



*Statement by Ruud Vermeulen, IMF Resident Representative, May 17, 2017.*

In response to questions about the status of the Fund-supported program in view of the announced general elections next month, the Fund remains committed to supporting Kosovo within our mandate, and stand ready to engage with the new government after the elections.

Over the past two years, our program's broad objectives have been to improve the fiscal situation, preserve financial stability, and create the conditions for durable growth. Going ahead, it is important that strong policy actions, including fiscal discipline, are maintained as these are essential to accelerate income convergence and tackle the country's high unemployment. Any fiscal commitments and initiatives should be consistent with the fiscal rule and the law on public sector wages.