

## Foreword by the World Bank

It is a pleasure and a privilege for the World Bank to have been a partner to the Brazilian National Treasury in the development and launching of this book. It is a good example of the ongoing broad collaboration between the World Bank and the Brazilian government.

Public debt, debt management and the development of markets for government securities are core topics for development worldwide. The World Bank has been a partner to many countries both by providing international knowledge as well as by learning from their experiences. Since the late 1990s, with the Asian crisis and the turmoil that affected several emerging countries, it has become even clearer the relevance of good public debt management to support the implementation of efficient public policies and safeguard the quality of a country's credit. Likewise, increasing attention has been given to the importance of developing markets for domestic public securities as a way to reduce the economy's vulnerability to exogenous shocks, establish benchmarks for private sector issuances, and strengthen the financial system stability. These factors are all essential ingredients to ensure sustainable growth, support the productive sector and fight poverty.

In view of the relevance of these themes, the World Bank has sought to gather the best knowledge and analysis to formulate solid conceptual principles, encourage scientific production and, most importantly, provide technical assistance to support government reform programs in the areas of public debt management and market development. Therefore, one of the Bank's key roles is the continuous dissemination of good international practices and experiences about these themes and the assistance to countries that wish to improve their debt management practices. This book embodies this intention.

The partnership with the Brazilian National Treasury is a foremost example of the World Bank's contribution to support such national programs, especially in an already advanced and sophisticated setting such as Brazil. The Bank has followed closely the professionalization process of public debt management in Brazil - including a technical assistance loan - especially in the areas of risk management, governance, optimization of procedure flows among the departments responsible for managing the debt and, more recently, the development of a debt management integrated technological information system. In addition to their relevance in the Brazilian context, the experiences and lessons described in this book will certainly be examples of good practices to other countries facing challenges similar to those experienced by Brazil.

As it will become clear to the reader, the work of the Brazilian National Treasury yielded some very important economic dividends, and contributed to the country's advantaged international profile. The World Bank is proud of its support not only to the ongoing public management improvements in Brazil - including that of sub-national entities - but also the development of the country's capital markets, both of which are fundamental for the country's growth and development in the long run.

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