**MINUTES OF BCOP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Friday, July 7, 2017, 15.30 Paris**

**Paris, France**

**Participated:**

1. Anna Belenchuk (Chair – Russian Federation)
2. Gelardina Prdani (Deputy Chair - Albania)
3. Mikhail Prokhorik (Deputy Chair - Belarus)
4. Lala Ananikyan (Armenia)
5. Alija aljovic (BIH)
6. Emil Nurgaliev (Bulgaria)
7. Kanat Asangulov (Kyrgyz Republic)
8. Mladenka Karacic (Croatia)
9. Nikolay Begchin (Russian Federation)
10. Bugra Atasoy (Turkey)
11. Maya Gusarova (Resource Team)
12. Naida Carsimamovic (Resource Team)
13. Deanna Aubrey (Resource Team)

**Observers:**

1. Ksenia Galantsova (Secretariat)

**Agenda items:**

1. Welcome and update on key decisions/discussions from June 14 Steering Committee meeting (BCOP Chair, Anna Belenchuk)
2. Acceptance of the minutes to the previous meetings April 11 in Bishkek.
3. Participation in OECD SBO meeting – reflection and feedback on experience and PEMPAL involvement. (Maya Gusarova/All)
4. Final Budget Position for BCOP 2016-17 including level of savings. (Maya Gusarova/Ksenia Galantsova)
5. BCOP Action Plan 2017-18 – discussion of coming events and new plan submitted to Steering Committee. (Naida Carsimamovic/All)
6. Implementation of new PEMPAL Strategy 2017-22 – including roundtable discussions to determine BCOP input to working group with IACOP and TCOP on e-surveys of: a) high level officials and b) usefulness of knowledge products. (Deanna Aubrey/All)

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**Minutes:**

1. **Welcome and update on key decisions/discussions from June 14 Steering Committee meeting**

Ms Anna Belenchuk welcomed all participants and reported on discussions and outcomes of the last Steering Committee meeting that was held on June 14, 2017. She explained that she reported to the Committee on the progress and results of BCOP activities, including the updates on the work of both working groups, and the positive feedback received from the participants on BCOP events. She also presented BCOP budget savings to the Steering Committee, as well as the Action Plan for the upcoming. Ms. Belenchuk in particular talked to the Steering Committee about BCOP’s close and further improving relationship with the OECD, noting that BCOP members are becoming very active participants of OECD events. She also informed the Steering Committee that the knowledge product of the Budget Transparency and Literacy Working Group on Breaking Challenges in Constricting Citizens’ Budgets for PEMPAL Countries is almost finalized.

1. **Acceptance of the minutes to the previous meetings** **held on April 11, 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**.

The Executive Committee accepted the minutes of the previous meeting that was held on April 11, 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

1. **Participation in OECD SBO meeting – reflection and feedback on experience and PEMPAL involvement.**

Ms Maya Gusarova reminded that BCOP has started participated in the OECD SBO meeting in 2012 and with every year PEMPAL’s contribution to the meetings increases. She asked the Executive Committee members to let the Resource Team know if they would like to further explore the new topic discussed in this meeting – gender budget – and if so to consider holding a VC on this topic.

She also asked the Executive Committee members whether they would like to suggest any further topic for OECD’s future events, given that OECD has asked for BCOP’s inputs. Ms Gelardina Prodani suggested fiscal risks as the topic which remains important for Albania and other PEMPAL countries. Ms Gusarova noted that BCOP started discussing this topic during the plenary meeting in Bishkek and that there was a suggestion to establish a thematic working group on that. However, as OECD countries may have more to contribute on this topic than PEMPAL countries, Ms Gusarova noted that this may be a good topic to discuss with OECD. It was concluded that the Resource Team will reach out to OECD to discuss this. Ms. Prodani also suggested the topic of public and private partnerships.

Mr Emil Nurgaliev suggested to focus more on program budgeting performance indicators. Related to this subject, Mr Nikolay Begchin informed the Executive Committee that he has spoken to Mr Ivor Beazley from the OECD who mentioned that the OECD SBO discussed best practices in performance indicators in their meeting in Portugal in June 2017 and that Mr Beazley invited Mr Begchin to present on performance indicator in PEMPAL countries in the November 2017 meeting of the OECD Performance Network. It was concluded that the Resource Team will source the material on performance indicators discussed at the OECD meeting in Portugal. Ms Carsimamovic reminded that BCOP Working Group on Program and Performance Budgeting has started collected performance indicators from member countries and has received inputs from the Russian Federation, Belarus, and Serbia. It was concluded that in the next month remaining countries will send their performance indicators (or at minimum examples). These would then be reviewed (and translated as appropriate, if needed) and analyzed by the Working Group Chair Mr Begchin and the Resource Team to summarize and discuss during a CV meeting of the Working Group planned for September. During the VC it would be decided how to present the findings to the OECD Performance Network in November.

Mr Alija Aljovic proposed the topic of instruments for financing deficits. He also agreed with the previous suggestion of the topic on fiscal risks and also suggested the topic of intergovernmental fiscal relations.

Mr Mladenka Karacic proposed the topic of human resource management in the Ministries of Finances, motivating and training of the staff and preventing high staff turnover. Ms Aubrey informed the Executive Committee that the CABRI network is looking at roles and functions of Finance Ministries, so BCP could perhaps ask them to share the materials to see whether there is anything related to the topic proposed by Ms Karacic. Ms Belenchuk confirmed that this is an interesting topic and that BCOP should explore how to address it. Ms Gusarova also noted that the World Bank prepared a paper on education for PFM and added that Kyrgyz Institute and CEF could potentially also present on this subject. Ms Karacic added that it would be interesting to discuss training of the Ministry of Finance staff, as in many cases they end up being trained by external training institutions that do not have sufficient knowledge of budget.

1. **Final Budget Position for BCOP 2016-17 including level of savings**

Ms Ksenia Galantsova reported on progress with the BCOP budget. The current event in Paris was transferred to the FY18. And for the FY17, 340K USD was allocated, while 220K USD was spent, which means that around 120K USD were saved and are carried over to FY18.

Ms. Aubrey and Ms Gusarova gave overview of the current status in terms of financing of the PEMPAL Strategy.

1. **BCOP Action Plan 2017-18 – discussion of coming events and new plan submitted to Steering Committee**

Ms Carsimamovic presented the overview of the BCOP’s Action Plan for FY2018. Both working groups are planning meetings via videoconference in September. BCOP Program and Performance Budgeting Working Group will next participate in the OECD Performance Network’s meeting in November 2017, in Paris (noting that OECD may have requirements and rules when it comes to countries that are approved for participation). The Executive Committee meeting will be held also in Paris. The Plenary meeting is scheduled for March 2018 in Vienna, Austria. Budget Literacy and Transparency Working Group will have an event in April, the location of which will be determined based on the findings of the research currently being done by this Working Group and the Resource Team on best practices in budget participation. Finally, the OECD CESEE SBO meeting is planned in summer 2018 in Croatia, where Executive Committee meeting will also take place.

The Executive Committee confirmed the outlined planned activities and in particular discussed the potential Deputy Minister/Minister meeting planned in the Action Plan. It was concluded that this meeting would potentially be combined with the OECD CESEE SBO meeting, planned for June or July 2018 in Croatia, provided that the final topics of the meeting are interesting to Deputy Ministers/Ministers.

1. **Implementation of new PEMPAL Strategy 2017-22 – including roundtable discussions to determine BCOP input to working group with IACOP and TCOP on e-surveys of: a) high level officials and b) usefulness of knowledge products**

Ms Aubrey reported informed the Executive Committee members that the post-event survey has been slightly modified and will be distributed for comments next week.

She also reported on the drafted survey for high level officials that is scheduled to be circulated in September 2017. All Executive Committee are encouraged to comment on the draft. On BCOP behalf Ms Mladenka Karacic, Ms Anna Belenchuk, Mr Kanat Asangulov, including Ms Aubrey and Ms Carsimamovic, will take part in PEMPAL Working Group for the Survey of High-Level Officials. The first meeting is tentative scheduled for July 27. This survey is going to be circulated to high-level officials with the 2016 Annual Report and Thank You Letters.

As the Executive Committee members did not have immediate comments on the draft survey, ut was concluded that they can send comments, if any, in written.

Ms Belenchuk concluded the Executive Committee meeting thanking the members for active participation in a successful OECD CESSE SBO meeting and wished everyone safe travels.