



HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

GABON

Technical Assistance for the Development of a
Macroeconomic Model for Projection and
Simulations - Scoping Mission

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The *High-Level Summary Technical Assistance Report* series provides high-level summaries of the assistance provided to IMF capacity development recipients, describing the high-level objectives, findings, and recommendations.

ABSTRACT: This technical assistance report documents the key phases of the scoping mission for the development of a macroeconomic model based on financial programming, conducted in Libreville from May 5 to 15, 2025, on behalf of the Ministry of Economy and Participations of Gabon. The mission undertook a comprehensive assessment of existing analytical tools and data quality, alongside delivering targeted training on financial programming and debt analysis. The exercise highlighted various areas to strengthen the current tools as well as organizational constraints to be addressed to improve performance. Building on these findings, a series of recommendations were formulated, endorsed by the authorities, and subsequently integrated into the project's action plan. These recommendations propose a step-by-step strategy for the development of a customized macroeconomic model, fully integrated with a Debt Dynamics Tool (DDT), and supported by continuous capacity building and strengthened inter-institutional coordination, aimed at enhancing the robustness of economic analysis and fostering improved evidence-based decision-making processes.

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Background

This report presents the findings of a technical assistance mission conducted by the IMF at the request of the Gabonese Ministry of Economy and Participations (MEP), submitted in July 2024.

The request aimed to support the development of a coherent macroeconomic model and to strengthen national capacities in economic policy analysis. It followed a preliminary needs assessment mission which identified deficiencies in forecasting tools, gaps in data quality, and weaknesses in institutional coordination. This initiative forms part of the broader IMF engagement to enhance economic governance in developing countries, amid structural vulnerabilities and the imperative to improve macroeconomic management.

The scoping mission, conducted in Libreville from May 5 to 16, 2025, represented the initial phase of a multi-year project estimated to span approximately two years. Its primary objective was to carry out a comprehensive technical assessment of the existing macroeconomic frameworks, decision-making processes, communication channels, inter-institutional coordination, adequacy of human and technical resources, as well as the quality and management of key data. The evaluation outcomes informed the formulation of an action plan, which was validated by the Institute for Capacity Development General Macro and Fiscal Division (ICDMF) and approved by the MEP.

In line with capacity development objectives, the mission devoted six days to intensive training on financial programming and debt analysis. This training focused on core principles of financial programming and was delivered using a standard version of the Macroframework Foundations Tool (MFT¹), populated with Gabonese data extracted from the IMF's databases. This approach facilitated the technical ownership of the MFT model by the national teams and laid a solid foundation for constructive dialogue during subsequent phases aimed at implementing a customized macroeconomic model.

Summary of Findings

The capacity-building project in macroeconomic modeling responds to the structural imbalances and vulnerabilities affecting the Gabonese economy. The assessment of macroeconomic imbalances, as highlighted in the 2024 IMF Article IV consultation report, underscores the urgent need to restore fiscal discipline to safeguard macroeconomic stability. In this context, the project to develop a modeling tool aims to equip MEP officials with a robust analytical instrument to better guide economic policy decisions.

An interinstitutional approach has been adopted to ensure the technical ownership and coherence of the model's assumptions. Within this framework, the Directorate General of Economy and Fiscal Policy (DGEFP), the primary beneficiary of the technical assistance, collaborates closely with multiple public entities, including the Bank of Central African States (BEAC). By MEP directive, experts from several other directorates have been engaged as sector specialists to contribute to the work. These include the Directorate General of Taxes (DGI), the Directorate General of Customs and Indirect Taxes (DGDDI), the Directorate General of Budget, the Directorate General of Public Accounting and Treasury, the Directorate General of Debt, as well as entities from the Ministries of Planning and Foresight,

¹ [Macroframework Foundations Tool \(MFT\) 1.0: User Manual](#)

Petroleum, and Mines. All these agencies are members of the Interministerial Committee for Macroeconomic and Budgetary Framework (CICMB), established by Prime Ministerial decree (No. 0402/PM). Their involvement facilitates concerted validation of the model's sectoral assumptions.

The technical diagnosis assessed the gaps in the existing tools, human capacity, and data quality.

The current forecasting framework relies on the quasi-accounting MEGA++ model, which requires extensive data and does not allow for simulation of economic policy shocks nor integration of a debt determinants analysis. Other tools exist but suffer from limited staff familiarity and use. Furthermore, data quality and timeliness remain critical constraints, as national accounts have not been updated since 2010. A project supported by AFRITAC Central and the IMF Statistics Department was launched in June 2024 to update these accounts, with initial results expected by the end of 2025. Nevertheless, due to data gaps, the team had to rely on data available in the IMF database. Additionally, staff turnover is high, and skill levels are heterogeneous, limiting the effective use of models, particularly the more complex ones.

Summary of Recommendations

To address the identified constraints, the mission recommended a phased and pragmatic approach for the development of the model and its integration into the decision-making process.

The initial phase involves deploying a progressively customized version of the MFT, a financial programming model developed in Excel. This model ensures accounting consistency across the real, fiscal, external, and monetary sectors while requiring a relatively modest data input. It is well suited to the current capacity of the technical teams. The MFT is intended to be integrated with the DDT to enable comprehensive analysis of the debt trajectory, its drivers, and alternative macroeconomic scenarios.

Capacity development is a cornerstone of the project, aimed at ensuring the sustainable use of the model. Given the heterogeneity of skills within the working group, the mission recommended establishing a continuous training program that combines hands-on sessions, online courses, and the development of a detailed user manual. This approach is designed to facilitate knowledge transfer, particularly in the event of staff turnover. Strengthening the team with specialized profiles in economics and statistics was also advised, along with a structured training tailored to the new personnel.

Clarification of institutional roles is vital to ensure effective coordination and rigorous validation of sectoral assumptions. The mission proposed issuing a ministerial decision or internal note clearly defining the responsibilities of members in the interinstitutional working group. This formalization will enhance project management, local data collection, and validation of assumptions across the involved sectors.

Integrating the model into the policy process constitutes a critical step in strengthening economic policy formulation. The mission recommends embedding the use of the MFT within official policy development frameworks, particularly by incorporating its outputs into the work of the Interministerial Committee for Macroeconomic and Budgetary Framework. This integration will facilitate evidence-based decision-making, enable timely budget adjustments, and support Gabon's efforts toward fiscal sustainability and economic resilience. The use of macroeconomic forecasts in the analysis of the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework has also been discussed with the MEP, and to facilitate this process, close coordination with the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department has been initiated and will continue throughout the project.