE DELIVERY		
15:30 – 16:30	Synergies in Strengthening PFM for Economic Development: Collaboration Between PAOs and Regional Economic Groupings and Inter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Economic Groupings & PFM Priorities Harmonisation of PFM Standards and Practices Case Studies of Successive Collaborative Initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admire Ndurunduru, Director, PAFA – Moderator Gbane Abdou, Vice Chairman, AAAG Saidou Diop, Lead Public Sector Lead, World Bank
16:30 – 17:30	The African Professionalisation Initiative (API) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the API Programmes Roadmap to Implement the API Accelerated Learning Programme in Burkina Faso Development Partner Efforts to Build Public Sector Accountancy Capacity – IFAC-GAVI-Global Fund-USAID Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walid Ben Salah, Vice President, PAFA - Moderator Neo Hlatshwayo, Director, API Alta Prinsloo, CEO, PAFA Legma Jules, Coordinator, ONECCA Burkina Faso Darlene Nzorubara, Principal, IFAC
DAY 2		
THEME 3: AMPLIFYING AFRICA’S VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD-SETTING – IPSASB 2024 – 2028 STRATEGY CONSULTATION		
09:00 – 09:15	Event Introduction and Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Opening Remarks Round Table Overview Introduction of IPSASB members and staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdelkrim Bouhouche, President, PAO Algeria Admire Ndurunduru, Director, PAFA Mamour Fall, Delegeue General, FIDEF Yacouba Traore, IPSASB Member
09:15 – 09:35	Objective and Key Areas of Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to proposed strategic objective and key areas of focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave Warren, IPSASB Director
09:35 – 10:00	Table Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic objective Key areas of focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table discussion
10:00 – 10:15	Report Back and Feedback Via Slido	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave Warren, IPSASB Director
10:15 – 10:45	Health Break	

Time	Topic	Relevant Organisations – from which to draw speakers / speakers
10:45 – 11:05	Research and Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to post implementation reviews and interpretations group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fabienne Colignon, IPSASB CAG Chair
11:05 – 11:30	Table Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus of research and maintenance Participant identified challenges with IPSAS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges in principle (post implementation review) Challenges in application (interpretation group) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table discussion
11:30 – 12:00	Report Back and Feedback Via Slido <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus of research and maintenance Participant identified challenges with IPSAS: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fabienne Colignon, IPSASB CAG Chair
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	

THEME 4: SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

13:00 – 14:30	Advancing Sustainability Reporting in the Public Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of IPSASB Climate-related Disclosures Project Introduction to sustainability work programme and standards development process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave Warren, IPSSB Director
14:30 – 15:00	Table Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to engage public sector entities to apply sustainability reporting standards What are the public sector implementation challenges What are the key public sector projects What are the views on Climate-related Disclosures reporting in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table discussion
15:00 – 15:30	Report Back and Feedback Via Slido <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing and feedback to IPSASB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave Warren, IPSASB Director
15:30 – 16:00	Health Break	

THEME 5: ENHANCING PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH ACCRUAL REPORTING

Time	Topic	Relevant Organisations — from which to draw speakers / speakers
16:00 – 16:45	Accountability Index <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of regional accountability index, updated for attendees' responses. • Introduction to the ICAN Accountability Index 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admire Ndurunduru, Director, PAFA – Moderator • Dave Warren, IPSASB Director • Oladele. N. Oladipo, Council Member, ICAN
16:45 -17:00	IPSASB Roundtable Highlights and Close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPSASB highlight of key points of feedback and discussion of next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admire Ndurunduru, Director, PAFA – Moderator • Yacouba Traore, IPSASB Member • Admire Ndurunduru, Director, PAFA • Mamour Fall, Delegee General, FIDEF
17:00 – 17:30	Summary, Next steps and Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yacouba Traore, Public Value Management Technical Advisory Group Chair, PAFA

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