

20th Steering Group Meeting

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
18 November 2015

Minutes of the Meeting

Participants

Member countries and jurisdictions: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan, Cambodia; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; India; Japan; Republic of Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

Advisory Group: Transparency International (TI); German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), represented by GIZ; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); American Bar Association (ABA).

Observer country Lao PDR

Secretariat: Asian Development Bank (ADB); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Summary of the Discussions

1. Opening and Adoption of Agenda

The session was chaired by Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Member of Parliament, Mongolia. Mr. Enkh-Amgalan Magvannorov, Prosecutor General of Mongolia, provided the meeting's opening address. The Steering Group then adopted the Meeting agenda.

2. Mongolian Monitoring Report under the OECD Anti-Corruption Network (ACN)

The session was chaired by Ms. Sanjaasuren. Ms. Olga Savran, Manager of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) - of which Mongolia has been a member since 2012 - presented the monitoring report on Mongolia that was adopted in October 2015. The report assesses Mongolia's efforts to implement ACN recommendations regarding anti-corruption policy, and the criminalisation and prevention of corruption. The report also provides new and updated recommendations. Ms. Bat-Otgon Budjav, Director of the Prevention and Public Awareness Department, Independent Authority Against Corruption of Mongolia (IAAC) discussed how the monitoring process contributed to the improvement of the anti-corruption strategy of Mongolia and to the ongoing reform of the Criminal Code.

The monitoring process also helped raise awareness of practical measures to prevent corruption in the public administration and the private sector. She stressed that the report provides a unique comprehensive analysis of the anti-corruption reforms in Mongolia and sets useful guidance for further actions. The lively discussion that followed covered a broad range of issues including the competencies of the IAAC, the ACN monitoring methodology, and various good practices in fighting and preventing corruption in other countries, such as the scope of immunities in the investigation of corruption cases and the role of the judiciary. More information about the Mongolia monitoring report is available on the ACN website.

3. OECD Integrity Scans/Reviews

This session was chaired by Mr. Tur-Od Luvsanjav, Head of Public Council near the Independent Authority Against Corruption of Mongolia. The OECD presented an update on three “country scoping exercises”. Recently an Integrity Scan has been launched in Kazakhstan and a first mission took place in October 2015. The findings and recommendations are expected to be published in Q2 2016. In Thailand, an agreement has been reached with the NACC and the Office of Public Sector Development Commission to start the Integrity Review in Q1 2016. The assessment will run in parallel with the judicial integrity scans driven by GIZ and mutual synergies will be developed. In Indonesia an Integrity Review is scheduled to start in Q1 2016 under the coordination of the BAPPENAS Directorate for Analysis of Law and Regulation and with the support of the Executive Office of the President. Both the Thai and Indonesian Integrity Reviews will take place through 2016.

4. Report from the Secretariat

Mr. Bart Édes reported that the results of the 2014 Regional Seminar were made available to members of the Initiative through the annual newsletter. He also noted that the Secretariat provided financing for the participation of several members of the Initiative in the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference, held in Malaysia in October 2015. Mr. Édes informed the Steering Group that the Mid-term Review of ADB’s long-term corporate strategy has re-affirmed the bank’s commitment to supporting good governance and capacity development. He further noted that ADB joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2014.

The OECD reported the following upcoming activities in the field of anti-corruption outside of the Initiative: (1) Phase 4 Monitoring under the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention; (2) Meeting of the Global Network of Law Enforcement Practitioners against Corruption on 8-9 December 2015 at OECD Headquarters in Paris; (3) OECD support to the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group; and (4) Ministerial Meeting on the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention on 16 March 2016.

5. Special Session: Public Integrity: Innovative Views from Asia-Pacific

This session was chaired by Mr. Tur-Od Luvsanjav, Head of Public Council near the Independent Authority Against Corruption of Mongolia. The OECD presented the process for reviewing the 1998 OECD Recommendation of the OECD Council on Improving Ethical Conduct in the Public Service. Several consultation rounds are planned in order to capture the inputs and views of both OECD and non-OECD member countries, including in Asia-Pacific. Members of the Initiative will receive a draft of the updated Recommendation in Q1-Q2 2016 and will be invited to submit their comments and suggestions to the OECD, as a contribution to the final Draft. The updated Recommendation will be a non-binding instrument, yet reflecting strong political commitment of the adhering countries. Non-OECD countries are also invited to adopt the updated Recommendation. During the session, several members of the Initiative shared their initial views on the review process and the content of the Recommendation.

6. Presentations by Steering Group Members

This session was chaired by Mr. Tsog Log, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Mongolia. Steering Group Members were invited to present their recent activities. Presentations were made by:

- National Anti-Corruption Commission, Thailand
- Anti-Corruption Commission, Timor-Leste
- Corruption Prevention Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong, China
- Cabinet Division, Government of Bangladesh

- Office of the Ombudsman, Philippines
- Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Republic of Korea
- Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau, Singapore
- National Accountability Bureau, Pakistan

7. Presentations by Advisory Group and Observers

This session was chaired by Mr. Tur-Od Luvsanjav, Head of Public Council of the Independent Authority Against Corruption of Mongolia. Advisory Group members and observers were invited to present their recent work. The following presentations were made:

- UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre
- American Bar Association-Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI)
- GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Transparency International (TI)
- Anti-Corruption Department, State Inspection and Anti-Corruption Authority, Lao PDR

8. Consultation with the Private Sector, Civil Society and Media

This session was chaired by Ms. Oyunchimeg Magvan, Deputy Director, Chamber of Commerce of Mongolia. In addition to Steering and Advisory Group members and observers, the session was attended by representatives of the Mongolian private sector, civil society and media. The meeting participants discussed what the most significant corruption issues in Asia-Pacific are, and what role the private sector, civil society and the media should play in preventing and fighting corruption in Asia-Pacific.