

Development Coordination Council Tajikistan

Minutes

Meeting of 15 June 2011

Participants

Husain Gulamhusein, AKDN
Bijan Teja, AKDN
Bill Kilby, DFID
Alisher Mirzov, EDB
Natalia Pisareva, EDB
Ovidiu Mic, EC
Elaine Conkievich, Helvetas
Zainab Kenjaeva, IFAD
Christopher Miller, IFC
Jiro Iida, JICA
Masayo Murakami, JICA

Tojiddin Najmedinov, JICA
Ivar Vikki, OSCE
Peter Mikula, SCO
H. Kantem Al, Turkish Embassy
Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP
Arthur Van Diesen, UNICEF
Kevin Dean, USAID
Marsha McGraw Olive, WB
Paul Strong, ADB/GITEC
Tahmina Rahmatova, DCC Secretariat

Chair: Joji Tokeshi, ADB

Next meeting: TBD

1. Joji Tokeshi, DCC Chair, welcomed newly arrived member agency representatives to Tajikistan and the DCC: Marsha McGraw Olive, WB; Bill Kilby, DFID; Jiro Iida, JICA; and Peter Mikula, SCO.

Agenda item 1 – Introduction of the Eurasian Development Bank

2. Alisher Mirzoev and Natalia Pisareva of the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), DCC's newest member, presented the bank's Anti-Crisis Fund (ACF):
 - a. Established in 2009, the ACF assists members of the Eurasian Economic Community (Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) to overcome consequences of the global financial crisis, ensure their long-term economic and financial stability, and foster economic integration among them.
 - b. The fund provides financial credits to governments in support of adjustment programs and investment loans to governments or companies implementing large projects.
 - c. Currently, the ACF has \$8.5 billion in contributions from its 6 members. Tajikistan has access to about \$170 million, or 2% of the resources.

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- d. Last August, Tajikistan was approved for a \$70-million financial credit; as of December 2010, \$62 million had been disbursed to the Ministry of Finance.
- 3. After a discussion on the ACF's current activities in the country, the Chair urged EDB to continue to engage in dialogue and coordination with other DCC members in support of more effective reforms in Tajikistan.

Agenda item 2 – Outcomes of May joint DCC-GoT review and next steps

- 4. The Chair reviewed the outcomes of the first joint DCC-GoT Development Forum Action Plan review held in May and outlined the way forward:
 - a. DCC members were thanked for their contributions and participation at the first joint DCC-GoT review of the Development Forum Action Plan held last month.
 - b. There were about 60 high-level participants, majority of whom were high-level representatives from the government, including the President, Prime Minister and key officials, and the DCC.
 - c. The review was held within the context of the National Development Council, chaired by the President. At the conclusion of the meeting, the implementation plans for 10 sectors were approved for action of GoT agencies and ministries.
 - d. The GoT made revisions to the implementation plans, many of which relate to indicators, supporting documents and responsible agencies/ministries, in an effort to make the documents consistent with MEDT's PRS-3 monitoring process. The latest versions from the GoT were circulated to the DCC on 3 June.
 - e. David Pearce, who provided substantive assistance with last December's Development Forum, has been requested to again work with the DCC in preparation for the fall review meeting. He will support the working groups with the implementation plans, look into the status of the DCC's cooperation with the GoT, and prepare a progress report on the DCC's activities and overarching JCPS framework.
- 5. The Council agreed to proceed on the assumption that a review meeting would be held in the fall and a possible pledging session in 2012; internal assessments within the DCC and with the government will help determine if the schedule is realistic. To maintain the momentum from the review, DCC working groups were encouraged to continue to follow up on their respective implementation plans and with GoT counterparts to help ensure that substantive progress could be made.
- 6. On the Joint Country Partnership Strategy (JCPS), which currently has a separate implementation plan and working group, Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP, noted that the findings of the Paris Declaration monitoring survey, as contained in the country chapter, will inform how the DCC will proceed on implementing commitments included in the document.

Agenda item 3 – Presentation on rule of law in Tajikistan

7. In her presentation on rule of law, Elaine Conkievich, Helvetas, briefed the DCC on the current situation in the country, specific activities, as well as donor involvement and coordination:
 - a. There is misbalance of power among government branches, lack of implementation of existing laws, inconsistency among pieces of legislation, and lack of institutional infrastructure and capacity.
 - b. The following agencies are active in the area: GIZ, OSCE, Open Society Institute, SDC, UNICEF, UN Women, and USAID. Possible involvement by EBRD, EU, Finland, and World Bank is under discussion.
 - c. Since 2009 Helvetas has chaired a rule of law group and held monthly coordination meetings. Under the current DCC structure, it is considered a subgroup within the governance working group.
 - d. Technical reviews – infrastructure diagnostics, functional review, funding assessments, etc. – are needed to determine the needs, target interventions, and fill gaps in this area.
 - e. Development partners were requested to increase coordination and engage in policy dialogue among themselves and with the GoT, and ensure that rule of law is included in key strategic reform documents.
8. The Council discussed the recommendations in the presentation. Several members indicated interest in the area and in following up on possible initiatives.

Agenda item 4 – Other business

9. Paul Strong, from the Sustainable Pasture, Arable and Forest Land Management component of the ADB- and GEF-supported Rural Development Project, announced that an international pasture conference will take place on 28-30 June in Dushanbe. The outcomes of the conference will provide input into a sector assessment, which will outline current activities, knowledge gaps, and an investment program and is due out in October. Interested DCC members were invited to contact him directly at strong@gitec-consult.com.