



MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, March 2, 2021, Videoconference

Participating SC Members:

1. Thomas Stauffer (SECO – Donor, Chair)
2. Daria Kirillova (Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, Donor)
3. Sion Morton (EC Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development – Donor)
4. Vincent Bigot (EC Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development - Donor)
5. Daniel Boyce (WB - Practice Manager, ECA East, Governance Global Practice)
6. Arman Vatyan (WB - PEMPAL Team Leader)
7. Marina Tikhonovich (Ministry of Finance of Belarus – BCOP Chair)
8. Ljerka Crnkovic (Ministry of Finance of Croatia– IACOP Chair)
9. Ludmila Guryanova (Ministry of Finance of Belarus – TCOP Chair)
10. Ilyas Tufan (Ministry of Treasury and Finance of Turkey– TCOP Deputy Chair)
11. Petru Babuci (Ministry of Finance of Moldova – IACOP Deputy Chair)
12. Lucia Lorenzo Perez (EC Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development - Donor)
13. Aynura Bakaybayeva (Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan – BCOP Executive Committee member)
14. Alija Aljovic (Federal Ministry of Finance of Bosnia and Herzegovina – BCOP Executive Committee member)
15. Emil Nurgaliev (Ministry of Finance of Bulgaria– BCOP Executive Committee member)
16. Ivan Rakovskiy (Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation– BCOP Executive Committee member)
17. Svetlana Harosyan (Ministry of Finance of Armenia – representing Ruzanna Gabrielyan - BCOP Executive Committee member)
18. Vasile Botica (Ministry of Finance of Moldova – BCOP Executive Committee member)
19. Andrea Vuongova (Ministry of Finance of Czech Republic – IACOP Executive Committee member)
20. Giuli Chkuaseli (Ministry of Finance of Georgia– IACOP Executive Committee member)
21. Dmitriy Andreev (Federal Treasury of the Russian Federation– representing Ludmila Muromtseva, IACOP Executive Committee member)
22. Mioara Diaconescu (Ministry of Finance of Romania– IACOP Executive Committee member)
23. Alexander Demidov (Federal Treasury of the Russian Federation– TCOP Executive Committee member)
24. Levan Todua (Ministry of Finance of Georgia– TCOP Executive Committee member)
25. Mimoza Pilkati (Ministry of Finance of Albania– TCOP Executive Committee member)
26. Nazim Gasimzade (Ministry of Finance of Azerbaijan– TCOP Executive Committee member)
27. Elena Nikulina (WB – TCOP Resource Team Coordinator)
28. Iryna Shcherbyna (WB – BCOP Resource Team Coordinator)
29. Naida Carsimamovic Vukotic (WB – PEMPAL Strategic Advisor and BCOP Resource Team Member)
30. Yelena Slizhevskaya (WB – TCOP Resource Team Member)
31. Diana Grosu-Axenti (WB – IACOP Resource Team Member)
32. Lusine Grigoryan (WB – IACOP Resource Team Member)
33. Galina Kuznetsova (WB – PEMPAL Secretariat Team Coordinator and TCOP Resource Team member)
34. Ksenia Malafeeva (WB – PEMPAL Secretariat)
35. Ekaterina Zaleeva (WB – PEMPAL Secretariat)
36. Kristina Zaituna (WB – PEMPAL Secretariat)
37. Alta Folscher (External Evaluators for PEMPAL Strategy Mid-Term Review)

Observers:

12. Lucia Lorenzo Perez (EC Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development - Donor)
13. Aynura Bakaybayeva (Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan – BCOP Executive Committee member)
14. Alija Aljovic (Federal Ministry of Finance of Bosnia and Herzegovina – BCOP Executive Committee member)
15. Emil Nurgaliev (Ministry of Finance of Bulgaria– BCOP Executive Committee member)
16. Ivan Rakovskiy (Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation– BCOP Executive Committee member)
17. Svetlana Harosyan (Ministry of Finance of Armenia – representing Ruzanna Gabrielyan - BCOP Executive Committee member)
18. Vasile Botica (Ministry of Finance of Moldova – BCOP Executive Committee member)
19. Andrea Vuongova (Ministry of Finance of Czech Republic – IACOP Executive Committee member)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Thomas Stauffer welcomed participants. Mr. Sion Morton announced that Mr. Vincent Bigot will replace him as the EC representative in the SC. Mr. Morton thanked the SC for the cooperation and noted that he leaves with a very positive impression of the network, as a highly relevant, demand-driven, and participatory peer learning mechanism. Mr. Bigot said that he is looking forward to taking part in the SC and the network, noting that the network's thematic areas of budget, treasury, and internal audit are crucial reform areas.

Mr. Stauffer reminded that this is not a regular SC meeting, but rather an extended SC meeting devoted primarily to PEMPAL external evaluation and Mid-Term Review (MTR). Minutes of the previous SC meeting held on October 22, 2020 were endorsed. Mr. Arman Vatyan noted that out of seven action points from the previous SC meeting, five were completed and two related to MTR and external evaluation are in progress and will be discussed in today's meeting.

2. External evaluation report and Mid-Term Review discussion

Ms. Alta Folscher presented the external evaluation report findings and recommendations. Within her presentation she also addressed the key comments on the draft report received from the SC, COP Executive Committees, and the Resource Team. Ms. Naida Carsimamovic Vukotic presented the reflections of the Resource Team on the evaluation report, including parts of evaluation recommendations that the Resource Team proposes for implementation and incorporation within the MTR, as well as a few parts of



recommendations that are deemed unfeasible by the Resource Team (either entirely or in this Strategy period). Mr. Vatyán delivered a presentation on proposed MTR inputs, including the MTR report outline proposed by the Resource Team. The presented MTR inputs included progress to date in achievement of Strategy results, in risks materialization and mitigation, and in financial standing, as well as the proposed adjustments of the Strategy Results Framework indicators/final targets, the proposed additions/updates to risks and mitigation activities, and the proposed updated financial framework and no-cost extended Strategy period up to end FY25.

The SC held a discussion on the evaluation results and endorsed the evaluation report. In terms of prioritizing evaluation recommendations for implementation and the MTR inputs, the SC approved the Resource Team’s proposals including the financial projections with a following adjustments to be made based on SC’s decisions:

- i. dropping the indicator on cross-COP activities from the Strategy Results Framework, while keeping the plans to hold annual cross-COP leadership meetings and one large cross-COP network meeting by end of Strategy,
- ii. leaving in the indicator on current Strategy funding being secured, while noting that it has already been achieved, and
- iii. adjusting the MTR inputs and additions/updates to risks and mitigation activities to:
 - a. stress the importance of the advocacy at the political level and note that, while the network should remain demand-driven, outreach efforts should be made to ensure awareness of PEMPAL’s available services and products in all PEMPAL countries, including in non-active/less active countries
 - b. elaborate on the risk of the World Bank withdrawal and the mitigation activities
 - c. revise the proposed adjustments of the final indicator targets to exclude references to Covid effects
 - d. specify that the SC will make a decision in FY23 on potential development and implementation on a fundraising strategy for the next strategy period (i.e., for post FY25, after the current Strategy expires)

4. Revised COP FY21 COP Action Plans and Budgets

Proposed revised COP Action Plans and Budget for FY21 (under the full virtual work mode) were presented by Ms. Iryna Shcherbyna for BCOP, Ms. Ludmila Guryanova for TCOP, and Mr. Petru Babuci for IACOP. The SC approved the COPs’ FY21 Action Plans subject to adjustment of the total budget ceilings for the final COP allocations in line with financial projections already approved for MTR purposes, as follows: USD 107,000 for BCOP, USD 115,000 for TCOP; and USD 137,000 for IACOP. The SC also approved for up to 30% of each COP annual budget to be used to engage additional experts for knowledge products development.

5. Parameters for FY22 COP Action Plans

Mr. Vatyán presented the proposed parameters for the preparation of the FY22 COP Action Plans. The SC approved the following parameters based on already approved financial projects for the MTR purposes: each COP should plan for USD 200,000 COP budget allocation, of which up to USD 60,000 for additional expert time working on knowledge products. The budget projection assumes face to face meeting are to be planned starting January 2022; and FY21 COP savings will not be transferred to COP FY22 budgets.

6. Next meeting

The next SC VC meeting will take place in the week of June 14, 2021. The Secretariat will explore the availability of SC members in that week and schedule a date accordingly.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

	Action	Due Date	Responsible
1	Finalize the external evaluation report in line with the approved updated process and timeline	Final report to be submitted by the external evaluator by March 15, 2021 (including adjustments made based on the comments received on the draft report shown in track change format)	External evaluator



2	Finalize the MTR in line with the approved updated process and timeline	Draft MTR report to be developed by end March 2021 based on inputs adopted in this meeting and the adopted no cost-extension of the current Strategy to end FY25; MTR donor consultation in April-May 2021; Final MTR report to be circulated to the SC in May 2021 for information; MTR outcomes to be discussed with the COP leadership during the next face to face cross-COP leadership meeting	WB, Secretariat
3	Prepare proposed COP FY22 Action Plans in line with the COP allocation parameters adopted in this meeting	COPs to submit proposed FY22 Action Plans by end May 2021, to be adopted in the next SC meeting in June 2021	COP leadership
4	Organize the SC meeting in the week of June 14, 2021	June 2021	WB, Secretariat

ANNEXES:

1. Minutes of the Previous SC Meeting held in October 2020



1.2 PEMPAL SC Minutes Oct 22 2020.

2. Status of Activity Plans of the Previous SC meeting



1.3 Status of Action Plans from last SC meeting

3. Presentation on External Evaluation Report



2.1 MTR Evaluation March 2021 presentation

4. Presentation on Resource Team's Reflection on Evaluation Report



2.2 RT Reflections on the Evaluation Recommendations

5. Presentation on MTR Inputs



3.1 Presentation on MTR Inputs.pdf

6. Draft Results Framework Achievements and Adjustments



Final Results Framework Achievements

7. Draft Risk Assessment Review and Updates



Final Risk Assessment Review and Updates

8. Updated BCOP FY21 Action Plan



BCOP Action Plan FY2021_March 4 2021

9. Updated TCOP FY21 Action Plan



TCOP Action Plan FY2021_March 4 2021

10. Updated IACOP FY21 Action Plan



IACOP Action Plan FY2021_March 4 2021



11. PEMPAL COPs' Budget



4.4.

PEMPAL_COPBudgets

12. PEMPAL Program Budget



4.5.

PEMPAL_budget_Mar