



FOCAL

Foro de Contadurías
Gubernamentales de
América Latina



IADB - FOCAL Partnership for Strengthening Accounting in the Public Sector

CBC Regional Forum

with the INTOSAI-Donors Cooperation and MOSAIC members

Kingston, Jamaica - June 22, 2023



IADB support to the LAC Region - Context



- The IDB's role is to promote sound public sector institutions and policies that translate into more effective, efficient, and transparent governments that address citizen needs and foster robust and equitable growth that integrates gender and sustainable development perspectives

- Under the framework of the IDB's *Strategy for the Strengthening and Use of Country Systems (2010)*, several strengthening activities performed in various public financial management systems (budget, treasury, accounting & reporting, internal audit, external control) have contributed to reducing the gaps with international standards and good practices, in relation to:
 - institutional capacity and risk management;
 - transparency and integrity;
 - sustainability, including issues related to gender equality, diversity, and environmental considerations;
 - technological tools and
 - the incorporation and promotion of innovation.



IADB Country Systems Strategy and Process



1 Diagnostic

- Based on international methodologies and tools – SAI PMF, PEFA, MAPS, the IDB’s guide, etc.

2 Strengthening

- Oriented towards closing the gaps with good practices and international standards
- Includes technical assistance, stand-alone projects, training, events, publications, peer-to-peer exchanges
- Support and coordination with regional and global organizations, working groups and initiatives (e.g., OLACEFS, CAROSAI, FOCAL, FOTEGAL, INTOSAI, IFAC, IPSASB, IDC, CBC, MOSAIC) on relevant topics
- Coordination with other donors, stakeholders and development partners



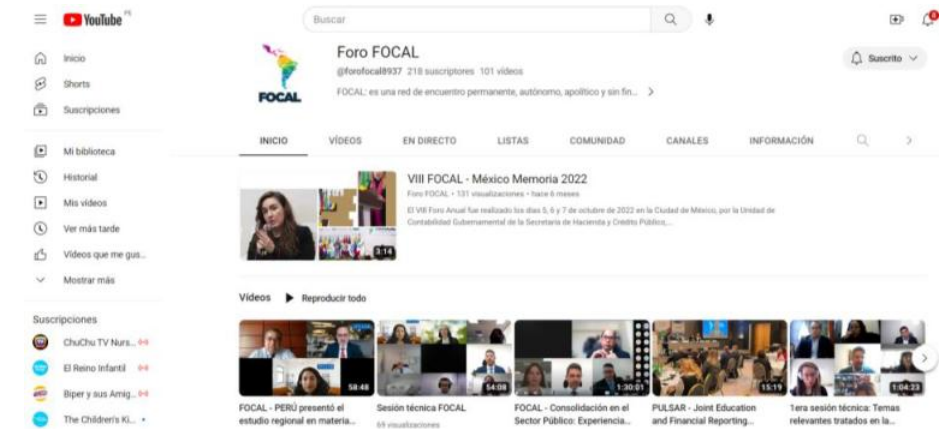
What is FOCAL?



- FOCAL is the Forum of Governmental Accounting of Latin America and was created in 2014, in Santiago, Chile
- According to its by-laws, its objective is *“to have a space for analysis, studies, reflection and exchange of experiences, knowledge and good practices, for the development of (strong) professional and technical accounting models.”*
- FOCAL’s Current Executive Committee - Perú (current President), México (last President) and Ecuador (former President)
- 18 member countries - Venezuela most recent to join
- Continual support from sponsor/donor organizations such as the IDB, the World Bank, IMF, IPSASB, IFAC and others with aligned interests



<https://www.focal.red/>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMSMamhHkBtG0A9fvlLgGSQ>

FOCAL Activities



- Since being established there have been 8 regional events, primarily in person (Chile 2014, Colombia 2015, Paraguay 2016, Panamá 2017, Argentina 2018, Brazil 2019, Ecuador 2021, México 2022)
- Next event will be held in Lima, Perú in October 2023
- Since 2020, there have been 34 virtual technical sessions, training workshops and hands-on workshops (Ecuador 15, México 15, Perú 4)
- Submit consolidated, regional comments on IPSASB standards projects (exposure drafts)



VIII FOCAL Event in México - 2022



- **Participation** included the FOCAL member countries and representatives from the IDB, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, IPSASB, University of Zurich and the Ministry of Finance of México
- **Key areas/subjects/issues discussed** included the following:
 - Country experiences in implementing IPSAS standards (Uruguay, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panamá, México y Perú)
 - Digital transformation in the public sector and the Gov-Tech Maturity Index
 - Status of public financial management systems
 - IPSAS at the municipality level (Chile)
 - Sustainability reports and preliminary results of the IDB-FOCAL study in Latin America (now published)
 - Linking the Sustainable Development Goals with budgetary programs (Paraguay)
 - Financial instruments, public finance and the issuance of green bonds (México)



FOCAL Work Plan 2022-2023



Strategic

- Maintain ongoing communication with the member country Accountants General and representatives of relevant international organizations.
- Evaluate the needs of the countries related to knowledge and the exchange of experiences.
- Promote interactions with other professional networks of interest for the group.
- Conduct a regional study on “Innovation and the implementation of digital technology related to public financial management.”

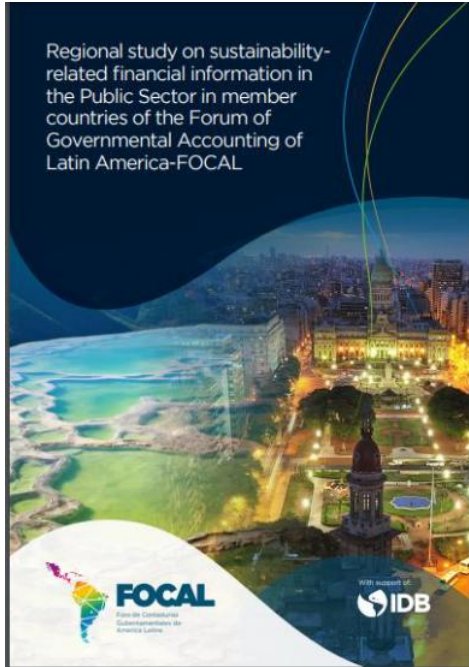
Operational

- Create an ongoing support team (technical – administrative).
- Organize monthly events (workshops, presentations, training, etc.)
- Continue to update the website and YouTube channel
- Obtain comments on IPSASB and other standards projects, documents and reports requiring a regional opinion
- Prepare quarterly executive reports



Publications and guidance materials in Spanish

<https://www.focal.red/es/biblioteca-2017>



Regional study on sustainability-related financial information in the Public Sector in member countries of the Forum of Governmental Accounting of Latin America (IDB-FOCAL) – April 2023



Survey results of “Challenges in Implementing IPSAS” (FOCAL) – April 2021

Guide for public financial management information systems projects (IDB) – June 2021



Governmental accounting in Latin America and Convergence to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IDB-FOCAL) – August 2019



Collaboration FOCAL-OLACEFS

- ✓ Open and ongoing communications at a regional and country level between the Accountants General and SAIs.
- ✓ Support for country reforms related to implementation of the IPSAS standards, including objective feedback on the advances made y opportunities for improvement.
- ✓ Technical preparation/training in IPSAS and the new changes planned by IPSASB, including everything related to sustainability reporting.
- ✓ Working groups to understand the needs of both groups, to identify integrated solutions for implementation, monitoring and oversight, reporting, etc.





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Thank you! Gracias!

Deborah Sprietzer
Financial Management Lead Specialist
(deborahs@iadb.org)

