

## **Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Leadership Group meeting, February 26th, 2012.**

TCOP leadership group held a meeting on February 26th, in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The meeting was attended by: Anila Cili (Ministry of Finance, Albania), Vugar Abdulayev (Ministry of Finance, Azerbaijan), David Tsekvava (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Nargiz Djumaeva (Ministry of Finance, Kyrgyzstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Ismatullo Khakimov (Ministry of Finance, Tajikistan), Rustam Boboev (Ministry of Finance, Tajikistan), Natalia Sushko (State Treasury, Ukraine), Elena Nikulina (WB TTL), Deanna Smith (World Bank), Ion Chicu (TCOP resource person).

Objectives of the meeting:

1. **Tbilisi workshop preparation.** Defining the list of questions to be discussed during small group sessions
2. **Discussions on the PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report.** Discussions on the implementation of the recommendations made in the Evaluation Report.
3. **Discussions on the TCOP activity plans for 2012-2014**
4. **Discussions on the next TCOP workshop preparation**

### **1. Tbilisi workshop preparation**

The main objective of discussions was to define the list of questions for small group discussions session<sup>1</sup>, planned for the second day of the workshop. Taking into account the limited timeframe for the workshop small group sessions, it was decided to select **3 questions** for the second<sup>2</sup> discussion session:

- Advantages and challenges of channeling donor funding through the national treasury system
- Difficulties faced by countries in satisfying the donor fiduciary requirements
- Technical issues associated with operations in different currencies, and possible solutions

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<sup>1</sup> An extended list of questions has been preliminarily developed by LG members

<sup>2</sup> The first session was devoted in the workshop agenda for discussions on the hosting country experience in implementing PFM reforms

Also, TCOP leaders have decided to split workshop participants in three small group discussion sessions.

## **2. Discussions on the PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report**

At the beginning of discussions, **Angela Voronin** informed TCOP leaders about decisions taken by **PEMPAL Steering Committee**, at the meeting held on February 15-16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. TCoP leaders were informed about the discussions on PEMPAL Strategy for 2012-2017 and budgetary issues, as well as about the main conclusions and recommendations of PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report.

In order to familiarize TCOP leaders with the draft PEMPAL 2012-2017 Strategy, **Deanna Smith** made a presentation devoted to this topic.

The meeting participants shared their opinions on the results and recommendations of PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report. Also, a number of proposals for the implementation of the Report recommendations have been put forward by TCoP leadership. These proposals cover three main groups of recommendations:

### *i. PEMPAL CoP strategic vision*

Following the discussions on PEMPAL Strategy and 2011 Evaluation Report, the meeting participants have proposed to develop **TCoP own Strategy document** for 2012-2017 period. This document will be based on the PEMPAL Strategy and the main conclusions and recommendations of PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report. TCoP Strategy document will be developed by a working group composed of TCoP leaders and coordinated by Rustam Boboev. Ion Chicu will provide the required assistance to the working group. It was decided to discuss the first draft of the Strategy at the next meeting of TCoP Leadership Group planned for June 2012 in Moscow.

### *ii. Issues related to CoP membership and network strengthening*

The meeting participants have highly appreciated the value of the recommendations related to this specific issue, made in the PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report. At the same time, TCoP leaders have reconfirmed their separate opinion regarding the recommendation on categorization of community's members in different "colored" groups. They do not support this kind of grouping and do not plan to implement this recommendation into practice.

With regard to the TCoP membership and events attendance, the Leadership Group will apply the same approach as earlier, inviting the specialists linked with the topic of the event, not necessary only treasury staff. In this context, employment at the nationally treasury office is not an obligatory condition for TCoP membership.

From the PEMPAL budget the participation at the plenary events of **two representatives** from each member country will be covered. Member countries represented in TCoP Leadership

Group will have the possibility to delegate an additional participant to the events, at the PEMPAL program expense, subject to availability of the member of the Leadership Group to attend the respective event. Countries presenting their experience on the discussed topic will also have a possibility to delegate an additional participant. Member countries will have the possibility to send additional participants to the TCoP events at their expense, subject to the confirmation of availability of spaces by the organizers.

In order to strengthen TCoP network and membership, the use of new web communication tools, including community's wiki page, has been proposed by the meeting participants.

*iii. CoP Executive Committee activity. Principles of EC membership and activity coordination*

The following main aspects have been mentioned by meeting participants with regard to these issues:

- TCoP Leadership Group work and the activity of TCoP chair - Anila Cili, were considered as successful by meeting participants, taking into account the whole treasury community's performances;
- The suggested **criteria** for TCoP Leadership Group membership include:
  1. TCoP members **active involvement** in events preparation and implementation;
  2. Their **willingness** and **ability** to work in TCoP Leadership Group;
  3. **An appropriate status (level of responsibility)** within the national treasury or ministry of finance;
  4. Capacity to generate "**added value**" for TCoP Leadership Group;
  5. Sufficient level of **IT tools knowledge**, particularly in using TCOPempal wiki page;
  6. **Availability to attend** most of TCoP events.
- **Existing TCoP leaders** fit these eligibility criteria, and meeting participants have decided to maintain their membership in TCoP Leadership group;
- The suggested **criteria** for TCoP Leadership Group Chair include:
  1. Experience and abilities to organize group's activity;
  2. Experience in PEMPAL activity and sufficient time of **membership in the Leadership Group**;
  3. **Availability to attend** all TCoP plenary meetings and most of LG events;
  4. Abilities to represent TCoP in the PEMPAL steering bodies, **English language** speaking and writing skills.
- Taking into account Leadership Group Chair's tight agenda, he/she can delegate other group members to **substitute for** her/him, based on a preliminary agreement;
- TCoP Leadership Group Chair is elected by secret voting, once in three years.

### **3. Discussions on the TCOP activity plans for 2012-2014**

The meeting participants have discussed TCoP Activity Plan for 2012-2014 and suggested the following amendments:

- To revise the Plan using the **new budgetary parameters** for PEMPAL events, approved by Steering Committee in February 2012;
- To **reschedule for June 2012**, the Moscow workshop initially planned for July 2012;
- To replace the November small format workshop with a plenary meeting devoted to public sector accounting and reporting topic.
- To add room for additional study visits in 2012-2013

### **4. Discussions on the next TCOP workshop preparation**

Taking into account some budgetary aspects, as well as the hosting country proposal, the next TCoP plenary meeting will be held in Moscow, during the **last week of June, 2012<sup>3</sup>**.

The final topic and agenda of the workshop will be defined together with the hosting country representatives and proposed for TCoP Leadership Group approval, **by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

Next face-to-face meeting of TCOP Leadership Group will be held in Moscow on **June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

### **Main conclusions of the TCOP Leadership Group meeting:**

- Three questions were proposed for discussions for the second session of small group discussions in Tbilisi.
- The meeting participants have highly appreciated the value of the recommendations related to this specific issue, made in the PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report. At the same time, TCoP leaders do not agree on the recommendation to categorize community's members.
- A decision to develop TCoP Strategy has been taken during the meeting. The first draft of the Strategy will be discussed at the next Leadership Group meeting in Moscow.
- The meeting participants have discussed the principles of community's membership and events attending/invitation.

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<sup>3</sup> During the videoconference held on March 6th, attended by the representatives of Federal Treasury of Russia, the final dates of the workshop have been established – June 25-27th, 2012

- Suggestions on the criteria of Leadership Group membership and chairing have been made.
- The meeting participants approved the revised TCoP Activity Plan for 2012-2014.
- The next TCoP plenary meeting will be held on June 25-27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Moscow, Russian Federation. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, the next face-to-face meeting of the Leadership Group will be held.
- The final topic and agenda of the Moscow workshop will be defined together with the hosting country representatives and proposed for TCoP Leadership Group approval, **by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**
- Ion Chicu will prepare and circulate the minutes of the leadership group meeting, by March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012.