Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Executive Committee meeting, July 2nd, 2014

TCOP Executive Committee held a videoconference on July 2nd, 2014.

The meeting was attended by: Mimoza Pilkati (Ministry of Finance, Albania), Vugar Abdullayev (Ministry of Finance, Azerbaijan), Nino Tchelishvili (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Renolid Rubinov (Federal Treasury of Russia), Ion Chicu (TCoP resource person,World Bank), Bojana Crnadak, Kristina Bogdan (PEMPAL Secretariat representatives).

Agenda items discussed:

1. **Update on recent TCOP events**
2. **Discussions on the TCOP Activity Plan for FY 2015**
3. **Issues related to the elections of the TCOP Chair**

1. Update on recent TCOP events

The meeting started with a brief update on the recent TCOP activities conducted since the last meeting of the Executive Committee held in Moscow on May 25th. The meeting participants were familiarized with the main results of the TCOP meeting held on May 26th in Moscow. The main goal of the meeting in Moscow was to give TCOP members an opportunity to learn about the most recent experience of the Russian Federation in reforming various areas of treasury activities. Angela Voronin and other TCOP Executive Committee members, which atended the meeting in Moscow, have thanked the representatives of the Russian Federation for the excellent organization of the event, as well as for providing comprehensive presentations and information related to the treasury reforms implemented in their country. Ion Chicu informed the videoconference participants that the meeting report was developed and will be shortly published on the PEMPAL website.

The meeting participants were also updated with the information on the PEMPAL plenary meeting held on May 27-29th, 2014 in Moscow. The event was devoted to the topic of fiscal transparency and was conducted at a high organizational and professional level. TCOP delegated 35 members to attend the PEMPAL plenary meeting and was responsible for the preparation of two sessions envisaged in the event agenda: (i) Transparency tools: Impact of IT solutions and FMIS on fiscal transparency in the ECA region, and (ii) the role of financial reporting in increasing fiscal transparency. Both sessions went smoothly, with interesting presentations and active discussions. All materials related to the PEMPAL plenary meeting were posted on the website.

Ion Chicu informed the participants that the results of the post-event evaluation surveys are already processed and submitted for translation. Relevant reports on the results of the surveys will be posted on the PEMPAL website. Renolid Rubinov has informed the videoconference participants about the Federal Treasury activities in relation to development of a booklet devoted to the Moscow PEMPAL event. Once completed, this booklet will be circulated among PEMPAL community.

On June 13th the videoconference of the TCOP thematic group on public assets accounting took place. Angela Voronin, Nino Tchelishvili and Zaifun Yernazarova have briefly informed the videoconference participants about the main results of the event.

2. <u>Discussions on the TCOP Activity Plan for FY 2015</u>

The meeting participants discussed the issues related to the preparation of several events envisaged by the TCOP Activity Plan for the period July 2014- June 2015.

➤ <u>Videoconference of the TCOP thematic group on use of information technologies in treasury operations, scheduled for the end of July 2014;</u>

Ion Chicu has updated the videoconference participants with the recent information related to the preparation of the videoconference of the thematic group on use of IT in treasury operations, tentatively scheduled for late July 2014. This videoconference will be devoted to the experience of Russian Federation in implementing the treasury IT system modernization project. In order to get familiar with all information related to the project implementation the members of the group were provided with the final Report on the project implementation. During the videoconference representatives of the Russian Federation will provide relevant information and respond to participants' questions, if any. Organizational issues related to the preparation of the mid October face-to-face meeting of the group will be discussed during the July videoconference as well. The final date of the videoconference will be decided in the coming days.

➤ <u>The meeting of the TCOP thematic group on use of information technologies in treasury operations, scheduled for mid October 2014;</u>

A face-to face meeting of the TCOP thematic group on use of IT in treasury operations is scheduled for mid October 2014. The meeting will be devoted to the topic of the treasury IT systems modernization projects implementation. The format of the event might be a small workshop or a study visit to a country with successful experience in implementing such projects. It is expected that during the July videoconference of the group participants will agree on the concept of the event, final dates and destination. The TCOP resource team is working now on the identification of the event location (country).

➢ Joint meeting of the TCOP thematic groups on public sector accounting and reporting, scheduled for mid November 2014;

Several activities of the thematic groups on public sector accounting and reporting are envisaged by the TCOP Activity Plan for the fall 2014. Taking into account the similarity of topics it was proposed to organize a joint meeting of all three groups: (i) on accounting standards; (ii) on public assets accounting, and (iii) on financial reporting consolidation. Issues envisaged by the actions plans of all three groups are expected to be discussed during the joint meeting, the groups will also assess the progress achieved in the process of development of methodological materials[1]. The meeting is scheduled for mid November 2014. Possible countries for conducting the event – Montenegro and Slovenia. The final dates and location will be decided by September 1ˢᵗ, 2014.

➢ The meeting of TCOP Executive Committee in January 2015;

A face-to-face meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee is planned for January 2015 in order to discuss the issues related to the community activities performed in 2013-2014, as well as to develop the TCOP Activity Plan for the next mid-term period. Zaifun Yernazarova suggested to include in the agenda of the meeting discussions on the effectiveness of the Executive Committee itself. She mentioned the low rate of participation of the TCOP ExCom members in the events conducted in Moscow, as well as the frequent absence of some members from the videoconferences held by the committee. The meeting participants were informed that a detailed Report on the implementation of the TCOP Activity Plan for 2013-2015 will be developed before the January meeting, which will be discussed by the ExCom members.

Besides the issues related to the TCOP activities coordination, the January meeting agenda will envisage also a thematic part, including topics of priority professional interest for the participants. One of the possible locations of the meeting is Austria, a country with successful experience in reforming various areas of PFM. The preferred dates of the meeting for all TCOP ExCom members –end of January 2015. The final dates will be agreed with the hosting country representatives.

Ion Chicu has informed the videoconference participants that a mid-term review of the PEMPAL program is planned for the second half of 2014 and the first half of 2015. Its main objective will be to assess the validity of PEMPAL Strategy as well as to determine whether the program is still on track before this round of funding runs out. One of the objectives of the January meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee is to prepare the information and conclusions on the TCOP activities in implementing the PEMPAL Strategy for 2012-2017.

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[1] Groups on financial reporting consolidation and on public assets accounting are working on the specific methodological guidelines development

➢ TCOP plenary meeting, scheduled for May 2015

The TCOP Executive Committee has initially launched the discussions on the next community's plenary meeting organization during its meeting in Moscow, where proposals to host the plenary meeting have been launched by representatives of Albania and Moldova. During the videoconference Angela Voronin has confirmed her country's desire to host such meeting, but considering upcoming parliamentary elections and possible MoF management changes in Moldova, was not able to firmly confirm her country's availability to host the event in 2015. At the same time, Mimoza Pilkati has confirmed Albania's availability to host the TCOP plenary meeting in May 2015 in Tirana. The meeting will be devoted to the topic of treasury control and finance management, including cash management issues.

Following the TCOP tradition, the first day of the event will be devoted to the discussions on the hosting country experience on the event topic. Mimoza Pilkati has shared her views on the agenda of the event. The draft agenda of the meeting suggested by Mimoza is embedded below.

Discussions on the
TCOP Activity Plan fo

The videoconference participants have agreed to review the hosting country proposals and take a final decision on the event Concept at one of the next TCOP Executive Committee meetings.

3. <u>Issues related to the elections of the TCOP Chair</u>

The elections of the TCOP Chair have to be organized by September 2014. The elections will be organized by the PEMPAL Secretariat through electronic voting. Detailed information on the procedure of the TCOP Chair elections was provided by Bojana Crnadak. According to the procedures, TCOP Executive Committee members will nominate candidates for the position of the Chair by August 29th. A relevant message will be submitted by the Secretariat by the end of July. On September 3rd 2014, the Secretariat will submit a second message asking TCOP leaders to vote for one of two candidates, which accumulated majority of nominations. The winner of the elections will be announced by September 15th 2014. The detailed instructions on the procedure of the elections will be attached to the message, which will be circulated by the Secretariat at the end of July.

<u>Main conclusions of the meeting</u>:

➢ The TCOP meeting held on May 26th in Moscow, Russian Federation, was conducted at a high organizational and professional level, which is confirmed by the results of the post-event evaluation survey;

➢ The videoconference of the thematic group on use of information technologies in treasury operations is scheduled for late July 2014. This videoconference will be devoted to the experience of Russian Federation in implementing the treasury IT system modernization project;

➢ The final decision on the format, dates and location (country) of the mid October meeting of the TCOP thematic group on use of information technologies in treasury operations will be taken by August 15th 2014;

➢ A joint meeting of all three thematic groups on public sector accounting and reporting topic is scheduled for mid November 2014. The final dates and location of the event will be decided during the September meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee;

➢ A face-to-face meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee is planned for late January 2015, for discussing the issues related to the community' activities performed in 2013-2014, as well as for developing the TCOP Activity Plan for the next mid-term period. The tentative location (country) of the meeting is Austria, a country with successful experience in reforming various areas of PFM;

➢ The TCOP plenary meeting devoted to the topic of treasury control and financial management will be held in Albania in May 2015;

➢ The elections of the TCOP Chair will be organized by September 2014. The elections will be organized by the PEMPAL Secretariat through electronic voting;

➢ The next meeting (videoconference) of the TCOP Executive Committee will be held in mid September 2014;

➢ Ion Chicu will prepare and circulate the draft Minutes of the meeting.