



4th Webinar of the PDM Network

Monday June 10, 2024
9-10 a.m. EDT | 3-4 p.m. CEST

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN THE OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC DEBT MANAGEMENT

Parliaments' constitutional role in establishing sound public debt management legal frameworks, approving budgets, and promoting check and balances within governments mean they are central actors in efforts to prevent opaque debt management practices and enable robust debt accountability. In recent years there has been strong focus on transparency and good practices regarding the role of governments in debt management, but comparatively little guidance on the role of parliaments. Among the most relevant international standards and guidelines, the *IMF/WB Revised Guidelines for Public Debt Management* describe a relatively narrow role for parliaments in debt management. The webinar will present pros and cons of expanding the role of parliament in the oversight of public debt management and discuss potential implications for debt managers.

SPEAKERS



Lars Jessen

Lead Debt Specialist, Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment, World Bank

Lars Jessen has over 30 years of experience in the field of public debt management, including asset and liability management, risk modeling, and management of contingent liabilities. Before joining the World Bank in 2002, he was Special Adviser on government debt management for the Danish Central Bank. As Lead Debt Specialist at the World Bank, he has worked on the assessment and reform of public debt management in Egypt, Indonesia, Lebanon, Mongolia, Thailand, Turkey, Zambia, and many others.



Mitchell O'Brien

Fiscal Governance Lawyer

Mitchell O'Brien is a Fiscal Governance Lawyer supporting the efforts of the World Bank to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to contribute to debt transparency and accountability, including strengthening the working relationship between debt managers and parliaments. He is a Nonresident Fellow with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) and independent fiscal governance and parliamentary strengthening consultant. Prior to this, Mitchell worked for the World Bank Group for 15 years focusing on fiscal governance challenges and strengthening public financial management institutions, including parliaments, Independent Fiscal Institutions (IFIs), Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), anticorruption institutions, and central government units (including Debt Management Offices). He has worked with clients and counterpart institutions in over 90 countries across Africa, South Asia, Latin American & Caribbean, Pacific, Western Balkans, and Arab region.



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