

Development Coordination Council Tajikistan

Minutes

Meeting of 31 March 2011

Participants

Desmond Curran, DFID

Eduard Auer, EC

Ovidiu Mic, EC

Nassim Jawad, FAO

Doris Hertrampf, German Embassy

Stefan Erber, GIZ

Christopher Miller, IFC

Ari Aisen, IMF

Asith Bhattacharjee, Indian Embassy

Behroozi Nekpour, Iranian Embassy

M. Kadirov, Iranian Embassy

Jaborov Safo, JICA

A.B. Averin, Russian Embassy

Rudolf Schoch, SCO

Alexander Zuev, UN/UNDP

Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP

Arthur Van Diesen, UNICEF

Takaho Fukami, UNICEF

Kevin Dean, USAID

Zainiddin Karaev, WB

Alzira Ferreira, WFP

Iain McDonald, WFP

Pavel Ursu, WHO

Jurabek Sattorov, GoT/MEDT

Abdusamad Rajabov, GoT/SCISCPM

Artemy Izmetiev, UNDP/ACIP

Vali Musaev, UNDP/ACIP

Rosa Charpentier, DCC Secretariat

Tahmina Rahmatova, DCC Secretariat

Chair: Joji Tokeshi, ADB

Next meeting: TBD

1. In his opening remarks, Joji Tokeshi, DCC Chair:
 - a. thanked Rastislav Vrbensky, DCC Deputy Chair, and all members on their efforts to push forward with finalizing implementation plans;
 - b. introduced Alexander Zuev, the newly arrived United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative;
 - c. welcomed “nontraditional” partners and their continuing engagement with the DCC; and
 - d. informed members that Jurabek Sattorov, MEDT, and Abdusamad Rajabov, SCISCPM, were invited to observe 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.

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Agenda item 1 – Update on progress of working groups on Development Forum implementation plans

2. Referring to the updated schedule of DCC working group meetings and most recent versions of implementation plans distributed beforehand, the Chair and some working group coordinators briefed members on progress on Development Forum implementation plans:

- a. Four implementation plans – energy, transport, health and regional cooperation – have been finalized in consultation with GoT focal points. For JCPS, there are no changes proposed to the GoT version, and the DCC is on track to meet the relevant objectives.
- b. Several other working groups are or will soon be in discussions with their respective GoT focal points and should be on track to finalize their implementation plans by early April.
- c. After a meeting among concerned DCC members, it was decided that the macroeconomic implementation plan is not necessary, as all its objectives are effectively captured in the IMF work program. The macroeconomy working group will convene and consult with the IMF as needed to tackle priority issues that arise. The IMF will also update the DCC on macroeconomic trends on a quarterly basis.

3. On 25 March, the Chair and Deputy Chair met with Farrukh Hamraliev, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, to brief him on the status of the implementation plans, as well as to begin planning for the first joint DCC-GoT review:

- a. It was agreed that the meeting would take place in late May (the week of 30 May), so that more substantive reporting on the implementation of the plans, as well as on the PRS-3 (2010-12), could be presented at the meeting.
- b. The Minister indicated that after the first review meeting, the next meeting could take place in the fall (September, October or November) with a view to organizing a pledging Development Forum in 2012.
- c. The Minister also conveyed that the outcomes of the implementation plans and PRS-3 will necessarily form the basis for PRS-4 (2013-15).

Agenda item 2 – Status of Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey

4. The Chair reported that the 14 donor questionnaires received from members were consolidated in the country spreadsheet, which was circulated for a final review before being submitted to the GoT through the ACIP project on 30 March. He thanked members for their support of Tajikistan's participation in the Paris Declaration monitoring survey.

5. Artemy Izmestiev, UNDP/ACIP, reported that Tajikistan's survey results – composed of the including the country report, government questionnaire and country spreadsheet –were e-mailed to DCC members for review earlier that morning and is expected to be submitted on time to the OECD today.

6. On the basis of Tajikistan's submission, the OECD will begin to draft the country chapter. The first draft will be available for review in May and will be finalized in June onwards. The

Monitoring Report will be published in September, ahead of the High-Level Conference in Busan in November/December.

Agenda item 3 – Other business

7. The Council discussed a proposal from Alzira Ferreira and Iain McDonald, WFP, to form a cross-sectoral food security working group within the DCC that would serve as a forum to coordinate the DCC response to related issues and interact with the GoT. Pavel Ursu, WHO expressed his interest in co-chairing the group. WFP would provide secretariat support. **Follow-up: WFP to follow up with interested members and report back on final arrangements**
8. Nassim Jawad, FAO, informed members that a letter to Deputy Prime Minister Alimardon outlining the DCC position on the proposed changes to the customs Code was sent under the Chair's signature on behalf of the DCC on 29 March. The letter was drafted by the agriculture and land working group.
9. Ari Aisen, IMF, briefed the Council on IMF's upcoming tax code initiatives and requested that interested members coordinate with the IMF on the issue. IMF technical experts will conduct a mission in the country from 27 April to 11 May to examine the tax regime and formulate reforms; a briefing on the mission's objectives will be arranged. Christopher Miller, IFC, indicated that a tax policy sub-group could be formed within the private sector development working group. **Follow-up: IMF to arrange a briefing for DCC members; IFC to form the tax policy sub-group in consultation with IMF**
10. To help improve the effectiveness of DCC's communications, Stefan Erber, GIZ, will present a related proposal as an agenda item at the next meeting. **Follow-up: GIZ**
11. Nassim reminded the Council that the invitations to the 15 April National Agrarian Reform Conference were sent out; the participation of high-level representatives from DCC member agencies was requested. The President is expected to attend, the Prime Minister will chair the meeting and Deputy Prime Minister Alimardon will be the main presenter for GoT.