



CAPTAC-DR
Centro Regional
de Asistencia Técnica
de Centroamérica, Panamá,
y República Dominicana



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Minutes of the XIII Meeting of the Steering Committee of CAPTAC-DR

June 16th, 2021

1. Discussions centered around the following topics: (i) recent capacity development (CD) achievements and advances in the integration of cross-cutting themes into the Center's work program; (ii) main CD results for fiscal year 2021 (FY21) and FY22 work program and budget; (iii) challenges and opportunities of virtual CD delivery; and (iv) the mid-term external pilot evaluations to be launched this FY.
2. **Committee members welcomed recent CD achievements in the region.** They learned about the success in strengthening government finance and debt statistics in recent years and their increased integration into analysis and policy decisions. Members also heard first-hand from representatives of the Ministry of Finance of Costa Rica about their experience in fostering transparency, trade facilitation and voluntary compliance in customs through the new digital portal *AduanaFacil*—which was designed and developed with technical assistance from CAPTAC-DR. Committee members were highly appreciative of progress made so far in integrating cross-cutting themes (e.g., gender balance and equity, governance and transparency, and technology and digitalization) into the Center's work program
3. **Members made suggestions on integrating additional cross-cutting issues into the Center's workplan.** In particular, they identified the following issues where member countries would also benefit from capacity development assistance from the Center (i) risk pricing of projects by the financial sector vis-à-vis climate change; (ii) use of big data and machine learning; (iii) assessment of the introduction of digital currencies by central banks and more generally increased digitalization of payment systems—including of transfers at a national and cross-border level—with the aim of making them more efficient. The Center will look into ways of integrating these issues into its work program.
4. **The Committee welcomed CD advances in FY21 and made further suggestions on the Center's work.** Members learned about key CD results for FY21 and noted that 80 percent of the workplan had been executed, despite the difficult circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Members highlighted the importance of integrating CD with surveillance and IMF program work. They also identified specific areas where the Center should ensure its support going forward, notably the establishment of macro-fiscal units at finance ministries, the recovery of trade in the aftermath of the pandemic, and increased regional economic integration. Committee members also suggested that the Fund should increase its contribution to CD funding—an issue that is being discussed internally by the IMF—and highlighted the importance of close collaboration with other TA providers to exploit synergies and avoid duplication of work.
5. **The Committee endorsed the work program and budget for FY22.** The workplan envisages an increase of about 12 percent in the number of experts-weeks relative to FY21 to respond to new needs created by the pandemic and the increase in IMF-supported programs in the region,

and to catch up on the execution of the medium-term work program. Members also welcomed the resumption of the Center's CD work in monetary and exchange operations. It was noted that the FY22 budget amounts to US\$8.86 million (excluding in-kind contributions) and assumes that face-to-face CD delivery will be resumed in the second half of FY22. Committee members also learned about progress made in reducing the funding gap for the Center's current phase, which now stands at about US\$7.5 million.

6. Members learned about the Capacity Development Management and Administration

Program (CDMAP). IMF CD operations are now being managed within CDMAP, which provides partners with comprehensive information on the Fund's CD delivery, information on the costs associated with achieving specific country objectives, and a strongly coordinated approach across CD delivery modalities and funding vehicles. In addition, members learned about CDMAP's new budget reporting structure and the enhancements to the secure online portal for access to financial information (Partners Connect).

7. Key challenges and opportunities associated with the virtual delivery of CD were also discussed at the meeting.

It was noted that remote CD assistance offers several benefits, including flexibility, scope to reach larger audiences, and cost effectiveness. However, it also poses challenges, notably in terms of maintaining and developing relationships and executing complex projects. Virtual CD is not a perfect substitute for face-to-face interactions, so blending the two modalities would be a good way to deliver CD in the post-pandemic world. Member supported this approach.

8. Committee members were informed about the new pilot external evaluations to be launched this FY.

These will seek to evaluate specific themes or areas of RTACs' work, rather than their overall work. The first set of thematic external evaluations will cover three RTACs—including CAPTAC-DR—whose evaluations were due to start this FY. Members were supportive of these pilot evaluations.

Member countries expressed their gratitude to financial partners for their support to the work of CAPTAC-DR. The Steering Committee, in turn, thanked CAPTAC-DR and the IMF for their continued support to capacity development in the region. The material discussed during the meeting will be posted on the Center's website (www.captac-dr.org) under the section of the Steering Committee for FY22.

Lisandro Abrego

Lisandro Ábrego
Center Director and Steering Committee Secretary



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XIII Steering Committee Attendance List

Junio 16, 2021

Virtual Sesion

Chair			
	Name	Position	Country / Institution
1	Wilfredo Cerrato	<i>President of the Central American Monetary Council, President of the Central Bank of Honduras, Presidente of the Steering Committee</i>	Honduras
Member Countries' Representatives			
	Name	Position	Country / Institution
2	Rodrigo Cubero	President of the Central Bank	Costa Rica
3	Alejandra Hernández	Vice Minister of Income, Ministry of Finance	Costa Rica
4	Gerardo Bolaños	General Director of Customs, Ministry of Finance	Costa Rica
5	Douglas Rodríguez	President of the Central Bank	El Salvador
6	Hazel González	Vice President of the Central Bank	El Salvador
7	César Alvarado	Director of Economic Studies and Statistics, Central Bank	El Salvador
8	Alfredo Blanco	Vice President of the Central Bank	Guatemala
9	Johny Gramajo	Chief Economist, Central Bank	Guatemala
10	Eddy Carpio	Director of Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasts, Central Bank	Guatemala
11	Saúl Figueroa	Vice Minister of Revenue and Fiscal Evaluation, Ministry of Finance	Guatemala
12	Gerardo Casco	Manager a.i., Central Bank	Honduras
13	Angel Arita	Advisor to the Presidency, Central Bank	Honduras
14	Luis Agurcia	Deputy Director of Economic Studies a.i., Central Bank	Honduras
15	Erika Urtecho	Head of the International Relations Department, Central Bank	Honduras
16	Carlos Sequeira	Manager of International Affairs, Central Bank	Nicaragua
17	Angeles Pérez	Institutional Expert, Central Bank	Nicaragua
18	Marlon Navarrete	General Director of Public Credit, Ministry of Finance	Nicaragua
19	Walter Patters	General Director of Fiscal Policies and Statistics, Ministry of Finance	Nicaragua
20	Enelda Medrano	Vice Minister of Economy, Ministry of Finance	Panama
21	Brenda Villanueva	Director of the International Department, Central Bank	Dominican Republic
22	Maria José Martínez	Vice Minister of Public Credit, Ministry of Finance	Dominican Republic
Partners Representatives			
	Name	Position	Country / Institution
23	Dante Mossi	President	CABEI
24	Florencia Castro	Chief Economist	CABEI
25	Armando Navarrete	Lead Economist	CABEI
26	Miguel Medina	Economist	CABEI
27	Martha Rocha	Specialized Professional of the Cooperation Offer Directorate	Colombia
28	Luz Seoane	Responsible for relations with the IMF and G20	Spain
29	Juan Rubio	Officer, Ministry of Finance	Luxembourg
30	Marie-Anne Marx	Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs	Luxembourg
31	Jill Wenger	Delegation Aggregate	Luxembourg
32	Erik Feirín	Senior Advisor	Norway
33	Joselyn Vargas	Project Assistant	European Union
Steering Committee Secretary			
	Name	Position	Country / Institution
34	Lisandro Ábrego	Steering Committee Secretary and CAPTAC-DR Director	CAPTAC-DR
Permanent Observers: Executive Secretaries of Regional Councils			
	Name	Position	Country / Institution
35	Daniel Gómez	Risks Manager	CCSBSO
36	Alfredo Flores	Executive Secretary	COSEFIN
37	Jose Recinos	Technical Advisor	COSEFIN
38	Keny Cuellar	Communications Coordinator	COSEFIN
39	Domingo González	Executive Secretary	SECMCA
40	Jorge Madrigal	Economic Advisor	SECMCA
41	Odalís Francisco Marte	Sub Secretary	SECMCA
42	Dennis Sandoval	Information Technology Committee Coordinator	SECMCA
Other Observers			
43	Marlon Tabora	Executive Advisor, Office of the President, and Secretary of the Bank, a.i.	IDB
IMF / CAPTAC-DR			
	Name	Position	Country / Institution
44	Roger Nord	Deputy Director (ICD)	IMF
45	Patricia Alonso-Gamo	Deputy Director (WHD)	IMF
46	Alina Carare	Deputy Division Chief (WHD)	IMF

47	Pablo Moreno	Executive Director (FEDCE)	IMF
48	Alfonso Guerra	Alternate Executive Director (FEDCE)	IMF
49	Francia Rivera	Senior Advisor to Executive Director (FEDCE)	IMF
50	Frank Fuentes	Alternate Executive Director (FEDBR)	IMF
51	Manuel Coronel	Advisor to Executive Director (OEDBR)	IMF
52	Edgar Cartagena	Advisor to Executive Director (OEDCE)	IMF
53	Ann-Margret Westin	Deputy Division Chief (ICD)	IMF
54	Valerie Cerra	Assistant Director (ICD)	IMF
55	Jean-Baptiste Gros	Technical Assistance Advisor (FAD)	IMF
56	Laura Gores	Technical Assistance Advisor (FAD)	IMF
57	Antonio Ansón	Senior Economist (FAD)	IMF
58	Azael Perez	Senior Economist (FAD)	IMF
59	Antonio Pancorbo	Senior Financial Sector Expert (MCM)	IMF
60	Anastasiya Marina	Senior Financial Sector Expert (MCM)	IMF
61	Carlos de Barros	Senior Financial Sector Expert (MCM)	IMF
62	Paul Austin	Deputy Division Chief (STA)	IMF
63	Bruno Da Rocha	Senior Economist (STA)	IMF
64	Martha Tovar	Senior Economist (STA)	IMF
65	James Yoo	Senior Technical Assistance (ICD)	IMF
66	Lidia Brito	Senior Budget Assitant (ICDGP)	IMF
67	Marta Cubillo	Resident Advisor, Public Financial Management	CAPTAC-DR
68	Selvin Lemus	Resident Advisor, Customs Administration	CAPTAC-DR
69	Martin Ramos	Resident Advisor, Tax Administration	CAPTAC-DR
70	Jovana Palacios	Resident Advisor, Real Sector Statistics	CAPTAC-DR
71	Daniela Gallardo	Resident Advisor, Central Bank Operations	CAPTAC-DR
72	Jose Roberto Effio	Resident Advisor, Financial Supervision and Regulation	CAPTAC-DR
73	Mario Silva	Resident Advisor, Government Finance Statistics	CAPTAC-DR
74	Andrés Navas	Project Manager	CAPTAC-DR
75	Grecia Rosal	Program Officer	CAPTAC-DR
76	Juan Pablo González	Office Manager	CAPTAC-DR
77	José Castañeda	Economist	CAPTAC-DR
78	Kariana Villagra	Economist	CAPTAC-DR
79	José Villalta	Economist	CAPTAC-DR