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OSCAR ALTIMIR
Director of the Review

EUGENIO LAHERA
Technical Secretary



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Notes and explanation of symbols
The following symbols are used in tables in the Review:

(...)	Three dots indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.
(—)	A dash indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.
	A blank space in a table means that the item in question is not applicable.
(-)	A minus sign indicates a deficit or decrease, unless otherwise specified.
(.)	A point is used to indicate decimals.
(/)	A slash indicates a crop year or fiscal year, e.g., 1970/1971.
(-)	Use of a hyphen between years, e.g., 1971-1973, indicates reference to the complete number of calendar years involved, including the beginning and end years.

References to “tons” mean metric tons, and to “dollars”, United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.
Unless otherwise stated, references to annual rates of growth or variation signify compound annual rates.
Individual figures and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to the corresponding totals, because of rounding.

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The editorial board of the Review are always interested in encouraging the publication of articles which analyse the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean. With this in mind, and in order to facilitate the presentation, consideration and publication of papers, they have prepared the following information and suggestions to serve as a guide to future contributors.

—The submission of an article assumes an undertaking by the author not to submit it simultaneously to other periodical publications.

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—All contributions should be accompanied by a note clearly indicating the title of the paper, the name of the author, the institution he belongs to, his nationality, his fax and telephone numbers, and his e-mail address.

—**Footnotes should be kept to the minimum**, as should the number of tables and figures, which should not duplicate information given in the text.

—Special attention should be paid to the bibliography, which should not be excessively long. All the necessary information must be correctly stated in each case (name of the author or authors, complete title (including any subtitle), publisher, city, month and year of publication and, in the case of a series, the title and corresponding volume number or part, etc.).

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—Authors will receive a one-year courtesy subscription to the *Review*, plus 30 offprints of their article, both in Spanish and in English, at the time of publication in each language.

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A U G U S T 2 0 0 0

The role of the State *and the quality* of the public sector

Vito Tanzi

Director,
Fiscal Affairs Department,
International Monetary Fund
vtanzi@imf.org

The author of this article concludes that the quality of the public sector can be assessed only against the role of the State. In general, an efficient public sector should be able to achieve the State's objectives with the minimum degree of distortion of the market, with the lowest burden of taxation on taxpayers, with the smallest number of public employees, and with the lowest absorption of economic resources by the public sector. The public sector must be transparent in its processes and in its outcome. Corruption should have no part in the decisions made by bureaucrats and political leaders, and the resources in the hands of the public sector should be put to a use that maximizes their social rate of return. The quality of the public sector is also important for pursuing the objective of equity, which is now seen as one of the fundamental goals of the State. A high-quality public

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