

**Minutes of the Closing Session of PEMPAL Budget COP Launch Workshop
March 22, 2007, Vilnius**

The session was led by the newly elected COP Executive Committee.

The Committee informed the participants of the organizational issues already discussed and agreed upon by the Committee. In particular, the following roles and task were assumed by the Committee members:

- Mrs. Nina Lupan Lupan, as the Budget COP chair, will represent the COP in the PEMPAL steering committee.
- Mr. Grigol Gobejishvili will be organizing the June COP meeting in Tbilisi.
- Mr. Nicola Vucicevic will represent the COP at the ICGFM meeting in Miami, Florida, in May. He will report back on his trip during the June meeting.

The draft COP mission statement was distributed to the COP members for their review / comments, to be prepared for approval by the June meeting.

The Committee also invited all the members who expressed interest to be nominated to the executive committee positions to take part in drafting of the COP regulations, to be also prepared for approval by the June meeting.

Both the mission statement draft and regulations will be posted on the COP discussion forum for virtual consultations.

Opinions of the members were sought on the proposed dates for the June meeting and its location. It was agreed that the workshop will be scheduled to take place on June 25-27th in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Following the presentation of the outcomes of the small group discussions on the topics of interest for the COP members, it was decided that the main topic of the June meeting will be program budgeting. COP resource team will draft the preliminary agenda and forward it to the Executive Committee for further consultations with the members.

Part of the session was devoted to the discussion of the approaches to address the other identified themes of interest for the members. Discussions were held in four groups, after which each of the groups reported to the plenary. Summary of the group reports is presented below.

- The preferred frequency of face to face meetings for the whole COP was agreed to be 2 such meetings per year. Members expressed a strong desire to supplement these by bilateral and multilateral thematic meetings / visits.

- It was proposed to create a databank of relevant documents and materials on the web site. This will require translation of the documents into at least one of the PEMPAL languages.
- It was proposed that relevant EU experiences should be more actively explored during the coming workshops. EU country representatives could be invited as resource people for the future workshops.
- One of the groups proposed a revised wording for the COP mission statement. This will be incorporated in the version to be posted on the web site for the COP review.
- It was proposed to assign country coordinators for PEMPAL.
- Recommendation was made on the format of the future workshops. It was proposed to allocate more time for interactive sessions, small group discussions, spend less time in plenary sessions of a lecture type.
- It was also proposed that before the next meeting each member country prepares a short brief describing achievements and issues in the budget reform area. The briefs could be distributed by e-mail to all the members prior to the meeting and also posted on the web site.