

IMF's Africa Training Institute (ATI) to increase its support to African countries on managing large macroeconomic shocks, as well as mix virtual and in-person deliveries when travel and health conditions permit

The 8th Steering Committee of the International Monetary Fund's ATI¹ met virtually on June 9, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Mmathema Matle, Manager of the Learning & Development Consulting & Design at the South African Reserve Bank Academy.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair of the Steering Committee (SC), issued the following statement:

“Members and observers commended ATI for adapting its capacity development to support countries during the COVID-19 pandemic and for following up on the recommendations of the 6th SC Meeting to scale up its operations and deliver work on new priorities such as gender, climate change, and governance and corruption. The SC endorsed ATI's FY22 work plan, which continues to prioritize countries in fragile situations and deploys further efforts to integrate training and technical assistance. The SC instructed ATI to develop and deliver capacity development support to members countries on the macroeconomics of pandemics and the macroeconomics of remittances to ensure countries are better prepared to manage large shocks.

The SC noted that unmet training demand remains high despite ATI's efforts to boost supply and encouraged ATI to retain the virtual mode of delivery to further increase and diversify its capacity development services to members countries. The SC recognized that virtual engagement cannot fully replace in-person engagement and took note of the decline in learning gains and participant satisfaction, likely stemming from the virtual mode of engagement. It approved ATI's plan to mix virtual and in-person deliveries when travel and health conditions permit and encouraged ATI to work with organizations interested in expanding peer-learning. The SC advised ATI to consider offering short virtual training modules and make virtual training material and relevant resources available to participants on ATI's website.

The SC reviewed the budget estimates for FY22 and urged member countries to contribute to the budget for Phase II and help close the funding gap.

The 8th Steering Committee Meeting was attended by officials of 10 contributing member-countries and representatives of contributing partners, including the European Investment Bank, the People's Bank of China, and Germany's Federal Ministry of Finance. Observers such as the African Union Commission, the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative, Mauritius' Regional Multidisciplinary Center of Excellence, and the West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management also participated in the meeting.

¹ The Center serves 45 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.