

Foreword

The management of domestic debt is becoming a major policy issue in many Commonwealth countries. As part of its advisory services in debt and development resource management, the Economic and Legal Advisory Services Division (ELAS) of the Commonwealth Secretariat has held three workshops on Effective Domestic Debt Management: in June 1996 for the Caribbean region, in December 1996 for countries from the Asia–Pacific region, and in March 1998 for African countries. Their object was to help developing Commonwealth countries to manage their domestic debt more effectively by discussing the issues involved and learning from each others' experience.

This report is a compendium of the discussions and papers read at these workshops. The first two parts review the issues involved in domestic debt management for countries whose financial markets are not fully developed. The third part is a checklist of measures that the delegates agreed should be taken to improve domestic debt management in their countries. While acknowledging that a sound analytical framework must be the basis for any thorough discussion of domestic debt management, we have generally tried to avoid a too theoretical approach. The emphasis is on practical issues.

This compendium is prepared to influence both thought and action at a time when the future conduct of domestic debt management operations in many developing countries is in a state of change. We hope that the policy makers in the central banks, and ministries of finance will find this compendium useful. We would welcome any comments on this publication.

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