**PEMPAL TREASURY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (TCOP)**

**Minutes of the TCOP Executive Committee Meeting**

**January 27, 2021**

A meeting of the PEMPAL TCOP Executive Committee (ExCom) took place on January 27, 2021 in the videoconference (VC) format.

The meeting was attended by: Ms. Lyudmila Gurianova (TCOP ExCom Chair, MoF, Belarus), Mr. Ilyas Tufan (Deputy Chair, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Turkey), Ms. Mimoza Pilkati (Ministry of Economy and Finance, Albania), Ms. Zhanat Saparova (Treasury Committee, Kazakhstan), Mr. Nazim Gasimzade (MoF, Azerbaijan), Mr. Levan Todua (MoF, Georgia), and Mr. Alexandr Demidov (Federal Treasury, Russia). The World Bank was represented by Ms. Elena Nikulina (TCOP Resource Team Leader), Ms. Yelena Slizhevskaya (TCOP Adviser), Ms. Galina Kuznetsova (Secretariat Coordinator), and Ms. Ekaterina Zaleeva (PEMPAL Secretariat).

**Summary of Discussion**

1. **Update on the TCOP activities held since the last Executive Committee meeting**

Since the last ExCom meeting, the TCOP held the following three events, their materials translated into the PEMPAL languages and posted on the program website:

*- Videoconference (news session) of the Thematic Group on the Use of Information Technologies (IT) in Treasury Operations (October 13, 2020);*

*- Videoconference of the Thematic Group on the Use of IT in Treasury Operations on the new Albanian public finance management information system (November 19, 2020);*

*- Presentation by the TCOP resource team of the document on Optimizing the Unified Chart of Accounts Design to members of the World Bank’s FMIS Community of Practice led by Cem Dener (December 10, 2020).*

The meeting participants noted that the PEMPAL Budget Community of Practice is interested in discussing some aspects of the Chart of Accounts and will be ready to organize a respective event in the future.

The ExCom members took note of the relatively small number of received responses to electronic post-VC surveys and suggested that it should be made clearer to the participants that individual responses are expected from each participant (rather than a single response from their institution). It was also suggested resuming the practice of preliminary individual registration of VC participants to facilitate the process of generating lists of attendees.

1. **Discussion on the draft TCOP Action Plan for February-June 2021 and beyond**

The ExCom members scheduled a *joint videoconference of the thematic groups on public sector accounting and reporting and on the use of IT in treasury operations* for March 17, 2021 (tentative date). At this videoconference, the Kazakhstan Treasury Committee will present their experience in preparing consolidated financial reports for the republican budget execution (including automation of the process), and the Belarus Treasury will present their decision to pilot in 2021 the recently developed unified Chart of Accounts. The new Chart of Accounts will be piloted in selected types of institutions using the software being developed specifically for this purpose. The presentations should be sent to the Secretariat by March 3 in order to arrange their timely translation.

The leadership group confirmed that a *videoconference of the Thematic Group on Cash Management* will be held on February 11, 2021. At the VC, a new World Bank publication on cash management will be presented, and the launch of the “2021 Survey on Treasury Single Account and Cash Management and Forecasting Practices in PEMPAL Countries” will be announced, with the necessary explanations given concerning the survey.

The ExCom members discussed the options for a TCOP plenary. The leadership group agreed that having a face-to-face meeting in FY2021 is unlikely. *It was decided to hold a plenary meeting in an online format,* focusing it on sharing experiences and changes that have occurred in participating countries’ treasuries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Representatives of the Federal Treasury of Russia volunteered to share their developments in this area. It was suggested to organize the plenary in the form of 5-6 sessions to be held during 1.5–2 weeks in the second half of May this year. The next ExCom meeting was scheduled for the end of March to discuss the questions of preparing the upcoming plenary meeting.

1. **Approval of a draft TCOP Action Plan for FY2021**

The ExCom members proposed that the Secretariat revises the TCOP Action Plan for FY2021 taking into account the discussion above (see section 2), approved the Action Plan incorporating the revisions, and delegated Ms. Lyudmila Gurianova to present the plan at the Steering Committee’s meeting in March this year.

1. **Presentation of summary findings of PEMPAL external evaluation (Galina Kuznetsova). Discussion and comments by the leadership group**

Ms. Galina Kuznetsova presented a summary overview of findings from the external evaluation of PEMPAL. The ExCom members in general agreed with the findings, noting that the external evaluator completed a large amount of work related to analysis of the available information, and the TCOP specifics has been well reflected in the evaluation report. It was noted that one and the same factor often generates both positive and negative effects: for example, the share of senior officials in the TCOP is high, which, in turn, limits the possibility of their regular participation in TCOP events or follow-up electronic surveys. The TCOP Chair asked the Secretariat to draft a letter in response to the receipt of the evaluation results. The ExCom members were advised that the external evaluation report will be discussed at the next Steering Committee’s meeting, all the members of executive committees of all three communities of practice will be invited to attend it.

1. **Other questions**

*ExCom membership.* The representative of the Kazakhstan Treasury Committee informed the ExCom that Mr. Aidyn Ashuev no longer works in the MoF, but the Treasury Committee confirms its willingness to continue its membership in the TCOP ExCom. The leadership group proposed that colleagues from Kazakhstan nominate their candidate for including him/her in the ExCom and confirmed its readiness to hear from the candidate at the next ExCom meeting and consider his/her appointment. The ExCom members also supported the TCOP Chair’s proposal to invite representatives of the Moldova State Treasury to take on membership in the ExCom, given the history of their substantive contributions to TCOP activities, and asked the Secretariat to draft a respective letter to Moldova’s representatives. The leadership group agreed that, as an exception (due to the pandemic), decisions on TCOP membership can be considered virtually (not to wait for face-to-face meetings).

*Use of video records of meetings.* Ms. Ekaterina Zaleeva advised the leadership group that it is now possible to post videos of TCOP events on the recently created PEMPAL YouTube channel, both with open or restricted access. The ExCom members noted that this practice has both benefits and drawbacks and proposed discussing it further during the next ExCom meeting.

**Key Meeting Outcomes and Decisions**

* Schedule a joint videoconference of the thematic groups on public sector accounting and reporting and on the use of IT in treasury operations for March 17, 2021 (presentations by Kazakhstan and Belarus).
* Schedule a plenary meeting for the second half of May this year, incorporating 5-6 sessions to be held in a virtual format during 1.5–2 weeks.
* Approve the TCOP Action Plan for FY2021 in view of the discussion held.
* It was agreed that as an exception (due to the pandemic) the membership questions can be considered in a virtual format.
* Invite the Kazakhstan Treasury Committee to propose a candidate for the ExCom and consider his/her appointment at the next ExCom meeting.
* Invite representatives of the Moldova State Treasury to propose their candidate for the ExCom.
* The Secretariat to resume the practice of preliminary registration of VC participants and invite the participants to respond to post-event surveys on an individual basis.
* Discuss the possibility and advisability of posting videos of TCOP events on the PEMPAL YouTube channel.
* The next ExCom meeting is scheduled for end-March 2021.