

**OPENING REMARKS BY JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT OF ICGFM  
AT THE 2018 DC TRAINING CONFERENCE MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 3, 2018**

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management, honored guests:

Good Morning, Bonjour, Buenos Dias. My name is Jim Wright. As President of ICGFM, I have the distinct privilege of welcoming you to Washington, DC, for the 2018 Winter Training Conference.

The ICGFM Board of Directors, the Officers and I are honored to see so many influential thought leaders and innovators of our field have chosen to join us this week.

For the next three days we will learn, share and debate the most innovative and exciting new developments and trends in Public Financial Management. We will build new, lasting relationships with our peers in the global PFM community. We will share and learn new best practices, lessons learned and for the role of technology in improving

PFM. And we will take the knowledge we gain back to our home countries to empower our governments and better serve our citizens. The strength of this conference can be seen in this room. The number of attendees and represented countries grows every year. The quality of our programs and speakers continues to improve and we continue to receive outstanding feedback on the value that our members receive through participation in ICGFM events.

Everyone in this room knows the pivotal role our professional community plays in the spread and strengthening of democracy around the globe. We all know that many of the dynamic and positive changes we are seeing in our world every day would not be possible without the solid foundation PFM provides.

This year, the theme of our winter conference – PFM in a Changing World – reflects the pivotal role PFM can play in strengthening democratic institutions and increasing economic opportunity. The role of PFM in ensuring accountability, transparency and trust in

Government around the collection, management and allocation of public resources has never been more important and remains a cornerstone of good governance.

It's truly an exciting time to be a member of the global PFM community that is represented so well by all of you in this hall today. Doors that were once closed are now open. Knowledge is being exchanged and best practices shared in a way that was not possible until recently. This is the technological revolution that is affecting every aspect of our world, bringing accountability and transparency to everything we do.

While we operate in a political world, the principles of accountability and transparency empower us to make decisions based less on politics and more on data and results. This is how the principles of open government and open data are helping to transform our world.

Processes that were once shrouded in secrecy are now open and accountable; data that was once siloed in one department or another is now being shared across organizations to produce better outcomes.

This is the positive force of change everyone in this room is enabling.

Public Financial Management is not just about moving money around - it's about empowering society to do great things.

In the coming days, we will hear from many global leaders who will share their knowledge and experience in the hopes of helping all of you create lasting change in your own countries. And I have every confidence that you will each find this year's conference program and presentations to be rich, impactful and timely.

Before I conclude, I'd like to take a minute to recognize the support the ICGFM receives from a few key individuals and, of course, our sponsors.

First, I would like to thank the ICGFM Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Each Board Member and Executive Committee Member volunteers their time and knowledge to making this organization great. Our Executive Committee members and many of our Board members are all here today. Please stand and be recognized. Thanks to each of you.

I'd also like to thank our amazing sponsors for helping make this event possible. First and foremost, our hosts, the Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF. I'd especially like to thank Vitor Gaspar for supporting ICGFM and for availing such a wonderful venue for this year's conference.

Thanks so much for your support and hospitality.

Next, we have our gold level sponsor Oracle. This year we have two Silver sponsors: Chemonics and KPMG. Thank you so much for your support. Finally, we have our supporting organizations, Devex, Graduate School USA, JS Morlu, Nathan Associates and Swale House Partners. Thanks to each of you for your ongoing support.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to once again welcome you to the 2018 Winter Training Conference, and wish you great success and a fruitful several days of learning amongst this truly unique community of individuals in the days to come. I hope you enjoy Washington and the

conference, and I look forward to the opportunity to chat with each of you in the coming days. Enjoy the conference!