



NOTICE OF AWARD
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Recognising Excellence, Progress and Leadership in PFM across Africa

Across Africa, governments continue to advance reforms that strengthen fiscal governance, safeguard public resources, modernise financial systems, improve transparency and reinforce accountability. In recognition of this progress, the African Association of Accountants General (AAAG) hereby announces the 2026 AAAG Accountability Index Award, a flagship continental initiative that will independently assess and recognise excellence, progress, innovation and good practice in Public Financial Management (PFM) across AAAG Member Countries.

The Award will provide an objective, evidence-based platform for identifying strong performance and reform progress, showcasing practices that are delivering results, and strengthening peer learning across the continent. The landmark recognition will be presented at the 4th AAAG PFM Convention, from 30 November to 4 December 2026, at the Ezulwini Palazzo International Convention Centre (ICC), Kingdom of Eswatini.

Why the Accountability Index Award?

The Accountability Index Award is intended not merely to compare country performance, but to advance a continental culture of PFM excellence, continuous improvement and stronger institutional accountability. It will recognise reforms that deliver measurable results, highlight sustained improvements in PFM systems and generate practical lessons that can inform reform across Member Countries. The Award will therefore celebrate countries demonstrating strong performance, credible reform progress and compelling examples of accountable, effective and resilient public financial management.

What will be assessed?

All AAAG Member Countries will be assessed against the AAAG Accountability Index Framework. For recognition purposes, its 12 technical pillars are consolidated into seven thematic Award categories:

1. PFM Governance and Fiscal Leadership Award
2. Revenue and Treasury Management Excellence Award
3. Public Assets, Debt and Fiscal Sustainability Award
4. Public Procurement and Contract Management Excellence Award
5. Financial Accounting and Reporting Excellence Award
6. PFM Assurance, Control and Public Accountability Excellence Award
7. Digital PFM Transformation and Innovation Award

Together, these seven categories cover the full PFM cycle while giving distinct recognition to financial accounting and reporting, and to the broader assurance and accountability environment encompassing internal control, risk management, internal assurance, external assurance, fiscal transparency and legislative oversight.

In addition, AAAG will confer the Overall Premier Recognition Award – “AAAG PFM Excellence Award: Overall Best Performing Member Country” to the country achieving the strongest overall performance across the complete Accountability Index.

How will countries be assessed?

The assessment will be independent, evidence-based and transparent, undertaken by a team of independent researchers and assessors through a desk-based review of all AAAG Member Countries. The assessment will draw on credible and verifiable public information, including PEFA assessments, the International Budget Partnership, and official sources published by Ministries of Finance, National Treasuries, Offices of Accountants General, Supreme Audit Institutions and other relevant public institutions.

The researchers will triangulate available evidence across sources and apply the detailed criteria in the AAAG Accountability Index Framework. Each indicator will be assigned an A-D rating and corresponding numeric score: A = 4 (Advanced), B = 3 (Strong), C = 2 (Emerging), and D = 1 (Weak). Pillar and overall country scores will be calculated in accordance with the Accountability Index Scoring Guide.

The process will include independent assessment, lead review, calibration and quality assurance, factual validation and final approval. Ratings will be determined by the evidence available and the prescribed Framework criteria, thereby protecting the credibility, comparability and integrity of the Award.

Submission of Additional Non-Public Evidence

AAAG recognises that significant evidence of PFM reform, institutional performance and innovation may not yet be publicly available or readily accessible to the independent research team. Member Countries are therefore invited to submit concise, verifiable evidence of significant reforms, results and good practices relevant to any of the seven Award categories.

Submissions should demonstrate implementation and measurable results rather than reform intentions alone and, where possible, be supported by official reports, approved policies or strategies, system-generated information, performance data, audit or oversight evidence, or other authoritative documentation capable of independent verification.

Submission of supplementary evidence is **not an entry requirement and does not constitute self-nomination**. AAAG will assess all Member Countries independently. Any additional evidence submitted will complement the publicly available evidence base and will be subject to the same verification, relevance and scoring requirements prescribed by the AAAG Accountability Index Framework and Scoring Guide.

What evidence will carry the greatest weight?

The assessment will prioritise evidence that PFM reforms have moved beyond policy commitments to demonstrable implementation and results, including stronger institutions, improved controls, better financial information, greater fiscal transparency, more effective stewardship of public resources and more resilient PFM systems. Particular recognition will be given to reforms that show measurable progress, sustainability, innovation, strengthened accountability and practical solutions with lessons for other AAAG Member Countries.

All findings and ratings will be determined strictly against the evidence and scoring criteria set out in the AAAG Accountability Index Framework and Scoring Guide.

Recognition at the 2026 PFM Convention

High-performing and exemplary Member Countries will be recognised during the 2026 AAAG PFM Convention in Eswatini, providing a premier continental platform to celebrate PFM leadership, reform progress and practices that demonstrate what effective public financial management looks like in action.

What is required from Member Countries?

No formal entry or application is required. All AAAG Member Countries will be independently assessed, primarily using publicly available evidence. Where relevant information under the seven Award categories is not publicly accessible, Member Countries are encouraged to submit supplementary evidence through the designated submission channel. As the Index assesses the country-level PFM system, supporting evidence may be drawn from Ministries of Finance, National Treasuries, Offices of Accountants General, Supreme Audit Institutions, procurement authorities, Parliaments and other relevant public institutions.

A Continental Recognition of PFM Progress

Africa's PFM reform story should be told not only through the challenges that remain, but through the institutions that are improving, reforms that are delivering measurable results and innovations that are transforming how governments mobilise, manage, account for and safeguard public resources.

Through the 2026 AAAG Accountability Index Award, AAAG will independently identify and celebrate these achievements, creating a credible continental benchmark for excellence and a platform through which Member Countries can learn from progress demonstrated across Africa.

Recognising progress. Celebrating excellence. Sharing what works. Advancing Africa's PFM future.

Together, the Accountability Index and its Awards will strengthen the visibility of successful reforms, encourage continuous improvement and raise the standard of public financial accountability across the continent.

Deadline for submission of supplementary non-public evidence: 25 September 2026 | Submission channel: events@aaag.africa



