



**MINUTES OF BCOP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2021**  
**Videoconference**

**Participated:**

1. Marina Tikhonovich (Chair, Belarus)
2. Mladenka Karacic (Deputy Chair, Croatia)
3. Nikolay Begchin (Deputy Chair, Russia)
4. Sveta Harosyan representing Ruzanna Gabrelyan (Armenia)
5. Emil Nurgaliev (Bulgaria)
6. Vasile Botica (Moldova)
7. Ivan Rakovskiy (Russia)
8. Aynura Bakaybayeva (Uzbekistan)
9. Iryna Shcherbyna (BCOP Resource Team)
10. Naida Carsimamovic (BCOP Resource Team)

**Observers:**

11. Ksenia Malafeeva (Secretariat)

**Minutes:**

- **Welcome and overview of the Agenda**

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

- **Update on BCOP budget**

Ms. Ksenia Malafeeva reported on the BCOP budget execution of FY21. Ms. Naida Carsimamovic reported about the PEMPAL Steering Committee's (SC) decision (as per SC meeting from March 2, 2021) on the final COP allocations for FY21. The SC approved the final BCOP FY21 allocation in the amount of USD 107,000 for BCOP, of which up to 30% to be used to engage additional experts for knowledge products development. The mode of work remains virtual for entire FY21 and FY21 COP savings will not be transferred to COPs' FY22 budgets. Ms. Carsimamovic also presented the proposed final adjustment of the BCOP FY21 Action Plan drafted by the Resource Team, to reflect the additional 13,000 USD approved by the SC over the previous version of BCOP FY21 budget approved previously by the Executive Committee. These additional funds are proposed to be allocated for knowledge products.

She also noted that the next Steering Committee meeting instructed each COP to draft FY22 Action Plans, with the USD 200,000 COP budget allocation, of which up to USD 60,000 for additional expert time working on knowledge products. The FY22 budget projection assumes face to face meeting are to be planned starting January 2022.



### Conclusions:

- Due to the technical issues with the virtual platform, the Executive Committee instructed the Resource Team and the Secretariat to distribute the email to the Executive Committee after the meeting to ask for votes of the Executive Committee members on the proposed adjusted final BCOP FY21 Action Plan.
- The Executive Committee will hold a meeting in late May to adopt the draft FY22 BCOP Action Plan (to be submitted to the SC and subject of SC's adoption in the June 2021 SC meeting). BCOP countries' topic priorities for FY22 will be collected during BCOP's late March and May virtual events, to inform the development of the draft FY22 Action Plan.

- **Progress on FY21 knowledge products**

Ms. Shcherbyna reported that BCOP's two working groups are finalizing their first two FY21 knowledge products. The Program and Performance Budgeting Working Group (PPBWG) knowledge product on *Conducting Rapid Spending Reviews to Identify Measures for Budget Balancing* has been circulated to all working group members for their final comments and will also undergo a full peer review within the World Bank. The Budget Literacy and Transparency Working Group (BLTWG) knowledge product on *Mechanisms for the National Ministries of Finance of the PEMPAL Countries to Design Participatory Budgeting Initiatives at National Level and Facilitate Participatory Budgeting at Subnational Level* is currently being translated and after will be distributed to members for their comments as well. The final versions of these first two FY21 knowledge products will be presented in BCOP plenary meeting in May. She also reported that the work on other two FY21 knowledge products has started; proposed outlines will be presented by end of March and draft knowledge products will be presented in the May plenary meeting.

### Conclusion:

- The Executive Committee took note on status of BCOP's FY21 knowledge products.

- **Overview of the remaining FY21 activities of the working groups**

Mr. Ivan Rakovskiy reported that, in addition to finalizing the first PPBWG FY21 knowledge product on *Conducting Rapid Spending Reviews to Identify Measures for Budget Balancing*, the PPBWG has been working actively on its second FY21 knowledge product since November. It has prepared a questionnaire and accompanying explanations and glossary for a survey of PEMPAL countries on spending reviews, in cooperation with the OECD. The survey is based on the survey currently being conducted by the OECD for OECD countries, which will enable benchmarking of current practices in this area in PEMPAL countries with those in OECD countries. The survey is currently being filled out by PEMPAL countries and results of this survey will be used for PPBWG's second FY21 knowledge product.

Ms. Aynura Bakaybayeva reported on the work of BLTWG, noting that BLTWG's second FY21 knowledge product will be on *Mechanisms for Engaging Children/Youth in Participatory Budgeting*. In addition to working on its two FY21 knowledge products, BLTWG also took part (on February 16, 2021) in the virtual event organized by the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan, in which BLTWG's Thematic Consultant Ms. Tatiana Vinogradova presented the current practices and recommendations for participatory budgeting in PEMPAL countries.

**Conclusions:**

- The Executive Committee took note on status of BCOP's FY21 knowledge products.
- **Preparation for the Joint VC Workshop of BCOP Working Groups to be held in late March 2021**

Ms. Carsimamovic gave an overview of proposed format and agenda of the Joint VC Workshop of BCOP Working Groups to be held in late March 2021 (proposed agenda was circulated to the Executive Committee members prior to this meeting). The proposed objectives of this event are: i) update the members on the finalization of two large BCOP FY21 knowledge products, ii) to present the proposed outlines of the other two shorter FY21 knowledge products, iii) to discuss the agenda of the May 2021 BCOP annual plenary meeting, and iv) to gather feedback on priority topics for BCOP's FY22 Action Plan.

The Executive Committee held a discussion on proposed agenda, with members endorsing the proposed approach and the agenda, with a note that the updates on the finalization of two large BCOP FY21 knowledge products should be brief (as the final content of these products will be presented in the May plenary meeting) and that the focus of the March event should be to agree on the outline of the two new knowledge products (drafts of these knowledge products to be presented in May plenary meeting) and on getting members' feedback on the plenary meeting and on priority topics for FY22.

**Conclusions:**

- The Executive Committee endorsed the agenda and objectives of the Joint VC Workshop of BCOP Working Groups to be held in late March 2021
- The Executive Committee instructed the Resource Team and the Secretariat to distribute the email to the Executive Committee after the meeting to ask for votes of the Executive Committee members on the proposed dates for this event (March 24 or March 25, 2021).
- **Preparation for the BCOP Plenary Meeting to be held in May 2021**

Ms. Shcherbyna reported that Plenary meeting will be held in virtual format in May and gave an overview of proposed format and agenda of the plenary meeting (proposed agenda was circulated to the Executive Committee members prior to this meeting). Proposed format includes two sessions to be held on two consecutive days, each of around 3 hours in total with a short break. The first day would be dedicated to results-based budgeting (hosted by the PPBWG) and the second day to budget openness (hosted by the PPBWG). In addition, the first day would be opened by Chair's presentation on update of BCOP activities in FY20 and FY21, while the second day would close with a session on planning BCOP's activities in FY22. In the parts of the agenda hosted by the working groups, final large FY21 knowledge products would be presented, as well as draft other two shorter knowledge products. There would also be one session each day connected to new post-Covid trends in the overall topic - Budget Transparency and Public Participation in Budgeting Post-Covid for BLTWG and Climate Change Budget Tagging. Finally, a potential session on fiscal policies to support post-Covid recovery was proposed.



The Executive Committee held a discussion on proposed approach and agenda for the plenary meeting and in particular on the on the proposed topics of sessions which are not related to knowledge products (i.e., Fiscal Policies to Support Post-Covid Recovery, New trends: Climate Change Budget Tagging, and Budget Transparency and Public Participation in Post-Covid Budgeting). Members endorsed the proposed overall approach, noting that the number of presentations should be limited to ensure enough time for discussions.

**Conclusions:**

- The Executive Committee endorsed the overall approach, format, and objectives of the May 2021 BCOP plenary meeting.
- The Executive Committee instructed the Resource Team and the Secretariat to distribute the email to the Executive Committee after the meeting to ask for votes of the Executive Committee members on the proposed topics of plenary meeting sessions which are not related to knowledge products, as well as to ask for votes of the Executive Committee members on the proposed dates for this event (in the week of May 22, 2021).
- **Other business: announcing the annual BCOP Chair elections and scheduling the next BCOP Executive Committee VC meeting to be held in May**

**Conclusions:**

- The Secretariat will initiate virtual elections of BCOP Chair via email in April.
- The Secretariat will distribute the email to explore Executive Committee members' availability for specific dates in late May for the next meeting for the Executive Committee.