



MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, December 14, 2021, Videoconference

Participating SC Members:

1. Thomas Stauffer (SECO – Donor, Chair)
2. Daniel Boyce (WB – Donor)
3. Daria Kirillova (Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, Donor)
4. Vincent Bigot (EC Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development - Donor)
5. Arman Vatyan (WB - PEMPAL Team Leader)
6. Aynura Bakaybaeva (Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan- BCOP Chair)
7. Mladenka Karacic (Ministry of Finance of Croatia – BCOP Deputy Chair)
8. Tatjana Trajkovska (Ministry of finance of North Macedonia – IACOP Chair)
9. Petru Babuci (Ministry of Finance of Moldova – IACOP Deputy Chair)
10. Arman Bekturova (Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan – IACOP Deputy Chair)
11. Ludmila Guryanova (Ministry of Finance of Belarus – TCOP Chair)

Observers:

12. Elena Nikulina (WB – TCOP Resource Team Coordinator)
13. Iryna Shcherbyna (WB – BCOP Resource Team Coordinator)
14. Galina Kuznetsova (WB – PEMPAL Secretariat Team Coordinator and TCOP Resource Team member)
15. Naida Carsimamovic Vukotic (WB – PEMPAL Network-level Advisor and BCOP Resource Team Member)
16. Yelena Slizhevskaya (WB – TCOP Resource Team Member)
17. Lusine Grigoryan (WB – IACOP Resource Team Member)
18. Ksenia Malafeeva (WB – PEMPAL Secretariat)
19. Kristina Zaituna (WB – PEMPAL Secretariat)
20. Ekaterina Zaleeva (WB – Secretariat)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Thomas Stauffer welcomed participants. Minutes of the previous SC meeting, held on June 17, 2021, were endorsed.

2. Confirmation of the results of the Chair election for the next 12 months

Mr. Arman Vatyan reported that formal voting was conducted virtually and that the SC members unanimously reelected Mr. Stauffer to continue chairing the SC. Mr. Stauffer thanked the members and accepted the role.

3. Progress of implementation of the Activity Plan 2017-2025

Mr. Vatyan informed the SC on the implementation status of the actions agreed during the previous SC meeting, noting that two actions have been implemented, including the organization of this SC meeting and adjustment of the Strategy Activity Plan Implementation Progress template to reflect the new actions agreed within the MTR process. The action plan on planning the cross-COP leadership meeting is addressed in today's meeting under agenda item 7, while the process of amending the administrative agreements with donors to extend the closing date of the program is undergoing. Agreements with SECO and the EU have been amended, while the agreement with the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation is expected to be finalized shortly.

Mr. Vatyan also reported on the Strategy Activity Plan Implementation Progress (attached below in Annex), noting that 11 out of 17 actions have been implemented or are established ongoing activities. The 6 remaining actions include initiated or planned tasks: data collection on impact and membership contacts outside of formal events at end-Strategy in FY25; planned cross-COP leadership meeting and cross-COP network-wide meeting (discussed further under agenda item 7); planned balance between face to face and virtual events upon resuming of face to face meetings; and decision on potential continuation of the network operations after FY25 that will be made in FY23 along with a network fundraising strategy in case of a positive decision. Related to Action 10 (promoting the benefits of PEMPAL by COP representatives and the World Bank), Mr. Vatyan, Mr. Dan Boyce, and Mr. Stauffer reported the World Bank held a successful virtual event devoted to PEMPAL on December 13, 2021, chaired by Mr. Boyce and attended by Mr. Stauffer from SECO and the World Bank Resource Team, with attendance of high-level WB officials, representatives of the network modeled after PEMPAL (PEMNA), and some participants outside of the World Bank who are considering the potential formation of a similar network in other regions.

The SC noted the progress in implementation of the Strategy Activity Plan and actions agreed during the previous SC meeting.



4. Implementation Progress of the FY22 COP Action Plans and Approval of Changes

Summary notes of COPs' FY22 events and knowledge products were circulated to the SC for this meeting within the document on COP FY22 budget status (also attached below in Annex). COPs' proposed revised FY22 Action Plans were also circulated to SC members prior to this meeting and are attached in Annex of these minutes.

Ms. Aynura Bakaybaeva, BCOP Chair, reported that BCOP has organized and participated in [four events so far in FY22](#). One Executive Committee meeting was also held. BCOP is also currently developing three knowledge products on i) ways for Ministries of Finance to improve clarity and accessibility of budget documentation, ii) trends in spending reviews in PEMPAL countries benchmarked to trends in OECD countries, and iii) step-by-step analysis of one spending review in the Netherlands. BCOP has applied some innovative approaches, including inviting staff from PR/communications departments from Ministries of Finance of member countries to a BCOP event and examining advice on increasing transparency and improving budget literacy from the demand side presented by a globally renowned journalist and communications expert with specific PFM expertise. In addition, BCOP is for the first time developing a KP based on such deep-dive analysis of a specific practice from an advanced country. BCOP continued close partnership with the OECD and also contributed to an IACOP event on program and performance budgeting in this period. Ms. Bakaybaeva reported that BCOP's revised FY22 Action Plan has only been slightly adjusted for calendar sequencing, no changes to the overall budget and budget structure have been made.

Ms. Tatjana Trajkovska, IACOP Chair, reported that IACOP has organized and participated in [four events so far in FY22](#). One Executive Committee meeting was also held. IACOP is currently developing two knowledge products on i) internal audit advisory services and ii) impact of program and performance budgeting on the public internal controls. Moreover, IACOP is developing another digital tool – an internal audit and internal control monitoring tool, a platform to help CHUs to gather, analyze, and report on status of internal audit and internal controls on a country level. The platform is ready and will shortly be piloted with one PEMPAL country. There is a strong knowledge base used and several best practices incorporated, and the results exceed original expectations. The platform will be free of charge and will offer flexibility for different countries in terms of introducing indicators and benchmarks. Upon its completion, IACOP plans to present the platform during cross-COP event and outside of PEMPAL as well. Ms. Trajkovska reported that IACOP's revised FY22 Action Plan has retained the plan for a regional face-to-face meeting (if traveling restrictions permit) and included an additional USD 10,000 for adding a few more functionalities to the aforementioned platform.

Ms. Ludmila Guryanova, TCOP Chair, reported that TCOP has organized [two events so far in FY22](#). One Executive Committee meeting was also held. The event in which Korean experiences were examined was particularly innovative, as TCOP members had a chance to get familiar with the Korea Public Finance Information Service (KPFIS) operations and the history of dBrain information system and expected capabilities of its next generation. The event was attended by 54 TCOP participants from 11 PEMPAL countries. More than 30 observers from IACOP and the Hungarian State Treasury also joined this event. TCOP is currently developing three knowledge products on i) good practices in managing the treasury single account and cash management, based on the results of the member country survey conducted by the TCOP last year; ii) country cases on how treasury functions responded to crises environment, which will be a supplement to the TCOP KP on the optimization of the unified charts of accounts design that was developed last year; and iii) survey of TCOP member countries on treasury roles and functions. TCOP's knowledge products are increasingly focused on detailed deep-dive technical analyses. Ms. Guryanova reported that no changes to the overall budget and budget structure have been made in TCOP's revised FY22 Action Plan.

The SC took note of COPs' FY22 progress and approved revised COPs' FY22 Action Plans.

5. Update on PEMPAL Finances

Mr. Vatyan explained that the template for reporting on PEMPAL finance has been updated to reflect the amendments to the PEMPAL Strategy approved within the MTR process and to also include the data on both member and non-member in-kind contribution the reporting template. He reported on the status of received



donor funding, member and non-member contributions, and the final actual costs for FY21 and planned costs for FY22. Overall, the network’s expenditure is on track in line with the plan and the network is in very good standing on funding, without any financial risks for the remaining period of the Strategy.

6. Approval of the Annual Report

Mr. Vatan reminded that the draft Annual Report was circulated to the members and that their comments were collected. The revised draft with incorporated receive comments was circulated to the SC members prior to this meeting. It was decided that the SC members send any additional comments they may have on the revised draft to the Secretariat by December 17, 2021. The Secretariat will finalize the report and arrange the translation and distribution.

7. Planning for the Next Cross-COP Leadership Meeting

The next cross-COP meeting is currently planned to be held in June 2022 in Bern. However, given the ongoing uncertainties related to traveling restrictions due to the pandemic, this will be reconfirmed by mid-March 2021 and the exact date will be reconfirmed by then (indicatively June 14-16, 2022 was considered at the previous SC meeting). The hosts will provide the Secretariat with the information on vaccine acceptance protocol in Switzerland to share with cross-COP leadership meeting attendees. In case of continuing traveling restrictions, the meeting will take place in virtual format. The content of the meeting will include a discussion on MTR outcomes and updated Strategy, sharing of experiences among COPs, and planning of the whole-of-network cross-COP meeting currently expected in FY23.

6. Next SC Meeting

The next SC meeting will take place adjacent to the cross-COP leadership meeting in June 2021 if that meeting takes place in a face-to-face format. Otherwise, the next SC meeting will be scheduled in virtual format for late May or early June 2021, in which case the Secretariat will explore the availability of SC members in that period and schedule a date accordingly.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

	Action	Due Date	Responsible
1	Finalize, translate, and distribute the PEMPAL Annual Report	Early February 2022	Secretariat
2	The information on vaccine acceptance protocol in Switzerland to be provided by hosts (country entry requirements; requirements for inside meetings of 40+ people); information about vaccination status (types of vaccine) to be collected	End February 2022	Secretariat with inputs from hosts
3	Complete amendments of the administration agreements with donors	End-December 2021	WB, Russian MOF
4	Make the final decision (in virtual communication of the SC) on the format of the June 2022 cross-COP leadership meeting (depending on traveling restrictions) and form the Organizational Committee for the preparation of this meeting	Mid-March 2021	SC, Secretariat, WB
5	Confirm the format and date (in virtual communication of the SC) and organize the SC meeting (for late May or early June in case of virtual format or adjacent to the cross-COP leadership meeting in case of face-to-face format)	Mid-March 2021 for decision on format and date and May or June for the organization of the meeting	WB, Secretariat



6	Prepare a draft agenda for the cross-COP leadership meeting, submit it for SC’s approval (in virtual communication), and proceed with organizing the meeting	End-April 2021	WB, Secretariat, Organizational Committee for Preparation of the Cross-COP Leadership meeting
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ANNEXES:

1. Status of Action Plan from last SC meeting



3a. Status of Action Plan from last SC me

2. Status of Implementation of the Strategy Activity Plan FY22-FY25



3b. Status of Implementation of the

3. COP Budgets as of December 2021



4. COP Budgets as of December 2021-ENG.

4. COPs Action Plans FY22



4a. BCOP Action Plan FY22.pdf



4c. TCOP Action Plan FY22.pdf



4b. IACOP Action Plan FY22 updated.pd

5. PEMPAL program budget 2021



5. PEMPAL program budget_December 15