

Development Coordination Council Tajikistan

Minutes

Meeting of 27 July 2011

Participants

Husain Gulamhusein, AKDN

Bill Kilby, DFID

Ovidiu Mic, EC

Pascal Richter, German Embassy

Stefan Erber, GIZ

Christopher Miller, IFC

Hiromi Katatama, JICA

Sadi Karimov, JICA

Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Pakistani Embassy

Chantal Felder, SCO

Peter Mikula, SCO

Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP

Takaho Fukami, UNICEF

Jeffrey Lehrer, USAID

Marsha McGraw Olive, WB

Heather Hill, WFP

Iain McDonald, WFP

Pavel Ursu, WHO

Jurabek Sattorov, GoT/MEDT

Artemy Izmetiev, UNDP/ACIP

Vali Musaev, UNDP/ACIP

Rosa Charpentier, DCC Secretariat

Chair: Joji Tokeshi, ADB

Next meeting: TBD

1. Joji Tokeshi, DCC Chair, noted that Jurabek Sattorov, MEDT, is observing the meeting to facilitate information-sharing with GoT on Development Forum implementation plans. Vali Musaev and Artemy Izmetiev, both from the DFID- and UNDP-supported Aid Coordination and Investment Promotion (ACIP) project, were present as resource persons for the Paris Declaration monitoring survey.

Agenda item 1 – Chairman's update

Development Forum implementation plans

2. The Chair thanked members for their follow-up on Development Forum implementation plans, on which reported progress from the GoT side has been uneven. Follow-up with the government will continue, and an update will be provided at the end of the month.
3. On the issue of tax administration reform, Christopher Miller, IFC, informed the Council that the IFC, in consultation with IMF and other concerned agencies, will submit a proposal to form a dedicated sub-group to formalize related ongoing work and discussions. **Follow-up:**

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IFC to present a detailed proposal for a tax reform sub-working group at a future DCC meeting

Stock-taking of the Joint Country Partnership Strategy 2010-12 (JCPS)

4. David Pearce, a consultant who is expected in September and will again work with the DCC in preparation for the next stock-taking Development Forum later in the year, will also review progress to date on the JCPS, and make recommendations on implementing commitments and increasing the strategy's relevance and effectiveness among the development community in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan's participation in the 2011 Paris Declaration monitoring survey

5. On 11 July, the draft Tajikistan country chapter, which will be included in the Paris Declaration survey report to be published in the fall, was shared with the DCC. As a follow-up, SCISPM and the Aid Coordination and Investment Promotion project (ACIP) conducted a stakeholders' meeting with DCC members on 20 July. Discussions were productive, and SCISPM is working to address issues that arose, such as the further definition of terms to ensure donors' uniform understanding of indicators.
6. On 26 July, SCISPM submitted the consolidated comments on the draft Tajikistan country chapter to the OECD. A revised country chapter is expected in August; the DCC will have another opportunity to review the second draft before it is finalized. **Follow-up: SCISPM and ACIP to share second draft Tajikistan country chapter for DCC comments**

2012 funding for the DCC Secretariat

7. The Chair informed members that, assuming that the Secretariat's efforts to date have been satisfactory, there is a need for contributions to finance its 2012 operations. To date, the ADB, DFID, GIZ, SCO and UNDP have indicated an interest in providing funding; all members were invited to consider support to the Secretariat. In August, the Chair and Deputy Chair will approach members with additional information and preliminary budget. **Follow-up: Chair and Deputy Chair to meet with interested DCC members**

Agenda item 2 – Rules for Effective DCC communication

8. Stefan Erber, GIZ, summarized guidelines to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of DCC-wide communications, outlined in a proposal previously circulated to DCC members. The guidelines reinforce the DCC structure in place and encourage the alignment of communications to the structure and assigned roles within it:
 - a. Information-sharing should be coordinated within working groups and clusters, which are overseen by assigned coordinators. Coordinators of working groups and clusters would then liaise with the Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretariat as needed.
 - b. Depending on the purpose, the use of the most suitable and effective medium, whether e-mail, telephone, meetings, etc., should be considered.

- c. Any comments on documents or proposals should be addressed only to the originator, who will consolidate responses.
 - d. To avoid being copied to all, e-mail communications should be targeted only to relevant recipients. Coordinators of clusters and working groups are responsible for maintaining their respective mailing lists.
 - e. An updated DCC web site, with both public and restricted access, will soon be available to serve as an information resource. In addition to general information, clusters and working groups will have dedicated pages. **Follow-up: Secretariat to send e-mail regarding revamped website**
9. The proposal was endorsed by the Council. The Chair requested that DCC members, comprised mainly of heads and deputies, inform their staff of the rules in effect and ensure that relevant information from the DCC is accordingly circulated within member agencies.

Agenda item 3 – Proposed ad hoc food security working group

10. According to Iain McDonald, WFP, preliminary data on a poor harvest, high food prices and malnutrition indicate that poor households will face a difficult winter and spring. Early warning signs could be an opportunity for development partners to prepare for possible program adjustments to address food insecurity in affected regions, as well as initiate structured discussions with the government. To this end, a cross-cutting ad hoc working group, which was first proposed in March and whose draft terms of reference has been circulated for comments, could serve as a vehicle for an organized DCC response and counterpart to the GoT on this critical issue.
11. During the discussion, members supported the need for prompt, coordinated action on food security, as well as an improved monitoring system that combine development partners' capacities. The Council agreed to proceed with the establishment of the working group. The first meeting, which will include a more comprehensive briefing on the food security situation (to be summarized in a map), will be held during the first week of August. Additionally, the Chair will raise the issue at the 29-July meeting of the Principals Group and propose coordination on the issue. **Follow-up: WFP to organize meeting and invite members of the DCC and Principals Group**

Agenda item 4 – Other business

12. In response to a request received, the Chair asked the Council to consider the issue of NGO representation on the DCC. Currently membership is open to only bilaterals, multilaterals, UN agencies and diplomatic missions that have explicit development activities in the country. This issue has been discussed in the past; DCC members are requested to update the Chair on their views. **Follow-up: DCC members to e-mail the Chair, copying the Secretariat**

13. Marsha Olive, WB, announced that the World Bank will be starting a new municipal fund scheme (see attached briefs). In preparation, further consultations will take place within the governance and public sector development cluster. **Follow-up: WB to discuss with coordinators of the governance and public sector development cluster**
14. Pascal Richter, German Embassy, highlighted recent reported actions by the Tax Committee. The Council agreed that a letter outlining concerns, possibly to be co-signed with the Chair of the Principals Group, should be sent to the government. **Follow: up: interested DCC members to confer on the issue after the general meeting**
15. In view of the impending departure in September of Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Country Director and DCC Deputy Chair, the Council appointed Jeffrey Lehrer, USAID Country Director, as the incoming Deputy Chair. Members noted the interest of Stefan Erber, GIZ Country Director, to take over as Deputy Chair in 2012. In the interest of transparency and alignment of terms, the position of Chair was also presented for election; Joji Tokeshi was reelected as Chair by acclamation.