



**VIDEOCONFERENCE:
LAC DEBT GROUP
STATISTICS**

February 13, 2009

AGENDA

- INTRODUCTION
- PROJECT DESCRIPTION
- QUESTIONNAIRE
- QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
- NEXT STEPS

INTRODUCTION

- Importance of Debt Statistics:
 - Country: Debtors need to know their current and future liabilities to schedule debt payments, comply with government financial needs and liquidity requirements.
 - Regional / International: An homogeneous definition of debt allows comparisons of debt indicators among countries and regions.
 - Investors: Analyze sovereign debt to make their investment decisions. Transparency in market operations.
 - Credit Rating Agencies: Determine the probability of default of countries.

INTRODUCTION

- Domestic Debt:
 - Popular datasets focus on external debt only
 - Domestic debt data are more difficult to collect
 - External debt tends to be of medium term with relatively homogeneous composition among countries.
 - Domestic debt compositions are heterogeneous, and hence more interesting to analyze.
- Database:
 - The Research Department of the IDB has published in the past a database on public debt in Latin America for the 1993-2005 period, called CLYPS¹
 - Recently, the database was updated until 2006.²

1. http://www.iadb.org/res/pub_desc.cfm?language=English&ID_SEC=3&PUB_ID=dba%2D007

2. To be published soon on the IDB Research Department website: <http://www.iadb.org/res/>



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Objective: design and elaborate a statistics report on public debt with the latest information available, to allow collection and comparison of public debt data in the region.
 - Identify the group of variables to be included in the questionnaire. The questionnaire will be filled in by countries and will be used as input for the final report.
 - New debt data will be linked with historical data included in the CLYPS database (since 1993).
 - In the future, countries will continue reporting the questionnaire to update the database.
- Main Issues:
 - Database should be effective, meaning that it should add value.
 - Avoid duplicating what other institutions (e.g. IFM) are already doing and enhance current methodologies
 - Indicators should be relevant for sovereign debt analysis
 - Quality is preferred over quantity
 - Minimize the cost associated with the creation of such database and guarantee its sustainability



QUESTIONNAIRE





Inter-American Development Bank / www.iadb.org