

OPTIMIZING GROWTH AND RESILIENCE THROUGH GENDER-RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES

PROPOSED DATES: October 5-9, 2026

TARGET GROUP | The workshop is designed for technically oriented staff from ministries of finance, economy, line ministries, and central banks who are interested in quantitative analysis of the links between gender inequality, distributional outcomes, and macroeconomic performance. Participants are expected to have a degree in economics or related field.

DESCRIPTION | The five-day workshop, delivered by the IMF's Strategy, Policy, and Review Department in cooperation with the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia Regional Capacity Development Center, will equip participants with practical tools and knowledge to incorporate distributional and gender dimensions into macroeconomic policy design, with a strong emphasis on hands-on analytical work, gender budgeting, and fiscal policy as core levers to reduce inequality, strengthen resilience, and support sustainable growth.

Throughout the course, participants will explore how macro-critical gaps — such as unequal access to labor markets, education, finance, and digital infrastructure — affect growth, productivity, and fiscal and external stability. The workshop will also examine how gender-responsive budgeting can serve as a bridge between distributional analysis and fiscal policy, providing governments with an actionable framework for prioritizing and sequencing reforms within the budget process.

Central to the workshop are practical sessions using IMF toolkits and templates, including gender budgeting exercises, gender impact assessments of tax and expenditure measures, and the TaxFit model for assessing the distributional impact of fiscal policies. Building on regional priorities, the agenda will highlight demographic change, female labor force participation, social protection, and shock-related vulnerabilities, with a particular focus on applications in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Using country-relevant data and real-world policy cases from the region, participants will work in small groups to identify, design, and critically assess inclusive, gender-responsive policies and programs. Active engagement in hands-on exercises, peer feedback, and group discussions is expected.

OBJECTIVES | Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Articulate the macroeconomic case for women's economic participation and explain how gaps in employment, productivity, and earnings shape growth, fiscal outcomes, and resilience to shocks.
- Apply the principles of gender-responsive budgeting, including tagging, ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments, and integration with the medium-term budget framework.
- Identify macro-critical distributional issues—by gender, income group, and other relevant dimensions—and use available micro- and macro-level data to quantify their economic and fiscal costs.
- Design and assess tax, benefit, and expenditure measures using tools such as TaxFit and simple microsimulation templates to evaluate their distributional and gender impacts.
- Translate analytical findings into concrete policy and budgeting proposals, including policy notes or budget memos based on country examples from the CCAMTAC region

LANGUAGE | The workshop will be delivered in English language, with simultaneous interpretation to Russian.