

SYMPOSIUM
Managing Public Finances:
Country Perspectives and External Support in a Changing Landscape

Thursday, May 9, 2019

*NYU Constance Milstein and Family Global Academic Center
1307 L Street NW, Washington DC
All sessions take place in the Abramson Family Auditorium*

This event explores emerging ideas, evidence, and debates on the role of public financial management (PFM) in low- and middle-income countries, the persistent challenges of implementing it effectively, and evolving approaches to external support for PFM reform. Particular emphasis is on the potential benefits of moving beyond PFM's historically technical orientation by linking it to broader public sector priorities and by seeking context-specific solutions to common problems.

8:30 **Continental breakfast**

9:00 – 9:10 **Opening remarks**
Paul Smoke, New York University

9:10 - 10:30 **Rethinking Public Financial Management and International Support**

This panel reviews perspectives emerging from an NYU-affiliated working group and ongoing ODI efforts considering the case for enhancing PFM linkages to broader public policy objectives and service delivery. Panelists will offer their views on improving PFM's potential to respond to public sector challenges facing low- and middle-income countries, highlighting implications for international assistance.

Moderator Edward Hedger, NYU PFM Working Group

Panelists Marco Cangiano, Overseas Development Institute
 Florence N. Kuteesa, NYU PFM Working Group
 Nick Manning, NYU PFM Working Group
 Carolina Renteria, International Monetary Fund

10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45 – 12:00 Mobilizing Revenue

Princeton's Innovations for Successful Societies spoke with officials who introduced important reforms in tax policy and administration with the aim of increasing domestic revenue. This panel reflects on the experiences of Vietnam, Indonesia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Uganda and the insights they hold for other countries.

Moderator Jennifer Widner, Princeton University

Panelists Salam Fayyad, Princeton University
Monica Tumukunde, Uganda Revenue Authority (video recording)

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (Provided)

12:45 – 13:45 Linking National Health Priorities to the Budget Process

Princeton's Innovations for Successful Societies interviewed officials from five countries that have scored important successes in linking their health priorities to the budget process. This panel draws insights from the experiences of Vietnam, South Africa, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Colombia in addressing common problems and persistent challenges.

Moderator Jennifer Widner, Princeton University

Panelists Keith Craig Househam, MD, Health Management Consultant (video recording)
Salam Fayyad, Princeton University
Yoriko Nakamura, Results for Development (R4D)

13:45 – 14:45 Closing Panel: What Have We Learnt and Where Next for Public Financial Management?

The final session assembles seasoned thinkers and professionals in public sector reform and development cooperation to reflect briefly on themes and insights drawn from the symposium and/or their own experiences. Panelists will suggest practical proposals for advancing reforms to improve the management of public finances.

Moderator Mark Miller, Overseas Development Institute

Panelists Vicente Fretes Cibils, Inter-American Development Bank
Verena Fritz, World Bank
Jens Kromann Kristensen, PEFA Secretariat
Chisom Okechukwu, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

14:45 Close of symposium and networking (Tea and coffee provided)