



PEMPAL TREASURY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (TCOP)

Minutes of the TCOP Executive Committee Meeting October 7, 2020

A meeting of the PEMPAL TCOP Executive Committee (ExCom) took place on October 7, 2020 in the videoconference (VC) format.

The meeting was attended by: Ms. Lyudmila Gurianova (Deputy Chair, MoF, Belarus), Mr. Ilyas Tufan (Deputy Chair, MoTF, Turkey), Mr. Aidyn Ashuev (MoF, Kazakhstan), Mr. Levan Todua (MoF, Georgia) and Ms. Anna Alekseeva (Federal Treasury of Russia) on behalf of Mr. Alexandr Demidov. 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. Introduction to the meeting

The meeting started with a minute of silence in honor of Angela Voronin, the TCOP Chair and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of Moldova, who passed away on September 15, 2020 after a short illness. Ms. Elena Nikulina conveyed to the leadership group the gratitude from the Ministry of Finance and from the Treasury of Moldova for the condolences shared by the PEMPAL members.

Ms. Elena Nikulina invited Ms. Lyudmila Gurianova, the TCOP Deputy Chair, to lead this meeting of the ExCom.

2. Discussion of the TCOP chairmanship arrangements

The leadership group was informed of the results of the TCOP elections: Ms. Voronin won the election with the majority of the votes, the second candidate was Ms. Gurianova. Ms. Gurianova asked the resource team to advise on the procedure for selection of the new TCOP chair given the death of Angela shortly after the elections. Ms. Nikulina acknowledged that this is not a standard situation and PEMPAL operational guidelines do not contain any specific provisions for such cases. Two options were proposed by Ms. Nikulina to the leadership group: 1) given that two candidates participated in elections the second candidate could be approved as the TCOP chair, or 2) the results of the September elections could be annulled and new elections initiated.

All the members of the ExCom in attendance supported the first option and unanimously voted for appointing Ms. Gurianova the TCOP Chair. No objections from Mr. Nazim Gazimzade and Mrs. Mimoza Pilkati were received offline. Ms. Gurianova expressed her appreciation for the leadership group decision and trust and accepted the role of the TCOP chair.

Ms. Gurianova received the consent of Mr. Tufan to continue in his role of the TCOP Deputy Chair. Decision on the second deputy chair will be taken additionally.

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

Videoconference meeting with the Treasury Committee of Kazakhstan (September 15, 2020)

Ms. Gurianova thanked the Kazakhstan Treasury Committee for the excellent presentation which had stimulated many interesting questions and comments and shared her regret that the TCOP had not been able to gather in Nur-Sultan in June 2020 as planned. The videoconference was attended by representatives from 17 PEMPAL member countries which confirms high interest of the TCOP members in Kazakhstan experience. Ms. Slizhevskaya provided a brief account of the post event survey results, which confirmed high level of satisfaction of participants with the discussions held, as well as the fact that the members are getting used to the KUDO platform with less connection issues reported.

4. Discussions on TCOP activities to be held in October - December 2020

4.1. Videoconference of the Thematic Group on the Use of Information Technology in Treasury Operations (October 13, 2020)

The resource team updated the leadership group on the interest from the member countries to take part in the forthcoming videoconference, which was planned in a format of a news session. The leadership group discussed that the thematic group will reconvene after a long break and discussions to be held may inform further plans of the group.

4.2. Videoconference to present the final version of the new TCOP knowledge product on Optimization of the Chart of Accounts Design

Ms. Nikulina informed the leadership group that final version of the new knowledge product in all three languages will be available in November. Ms. Gurianova commented that this is very comprehensive document and last time it was circulated the members had not had enough time to review it in detail and to respond¹. The leadership group agreed to circulate the document to the members of the thematic group on the public sector accounting and reporting as well as to BCOP, PULSAR and WB FMIS COP to seek their interest in a more detailed discussion of separate chapters, annexes or chart of account's segments and to inform the approach for dissemination of the paper. Date(s) and topic(s) of the virtual discussion(s) will be confirmed additionally.

4.3. Activities of the Thematic Group on Cash Management

Ms. Nikulina updated the members of the ExCom on the status of preparing the Treasury Single Accounts (TSA) and Cash Management Survey. Ms. Nikulina informed that the draft survey will be ready by the end of October and volunteers are invited to test the survey and its methodology. Ms. Gurianova, Mr. Tufan and Mr. Todua agreed to test the survey. The leadership group proposed the resource team to contact the Federal Treasury of Russia to join the testing. The resource and leadership teams agreed to launch the survey in November in order to be able to finalize and present the results by the end of January 2021.

¹ Also due to the summer season

4.4. Ideas for the topic of December 2020 videoconference

The ExCom discussed that June meeting with the Federal Treasury of Switzerland stirred a lot of interest to the experience of the country, including the interest in the videoconference with the Federal Finance Administration, which could be scheduled for December 2020. The resource team promised to follow up on arranging the meeting.

5. Discussion on activities to be held in January – June 2021

The participants of the meeting discussed that in addition to discussions on the TSA and cash management survey results, the TCOP may want to consider running a repeat survey on commitments and payment processes to track the countries progress over the years. More detailed action plan will be discussed and confirmed during the next ExCom meeting.

6. Other questions

The next ExCom meeting was tentatively scheduled for end January 2021.

Key Meeting Outcomes and Decisions

- Ms. Lyudmila Gurianova appointed the TCOP Chair, Mr. Ilyas Tufan reconfirmed in his role of the Deputy Chair;
- The final version of the new TCOP knowledge product on Optimization of the Chart of Accounts Design will be disseminated to the TCOP, BCOP, PULSAR and WB FMIS COP in late October, including to seek their interest in a more detailed discussions of separate chapters, annexes or chart of accounts' segments;
- The TSA and Cash Management Survey to be launched in November 2020, results to be presented in early 2021
- The resource team to check for opportunities to organize a virtual meeting with Federal Finance Administration of Switzerland in December 2020
- The next ExCom meeting is tentatively scheduled for end January 2021.