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**Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity:  
Planned Regional Seminars to Review Experiences**

**Prepared by the Statistics Department  
International Monetary Fund**

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and should not be attributed to the International Monetary Fund, its Executive Board, or its management.

**DATA TEMPLATE ON INTERNATIONAL RESERVES AND FOREIGN CURRENCY LIQUIDITY:  
PLANNED REGIONAL SEMINARS TO REVIEW EXPERIENCES**

As part of the efforts to strengthen transparency, and so to improve the functioning of the global financial markets, the data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity was developed, and became operational on May 2000, when the first set of template data was disseminated by countries subscribing to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). As called for by the SDDS, all 57 subscribing countries disseminate the data template, primary through their national website and in a common database on the Fund's external website. Now over five years since it was first developed, a new round of regional seminars for country experts will provide an opportunity to review experiences in compiling the template data, understand and attempt to resolve outstanding issues, and improve the coverage and quality of data.

Four regional seminars are planned for 2004 and 2005. The first of these three-day seminars will take place for Latin American countries in Mexico City in October 2004; a second seminar will be conducted at the Joint Vienna Institute in February 2005, and, towards the end of 2005, a seminar will take place in Singapore, for Asian Countries (see attached scheduled of data template seminars). We would also like to arrange a seminar in Western Europe during 2005. The seminars are targeted at officials from central banks and ministries responsible for compiling international reserves and other selected external assets and liabilities associated with balance-sheet and off-balance-sheet positions of the monetary authorities.

Drawing on the *International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity: Guidelines for a Data Template (Guidelines)*, the seminars will provide an understanding of the conceptual principles involved in the compilation and dissemination of international reserves and foreign currency liquidity statistics, within the context of the SDDS prescription for completion of the data template. Just as importantly, the seminars will discuss the practical compilation methods as well as countries' experiences and problems in compiling the template statistics. There will be two sessions during each regional seminar to address countries' experiences and concerns. We envisage that the seminars will contribute issues to be considered in the update of *BPM5*.

Within the context of improving the quality of reported reserves template data, a database of questions that have arisen on the reserves template methodology and the proposed treatment is in construction within the Statistics Department of the Fund. Such a database is intended to help maintain institutional knowledge, so supporting advice given on specific issues, and in the medium term, supporting any future update of the reserves template *Guidelines*.

**DATA TEMPLATE ON INTERNATIONAL RESERVES AND FOREIGN CURRENCY LIQUIDITY:  
SCHEDULE OF REGIONAL SEMINARS**

**2004**

**October 6-8** CEMLA Mexico City (English-Spanish)

**2005**

**February 14-16** Joint Vienna Institute Vienna (English -Russian)

**October 16-18** STI Singapore (English)