



**MINUTES OF BCOP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 10, 2020**  
**Videoconference**

**Participated:**

1. Marina Tikhonovich (Chair, Belarus)
2. Mladenka Karacic (Deputy Chair, Croatia)
3. Emil Nurgaliev (Bulgaria)
4. Ivan Rakovskiy (Russia)
5. Aynura Bakaybayeva (Uzbekistan)
6. Iryna Shcherbyna (BCOP Resource Team)
7. Naida Carsimamovic (BCOP Resource Team)

**Observers:**

8. Ksenia Malafeeva (Secretariat)

**Minutes:**

- 1. Welcome, overview of the Agenda, and acceptance of the minutes of the minutes of the previous BCOP Executive Committee meeting from July 2020**

Ms. Marina Tikhonovich welcomed participants and gave an overview of the agenda for this meeting.

**Conclusion:**

- The minutes of the previous meeting held on July 20, 2020 via videoconference were adopted.
- 2. Update on the PEMPAL financing status, current status of plans for face-to-face meetings in FY21, and PEMPAL external evaluation and MTR**

Ms. Iryna Shcherbyna informed that signing for the EU's financial contribution to PEMPAL is still ongoing and is expected by the end of this month.

In terms of face-to-face meetings, Ms. Shcherbyna explained that the World Bank and other international organizations have been postponed all large face-to-face events until at least Spring 2021 due to continuing travelling restrictions related to Covid-19. Thus, it is proposed that the BCOP plenary meeting planned for November 2021 is further postponed. Ms. Tikhonovich noted that members fully understand the need to further postpone face-to-face events.



Ms. Shcherbyna also reported that OECD and IBP are also converting their events into virtual format and informed the members that the Resource Team is in contact with these partnering organizations to explore the possibility for BCOP to attend their virtual events.

Ms. Naida Carsimamovic gave an overview of the current status and next steps on PEMPAL evaluation and Mid-Term Review (MTR). Evaluation interviews with BCOP members have been completed. The next steps include an online evaluation survey of core COP members (68 BCOP core members will receive the survey) launching in late September. Draft Evaluation report will be prepared by the evaluator in late November.

**Conclusions:**

- The Executive Committee decided to further postpone the face-to-face BCOP plenary meeting. The Secretariat will conduct the negotiations for hotel arrangements.
- The Executive Committee took note of the status of PEMPAL external evaluation and MTR.

**3. BCOP FY21 Action Plan and Budget and potential adjustments depending on the potential further postponement of face to face events and 4. Update on BCOP Working Groups activities and plans (*merged agenda items*)**

Ms. Carsimamovic explained that COPs will need to submit revised FY21 Action Plans to the PEMPAL Steering Committee for the SC's February 2021 meeting; however, in meantime BCOP needs to adjust its activities on continuous bases as needed in the light of further postponement of the face to face meeting, as discussed under agenda item 1 and in the light of decisions made by the BCOP Executive Committee in July 2020 about the new approach to the development of knowledge products. Thus, the Resource Team drafted an updated BCOP FY21 Action Plan/Budget Table, which Ms. Carsimamovic presented to the Executive Committee in detail.

The revised Action Plan includes four VC events in the first half of FY21: one VC workshop for each of the two BCOP working groups (in October for PPBWG and November for BLTWG) and working groups' participation in the events of the partnering international organizations (IBP workshop in late September and OECD P&R Network meeting in November). In the second half of FY21 an additional one VC workshop for each of the two BCOP working groups is planned (in February for PPBWG and March for BLTWG). The two final events of FY21 are May 2021 BCOP plenary meeting and the BCOP's participation in the OECD CESEE SBO meeting in May/June. The format of these events – face-to-face or VC - will be decided in the first quarter of 2021, depending on the developments with the travelling restrictions related to Covid-19. In terms of topics for the plenary meeting, its structure is planned as usual with four thematic parts: i) a BLTWG topic, ii) a PPBWG topic, iii) a non-WG topic, and iv) planning BCOP and WGs' FY22 activities. In terms of the non-WG topic, it could be costing methodologies, as was planned for the 2020 plenary, or alternatively the Executive Committee can decide to examine another new topic, e.g. Covid-related topic. In the case of plenary meeting needing to be held virtually, a series of VCs to cover these four thematic parts can be conducted and the Executive Committee can decide on the frequency (e.g. spreading the four thematic parts in VCs held over several days/weeks or holding all four VCs consecutively).



Ms. Carsimamovic also reported on the topics of the VC workshops of the working groups that reflect votes received from working groups' member countries in July/August in terms of priority subtopics which will be examined within the short knowledge product in FY21. For PPBWG, the first subtopic which will be examined in the first half of FY21 has been decided earlier and it will be "Conducting Rapid Spending Reviews for Budget Balancing", while the second subtopic to be examined in the second half of FY21 will be "A step by step analysis of a spending review approach in an advanced country based on one specific spending review example", as chosen by the members' votes. For BLTWG, as per the members' votes, the first subtopic which will be examined in the first half of FY21 will be "Participatory budgeting: Ways in which the national level Ministries of Finance can facilitate and promote participatory budgeting mechanisms at sub-national level and consider potential ways for implementing participatory budgeting at the national level", while the second subtopic to be examined in the second half of FY21 will be "Participatory budgeting: Mechanisms for engaging children/youth".

Ms. Shcherbyna reminded that, as was decided at the previous Executive Committee meeting, in FY21 four smaller knowledge notes on narrow subtopics are planned to be developed, two per each of the BCOP's working groups. She reported that the Resource Team is interviewing Short Term Consultants (STC) for the work on the first two KPs of the two working groups.

The Executive Committee held a discussion on issues covered under these two agenda items.

**Conclusions:**

- The Executive Committee approved the proposed revised BCOP's FY21 Action Plan table, noting that the Action Plan will be further updated before submission to the SC for their February 2021 meeting, if needed. The final decision on 2021 plenary meeting's format will be decided in the first quarter of 2021 depending on the developments with the travelling restrictions related to Covid-19. At that time, in the case of virtual format, the Executive Committee will also decide on the structure of VC format of the plenary meeting.
- The Resource Team will share with the Chair and the working group leaders for their review the Terms of references (TORs) for the STCs for the for the work on the first two KPs of the two working groups, as well as subsequent planning of the activities for preparation of the October/November VCs of the working groups and the firsts knowledge notes.

**5. Other business and scheduling the next BCOP Executive Committee VC meeting**

Ms. Shcherbyna reported that the next Steering Committee meeting will be held on October 22.

Resource Team reported that a PEMPAL YouTube channel has been created and that COPs can decide whether and what to post.

**Conclusions:**

- Ms. Tikhonovich confirmed her availability to attend the October 22 SC meeting and BCOP Deputy Chairs will also be invited to attend.

- The next Executive Committee meeting is planned for late January - beginning of February; if need arises for additional meetings in late November/early December, it will be scheduled.
- The Executive Committee noted formation of YouTube channel and will decide if and what to potentially post for BCOP, noting that it is likely not appropriate to post full BCOP events due to the nature of potentially consent/sensitive elements of budget discussions , while posting shorter presentations of BCOP knowledge products may be appropriate.