

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

January 2018

KEY TRENDS IN IMPLEMENTING THE FUND'S TRANSPARENCY POLICY

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INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

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KEY TRENDS IN IMPLEMENTING THE FUND'S TRANSPARENCY POLICY

Approved By Martin Mühleisen

Prepared by Strategy, Policy, and Review Department

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List of Abbreviations

AML-CFT Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

DSA Debt Sustainability Analysis

EFF Extended Fund Facility
EPA Ex-Post Assessment
EPE Ex-Post Evaluation

FATF Financial Action Task Force

FCL Flexible Credit Line

FSRB FATF-Style Regional Bodies

FSSA Financial System Stability Assessment

HIPC Heavily Indebted Poor Countries

LOI Letter of Intent

MEFP Memorandum on Economic and Financial Policy

PIN Public Information Notice

PLL Precautionary and Liquidity Line

PPM Post-Program Monitoring
PRS Poverty Reduction Strategy
PSI Policy Support Instrument

ROSC Report on Observance of Standards and Codes

SBA Stand-By Arrangement
SCF Standby Credit Facility
SMP Staff-Monitored Program

TMU Technical Memorandum of Understanding

UFR Use of Fund Resources

At the time of the <u>2005 Review of the Fund's Transparency Policy</u>, the Executive Board requested regular updates on trends in implementing the transparency policy. The tables in this report provide an overview of recent developments, reflecting information on documents considered by the Board in 2014 and updating the <u>previous annual report on Key Trends</u>. Deeper analysis of these trends is undertaken in the context of periodic reviews of the Fund's Transparency Policy.

Table 1. Trends in Publication Rates (2014–16) 1/2/											
<u>-</u>	20)14	20	15	2016						
Type of Report	Reports discussed	Published (percent)	Reports discussed	Published (percent)	Reports discussed	Published (percent)					
All Documents	984	93	922	92	913	92					
Staff Reports	220	93	217	94	201	96					
Article IV, UFR, or Combined	193	93	188	94	186	96					
Stand-alone Article IV 3/	112	92	113	92	115	95					
Article IV combined with UFR, PPM, SMP, EPA, PSI	20	90	14	100	17	94					
Stand-alone UFR	61	97	61	95	54	100					
Stand-alone PPM, SMP, EPA, EPE, PSI	22	95	27	93	15	93					
Joint Staff Advisory Note	5	60	1	100	0	n/a					
HIPC Country Papers	0	n/a	1	100	0	n/a					
Selected Issues/Statistical Annexes	78	90	84	90	93	89					
FSSAs	10	70	9	78	12	92					
ROSCs 4/	32	72	20	90	25	80					
Article IV Press Releases	108	92	102	98	120	96					
UFR and PSI Chairman's statements	92	99	80	95	53	100					
Authorities' statements ^{5/}	151	99	149	95	165	100					
Country Policy Intention Documents	218	96	182	91	170	100					
LOIs/MEFPs ^{6/}	134	97	118	93	114	100					
TMUs ^{6/}	74	99	56	93	56	100					
PRS documents	10	70	8	50	0	n/a					
All Policy Papers	75	84	79	80	74	78					
Policy Papers that are presumed to be published ^{7/}	66	95	68	93	62	94					

^{1/} Refers to documents considered by the IMF Executive Board during the calendar year, and published within six months of the end of the calendar year; e.g. the publication rate for 2016 refers to documents discussed by the Board in 2016 and published by June 30, 2017.

^{2/} Data include documents issued for the Board's consideration in a meeting or on a lapse-of-time basis. SMPs, which are for information only, are also included.

^{3/} Includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members.
4/ Includes initial ROSC assessments and reassessments produced by the IMF, as well as the World Bank and, in the case of AML/CFT ROSCs, by FATF and FATF-style regional bodies (FSRB), issued on a stand-alone basis or in FSSAs. Does not include assessments under detailed standards

^{5/} Does not include authorities' statements that are included in ROSCs. Includes Executive Directors' Statements and "right of reply" documents.

^{6/} Includes LOIs/MEFPs and TMUs issued in the context of SMPs and PSIs.

^{7/} The presumption of publication does not apply to certain papers dealing with administrative matters, for instance internal audits and papers on personnel and human resource issues.

Table 2. Trends in Publication Rates of Article IV and UFR Staff Reports (2014–16)^{1/}

(By economic and regional characteristics)

	2	2014	20	15	2016	
Reports by group ^{2/}	Reports discussed	Published (percent)	Reports discussed	Published (percent)	Reports discussed	Published (percent)
Article IV, UFR and combined staff reports ^{3/}	193	93	188	94	186	96
Advanced markets	39	100	30	100	34	100
Emerging markets	88	91	81	94	91	92
Developing countries	66	92	77	91	61	100
Emerging market and developing countries ^{3/}	154	92	158	92	152	95
Africa	46	98	51	96	44	100
Asia	26	92	28	93	28	96
Central and Eastern Europe	13	100	15	100	17	100
CIS and Mongolia	13	92	13	77	10	90
Middle East	20	95	20	90	14	86
Western Hemisphere	36	78	31	90	39	92

^{1/} Refers to documents considered by the IMF Executive Board during the calendar year, and published within six months of the end of the calendar year; e.g. the publication rate for 2016 refers to the documents discussed by the Board in 2016 and published by June 30, 2017.

^{2/} Based on *World Economic Outlook* definitions, including the new definition of Low-Income Developing Countries established in 2014 (http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2014/060314.pdf).

^{3/} Includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members.

Table 3. Trends in Publication Lags (2014-16)^{1/2/}

(By type of reports, and by economic and regional characteristics)

		2014					2015				2016			
Reports by type and group ^{3/}	Number published	Average lag 4/	percent with lag > 1 month	percent with lag > 2 month	Number published	Average lag 4/	percent with lag > 1 month	percent with lag > 2 month	Number published	Average lag ^{4/}	percent with lag > 1 month	percent with lag > 2 month		
Article IV, UFR and Combined staff reports	180	23	17	8	176	20	17	3	179	16	11			
Article IV	103	18	17	8	104	23	17	5	109	19	13			
Combined	18	31	33	11	14	23	29	7	16	12	6			
UFR	59	21	14	7	58	14	14	0	54	16	9			
Advanced markets	39	9	0	0	30	5	0	0	34	6	0			
Emerging markets	80	25	21	9	76	19	21	4	84	16	13			
Developing countries	61	24	20	8	70	25	20	4	61	17	15			
Emerging market and developing countries	141	22	18	4	147	22	21	5	145	18	14			
Africa	45	27	24	11	49	19	20	2	44	15	9			
Asia	24	20	13	0	26	17	12	0	27	12	15			
Central and Eastern Europe	13	15	0	0	16	9	6	0	17	10	0			
CIS and Mongolia	12	26	17	2	10	31	40	10	9	24	11			
Middle East	19	23	21	2	18	25	17	6	12	26	25			
Western Hemisphere	28	21	32	9	28	29	32	11	36	23	22			
Selected other documents														
FSSAs	7	30	29	14	7	58	57	14	11	25	27			
Selected Issues/Statistical Annexes	70	18	21	7	76	23	18	9	83	16	12			
Article IV Press Releases	99	18	16	8	100	12	4	1	115	9	3			
UFR and PSI Chairman's statements	91	19	13	8	76	5	4	1	53	0	0			
Country Policy Intention Documents 5/	210	21	6	3	166	2	11	0	170	14	7			
Policy papers ^{6/}	63	24	1	1	63	23	2	1	58	20	2			

^{1/} Refers to documents considered by the IMF Executive Board during the calendar year, and published within six months of the end of the calendar year; e.g. the publication rate for 2016 refers to the documents discussed by the Board in 2016 and published by June 30, 2017.

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^{2/} Data include documents issued for the Board's consideration in a meeting or on a lapse-of-time basis. It also includes SMPs, which are for information only.

^{3/} Based on World Economic Outlook definitions, including the new definition of Low-Income Developing Countries established in 2014 (http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2014/060314.pdf). Also includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members.

^{4/} Number of calendar days.

^{5/} Includes LOIs/MEFPs/TMUs issued in the context of SMPs and PSIs.

^{6/} Only includes policy papers for which publication is presumed.

Table 4a. Deletions in Article IV and UFR Staff Reports (2014–16) $^{1/2/}$

(Percent of all published reports, unless otherwise indicated)

		2014		2015				2016				
Reports by group ^{3/}	Number published	With deletions	With deletions on exch. rate issues	With deletions on fin. sector issues	Number published	With deletions	With deletions on exch. rate issues	With deletions on fin. sector issues	Number published	With deletions	With deletions on exch. rate issues	With deletions on fin. sector issues
All Article IV and UFR reports	180	19	6	7	176	11	4	7	179	12	4	7
Advanced markets	39	23	0	8	30	13	3	10	34	12	3	12
EU	26	12	0	4	18	11	0	11	22	18	5	18
Other Europe	3	0	0	0	4	50	25	25	4	0	0	0
ROW	10	60	0	20	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Emerging markets	80	26	11	11	76	16	7	11	84	19	6	10
Developing countries	61	8	2	0	70	4	1	3	61	2	2	0
Emerging market and developing countries	141	18	7	6	147	10	4	7	145	12	4	6
Africa	45	9	0	2	49	2	0	2	44	2	0	2
Asia	24	21	4	0	26	8	4	8	27	7	7	0
Central and Eastern Europe	13	15	0	0	16	6	0	6	17	12	0	12
CIS and Mongolia	12	58	42	33	10	30	10	20	9	22	22	11
Middle East	19	16	5	0	18	11	11	6	12	33	17	8
Western Hemisphere	28	32	11	14	28	21	7	11	36	17	3	8

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^{1/} Refers to documents considered by the Board during the calendar year, and published within six months of the end of the calendar year; e.g. the publication rate for 2016 refers to the documents discussed by the Board in 2016 and published by June 30, 2017.

^{2/} Because a single report can have deletions falling into multiple categories, e.g., exchange rate, financial sector and/or other areas, there is no fixed relationship between the second column and the third and fourth column under each year.

^{3/} Based on World Economic Outlook definitions. Also includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members.

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Table 4b. Deletions in 2016^{1/}

(Percent of all deletions requested by income group and region, unless otherwise indicated)

						Reason deletion requests were rejected ^{5/6/}				
Reports by group ^{2/}	Number of deletion requests ^{3/}	Approved	<i>Of which</i> : Partially rejected ^{4/}	Rejected	Rejected, but subsequently approved by management	Information is already in the public domain	Information is sufficiently general not to trigger market disruption in near term	Inclusion of information in Staff report does not impede ability to implement new policy	Other	
All Article IV, UFR and combined reports	66	70	27	30	0	8	12	3	8	
Advanced markets	14	64	14	36	0	14	14	0	7	
EU	12	75	17	25	0	0	17	0	8	
Other Europe	1	0	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	
ROW	1	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	
Emerging markets	50	72	30	28	0	6	10	4	8	
Developing countries	2	50	50	50	0	0	50	0	0	
Emerging market and developing countries										
Africa	1	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Asia	3	67	67	33	0	0	0	0	33	
Central and Eastern Europe	4	50	25	50	0	50	0	0	0	
CIS and Mongolia	6	67	50	33	0	0	0	0	33	
Middle East	22	82	23	18	0	0	9	9	0	
Western Hemisphere	16	63	25	38	0	6	25	0	6	
Countries with fixed or crawling pegs or bands	36	69	31	31	0	6	17	6	3	

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Countries with other exchange rate regimes

^{1/} Figures refer to deletions made to staff reports for Article IV consultations and use of Fund resources that went before the Board from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

^{2/} Based on World Economic Outlook definitions. Also includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members.

^{3/} This aggregate includes deletion requests received by country desks and reviewed by SPR; it does not include requests received and rejected by country teams that were not forwarded to SPR for review. Each deletion is counted separately, implying that there may be multiple deletion requests for each document.

^{4/} Partially rejected deletions include items where only part of the requested deletion was accepted or where the deletion was reformulated and then accepted.

^{5/} Deletions may be made on the basis of market sensitivity when the material is not already in the public domain, is market-relevant within the near term, and is sufficiently specific to create a clear risk of triggering a disruptive market reaction if disclosed.

^{6/} Deletions may be made on the basis of premature disclosure of policy intentions where material is not already in the public domain, the information consists of operational details of a policy the authorities intend to implement, and premature disclosure of the operational details would, in itself, seriously undermine the ability of the authorities to implement it.

(Percent of all published reports, unless otherwise indicated)

			2014				2015		2016			
Reports by group ^{3/}	Number published	With corrections	With corrections for evident ambiguity		Number published	With corrections	With corrections for evident ambiguity	With corrections for mischaracteriz- ation	Number published	With corrections	With corrections for evident ambiguity	With corrections for mischaracteriz- ation
All Article IV and UFR reports	180	74	39	23	176	76	45	18	179	78	53	18
Advanced markets	39	92	79	33	30	97	80	57	34	94	82	35
EU	26	85	73	27	18	83	89	67	22	91	77	32
Other Europe	3	100	67	67	4	100	50	25	4	100	75	50
ROW	10	100	90	40	7	100	71	57	7	100	100	29
Emerging markets	80	94	41	31	76	96	62	16	84	100	67	19
Developing countries	61	38	11	5	70	46	11	4	61	39	18	7
Emerging market and developing countries	141	70	28	20	147	72	38	10	145	74	46	14
Africa	45	44	18	9	49	57	12	4	44	57	25	5
Asia	24	58	25	29	26	69	42	8	27	70	52	19
Central and Eastern Europe	13	92	54	23	16	88	50	0	17	100	59	18
CIS and Mongolia	12	75	33	17	10	100	60	20	9	100	44	11
Middle East	19	89	21	32	18	83	50	22	12	92	67	25
Western Hemisphere	28	96	43	21	28	89	57	18	36	81	61	19

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^{1/} Refers to documents considered by the IMF Executive Board during the calendar year, and published within six months of the end of the calendar year; e.g. the publication rate for 2016 refers to the documents discussed by the Board in 2016 and published by June 30, 2017.

^{2/} Because a single report can have corrections falling into multiple categories, e.g., exchange rate, financial sector and/or other areas, there is no fixed relationship between the second column and the third and fourth column under each year.

^{3/} Based on World Economic Outlook definitions. Also includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members.

Table 5b. Corrections in 2016 ^{1/2/}
(Percent of all corrections requested by income group and region, unless otherwise indicated)

						Reason correction requests were rejected					
Reports by group ^{3/}	Number of correction requests 4/	Approved	<i>Of which:</i> Partially rejected ^{5/}	Rejected	Rejected, but subsequently approved by Management	Alters staff assessment	Attempts to improve presentation	Extends argument/ Introduces new information	Does not meet post- Board criteria ^{6/}	Other	
All Article IV, UFR or combined reports	1,557	92	11	8	0	1	3	3	0	0	
Advanced markets	538	94	10	6	0	0	2	4	0	0	
EU	288	93	12	7	0	0	3	4	0	0	
Other Europe	36	97	14	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	
ROW	199	93	8	7	0	0	2	5	0	0	
Emerging markets	917	91	12	9	0	1	4	3	1	0	
Developing countries	102	92	10	8	0	0	4	3	0	1	
Emerging market and developing countries											
Africa	141	90	11	10	0	0	5	3	2	0	
Asia	228	92	10	8	0	0	4	4	0	0	
Central and Eastern Europe	173	96	10	4	0	1	2	1	0	0	
CIS and Mongolia	59	90	12	10	0	2	5	2	0	2	
Middle East	104	90	13	10	0	3	1	3	0	3	
Western Hemisphere	329	89	13	11	0	1	5	4	0	0	
Countries with fixed or crawling pegs or bands	537	88	17	12	0	1	5	4	0	1	
Countries with other exchange rate regimes	753	92	11	8	0	0	3	4	0	0	

^{1/} Figures refer to corrections made to staff reports for Article IV consultations and use of Fund resources that went before the Board from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

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^{2/} Certain corrections are subject to Staff review as per the Transparency Policy (http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2009/102609.pdf) and the 2013 Transparency Policy Review

⁽http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2013/051413.pdf). As per the policy, corrections to staff reports cannot be used to improve the presentation, extend staff's or the authorities arguments, alter staff's assessment, or introduce any new information.

^{3/} Based on World Economic Outlook definitions. Also includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members.

^{4/} This aggregate includes correction requests received by country desks and reviewed by SPR; it does not include requests received and rejected by country teams that were not forwarded to SPR for review. Each correction is counted separately, implying that there may be multiple correction requests for each document.

^{5/} Partially rejected corrections include items where the requested correction was reclassified or reformulated and then accepted.

^{6/} Corrections may only be made after the Board date if the correction is brought to the attention of the Board before the conclusion of the Board's consideration of the document, or the failure to make the correction would undermine the overall value of the publication.

Table 6. Members that Published All Article IV/UFR Staff Reports in 2016 1/2/3/4/

Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Guinea Guinea-Bissau Albania Guyana Algeria Argentina Haiti Armenia Honduras Austria Hong Kong SAR Azerbaiian Hungary Bahamas, The Iceland Bangladesh India Barbados Indonesia

Belarus Iraq Belgium Ireland Belize Italy Bhutan Jamaica Bolivia Japan Bosnia and Herzegovina Jordan Botswana Kenya Kiribati Bulgaria Korea

Cambodia Kyrgyz Republic Canada Latvia Cabo Verde Lebanon CEMAC Lesotho Central African Republic Liberia Chad Lithuania Chile Luxembourg China Macedonia, FYR

Kosovo

Burkina Faso

Ethionia

Colombia Madagascar Comoros Malawi Costa Rica Malaysia Côte d'Ivoire Maldives Croatia Mali Cyprus Malta

Czech Republic Marshall Islands Denmark Mauritania Dominica Mauritius Dominican Republic Mexico **ECCU** Moldova Egypt Montenegro El Salvador Morocco Equatorial Guinea Namibia

Euro Area Netherlands - Curação

Fiji New Zealand Finland Nicaragua France Niger Gabon Nigeria Germany Norway Ghana Pakistan Grenada Palau Guatemala Panama

Papua New Guinea Paraguay Philippines Poland Portugal Romania Russia St. Kitts and Nevis

St. Lucia

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

San Marino São Tomé Príncipe Saudi Arabia Senegal Serbia Sierra Leone Singapore Slovak Republic Slovenia Solomon Islands South Africa Sri Lanka Sudan Sweden Switzerland Tanzania Thailand Timor-Leste

Tonga Trinidad And Tobago

Tunisia Turkev Tuvalu Ukraine

United Arab Emirates United Kingdom United States Uruguay Vanuatu Vietnam WAEMU 7imhahwe

1/ Includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent

2/ The members listed in this table had published all their Article IV and/or all their UFR staff reports considered by the Board in 2016, by

3/ Member countries who published some of their Article IV/UFR staff reports in 2016 are Ecuador and Suriname.

Netherlands

4/ This list does not reflect the 43 members and members' territories that did not have an Article IV or UFR document considered by the Board in 2016: Angola, Aruba, Australia, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo (Democratic Republic of) Congo (Republic of), Djibouti, Eritrea, Estonia, Gambia, Greece, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Macao SAR, Micronesia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zambia.

Table 7(a) Members Not Publishing Article IV Reports in 2016 1/2

Antigua and Barbuda

Bahrain

Brunei Darussalam

Ecuador

Georgia

Oman

Suriname

1/ These member countries had Article IV documents considered by the Board in 2016 (including for discussions with currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members), but had not published these documents by June 30,

2/ All these countries published Press Releases except Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Georgia, and Oman.

Table 7(b) Members Not Publishing All UFR Staff Reports in 2016^{1/}

None

1/ These member countries had UFR staff reports considered by the Board in 2016, but had not published all of these documents by June 30, 2017.

	Table 8. Longest an	d Shorte	est Publication	on Lags for 2016 1/2/3/				
9	Shortest Publication Lag		Longest Publication Lag					
Board Date	rd Date Country ^{3/}		Board Date	Country ^{3/}	Days			
1/13/2016	Poland	0	2/19/2016	Dominican Republic	265			
5/27/2016	Mexico	0	12/14/2016	Kyrgyz Republic	170			
7/11/2016	France	1	5/23/2016	Panama	163			
7/27/2016	Ireland	1	7/13/2016	ECCU	104			
11/9/2016	Argentina	1	7/18/2016	Saudi Arabia	87			
2/10/2016	Austria	2	11/18/2016	Haiti	80			
3/21/2016	Solomon Islands	2	8/29/2016	Equatorial Guinea	79			
5/2/2016	Zimbabwe	2	11/11/2016	Egypt	68			
5/9/2016	Romania	2	7/8/2016	Ecuador	63			
5/16/2016	Algeria	2	11/29/2016	Papua New Guinea	62			
6/13/2016	Colombia	2	5/9/2016	Guyana	59			
6/20/2016	Iceland	2	5/11/2016	Timor Leste	44			
7/6/2016	Euro Area	2	12/12/2016	Lebanon	43			
8/31/2016	Serbia	2	7/13/2016	CEMAC	42			
9/7/2016	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	5/20/2016	Trinidad and Tobago	40			
9/7/2016	Kiribati	2	9/9/2016	Palau	40			
11/7/2016	Moldova	2	9/21/2016	Belize	36			
12/7/2016	Chile	2	12/1/2016	Senegal	34			
1/11/2016	Slovak Republic	3	6/17/2016	Vietnam	31			
2/5/2016	New Zealand	3	10/28/2016	Guinea	31			
2/8/2016	Netherlands	3	2/19/2016	Gabon	28			
6/15/2016	United Kingdom	3	3/25/2016	Turkey	28			
7/25/2016	Marshall Islands	3	7/29/2016	Korea	28			
9/16/2016	Jamaica	3	9/7/2016	Sudan	27			
11/14/2016	Sweden	3	10/26/2016	Honduras	27			
5/6/2016	San Marino	4	3/16/2016	Botswana	26			
6/17/2016	Jamaica	4	7/22/2016	Chad	26			
6/20/2016	Malawi	4	7/27/2016	Netherlands - Curaçao	26			
7/8/2016	United States	4	12/2/2016	Guinea-Bissau	26			
7/25/2016	Singapore	4	6/20/2016	Peru	25			

^{1/} Publication refers to Article IV and UFR documents considered by the Board in 2016, and published by June 30, 2017.

^{2/} Publication lags refer to calendar days between the Board date and the publication date.

^{3/} Includes discussions held with members' territories and currency unions in the context of Article IV consultations with their constituent members.

Table 9 Members Requesting Explicit Consent Prior to Publication^{1/}

Bahrain

Brazil

Bulgaria

Cabo Verde

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

Egypt

Guyana

Haiti

Iraq

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Maldives

Nicaragua

Oman

Panama

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

Suriname

Syria

Timor-Leste

Trinidad and Tobago

Turkmenistan

United Arab Emirates

Uzbekistan

Yemen

1/ Under the Fund's Transparency Policy, a member country's consent to publish is typically obtained on a "non-objection" basis. However, a member may "opt out" of the "non-objection" system, in which case the member's explicit consent is required prior to publication of its country and related policy intention documents. See: http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2014/040714.pdf.