



BASIC THEMES OF THIS RELEASE:

- Information on the inter-sessional meeting of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan on February 9, 2011
- Meeting of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council with Mr. Johaness Linn
- Joint meeting of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council, the private sector and international organizations
- The first meeting of the Regional Consultative Council on improvement of business and investment climate in the Khatlon Oblast

**INFORMATION ON INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

On February 9, 2011 in Dushanbe, a regular inter-sessional meeting at the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan - Mr. A. Akilov on the results of execution of decisions of the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan was held. The meeting was attended by Chairman of State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan / Executive Secretary of the Consultative Council - Mr. Saidov, D., Minister of Economic Development and Trade - Mr. Khamraliev F., Minister of Finance - Mr. Nadzhmudinov S., Minister of Energy and Industry - Mr. Gul Sherali, the Minister of Transport and Communications - Mr. Boboyev O., Minister of Labour and Social Welfare - Mr. Mahmadaaminov B., First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs - Mr. Rakhimov P., Deputy Minister of Agriculture - Mr. Isroilov S., First Deputy Minister of Health - Mr. Dzhobirov S., Chairman of the National Bank of Tajikistan - Mr. Rahimzoda Sh, Chairman of the Agency for Statistics of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan - Ms. Mukhammadieva B., Chairman of the Tax Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan - Mr. Davlatov N., Chairman of the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan - Mr. Zaripov G, Director of the Agency for Construction and Architecture under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan - Mr. Komilov A., and deputy chief of the Division for Economic Reform and Investment Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan - Mrs. N. Abdullayeva.

In his opening speech, Mr. Akilov said that improving the investment climate and economic reforms and providing favorable conditions for business development, along



with an increase international rankings of Tajikistan, is an important area of economic policy of the Republic of Tajikistan, in this connection, all concerned ministries and departments should continue to contribute in this direction.

Then, according to the agenda Chairman of State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan/Executive Secretary of the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan - Mr. Saidov D. made his speech. In his report, he spoke in detail about the implementation of the decisions of the Consultative Council and also noted some gaps in the implementation of decisions. Further, reports of the heads of ministries and departments were heard, who briefed on the implementation of decisions of the Consultative Council by their respective institutions.

As a result of inter-sessional meeting, the relevant ministries and state bodies were assigned the following:

1. Heads of relevant ministries and agencies should intensify efforts to implement the decisions of the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of Republic of Tajikistan and submit a detailed report to the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as the Secretariat of the Consultative Council on the outcome every three months.
2. Ministry of Justice jointly with the Ministry of Health and the Agency for Construction and Architecture under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan within three days should consider preparation of relevant amendments to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On ensuring sanitary and epidemiological safety of the public" with the view to bring it into conformity with other laws and regulations, and develop and submit relevant draft to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.
3. State Tax Committee of Tajikistan, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the Agency for Statistics of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to take action to improve the technical basis for the "Unified State Register and the introduction of state registration of business entities through the procedures of Single Window" and to submit proposals for extend the period of its implementation in accordance with established procedures.
4. Ministry of Finance to undertake a comprehensive analysis of instructions of the eighth paragraph of the Action Plan to improve the investment climate in the relevant working group and submit to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.
5. Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to develop relevant analysis and proposals to support domestic producers with the view to stimulate domestic production and submit to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.



6. State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan to strengthen monitoring over the execution of the Action Plan, to review the implementation of reforms for improvement of the investment climate in the country and provide a comparative table to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. A. Akilov thanked all participants for their work and expressed hope for the speedy implementation of assigned tasks.

MEETING OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL WITH MR. JOHANNES LINN

On January 25, 2011 meeting of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council and officials of the UN Development Programme, Mr. Johannes Linn was held.

This meeting was aimed at exchanging information on the activities of the Secretariat and the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan for the past period, the results achieved, future plans, including identifying key areas for further collaboration and cooperation with the private sector and donor community, as well as about the existing challenges.

The meeting was opened by the Head of the Secretariat, Mr. Z. Khotamov with a presentation on the activities of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council in Tajikistan. The presentation included information on innovations in the work of the Consultative Council and the Secretariat in Tajikistan, on the future business strategy, the interaction with government agencies, private sector and international organizations. It was particularly noted for innovations that have been made recently in the work of the Secretariat, in particular, on strengthening cooperation between private sector and donor community: the new procedures for rotating members of the Consultative Council; monitoring of the decisions of sessions of the Consultative Council as well as the formation of the Work Plan of the Consultative Council for 2011, including a plan to improve the indicators of the World Bank Report "Doing Business". Particular attention was drawn to the fact that in the process of reforms, Tajikistan became the second consecutive year, the top reformer in improving its international ranking among 183 countries covered by the World Bank report "Doing Business".

Further, legal adviser - Mrs. E. Ishankulova presented on "The interaction with international donor organizations and the coordination of working groups. In the first part of the presentation it was the main directions of cooperation between the Consultative Council and the Secretariat with international organizations, are the major international organizations - partners such as EBRD, USAID, GTZ, IFC, etc were discussed. It was noted that Consultative Council and the Secretariat have full support of the donor community to



(staff, methodological, administrative, etc.), including the formation of Pipe-Line all sectors of public-private dialogue. At the end of this part of the speech were given not only the positive results of cooperation, but also lists the existing problems (lack of interaction between government institutions and donor organizations, lack of coordination between state agencies and donors, the lack of effective filtering process issues to be addressed, lack of coordination between donor projects, etc. .) as well as key areas for further joint activities. In the second part of the presentation was considered a successful example of the creation and activities of the working group on construction. In particular, the participants were informed about the purpose of establishing a working group, the strategy of its activities, structure, and the procedure of creating a working group, its need, structure and interaction of the Government, the Consultative Council Working Group, the private sector and the Secretariat, as well as on progress of the involvement of experts and the analysis of the current situation to develop recommendations and draft regulations aimed at harmonizing for further consideration at sessions of the Consultative Council.

The presentation “ The Process of Preparing for the Sessions of the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan” was delivered by the Economist of the Secretariat - Mr. N. Abdujaborov. In his Presentation he addressed the following issues: technology of preparation of reports of the Executive Secretary of the Consultative Council and Chairman of the Consultative Council on the basis of the agenda; the implementation of decisions Consultative Council and innovation at its sessions; preparations for effective sessions; and preparation of the format of minutes of the sessions indicating all recommendations and implementers, the process of selection of participants for the meetings; and approval of members of the Consultative Council; the administrative and logistic support of sessions by the private sector and donors; initiatives of the Secretariat in conducting various activities to improve the investment climate, private-sector and donor organizations; and the formation of the pipe-line.

The work of the Secretariat with the state authorities was discussed by legal adviser Mr. Kholikov S. In his presentation, he discussed the issues of harmonization of documents prepared for the sessions of the Consultative Council with government agencies; order to harmonize and procedures for mailing draft laws and regulations for consideration by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan; participation in working groups to develop draft laws and regulations and providing legal opinion on them. In addition, it was noted in that recently Secretariat helps in monitoring the implementation of decisions of the Consultative Council, and prepares relevant reports to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan for the inter-session meetings of the Government. This seeks to ensure that the Consultative Council in its work is not confined only to decisions, but also has clear and complete information about their implementation.

In her presentation "The role of private sector in the work of Consultative Council" Legal Adviser of the Secretariat, Mrs. - A. Mavlonova noted features of working with the private



sector and the procedure for rotation of members of the Consultative Council among the private sector. She informed about the involvement of the private sector in the development of pipeline for inclusion in the agenda of the sessions and described the work with members of the Consultative Council in preparation for the next sessions and in between the sessions. It was particularly noted that the Secretariat coordinates and monitors implementation of the decisions of Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan by the private sector, as well as helps to improve cooperation between the Secretariat and business associations, including the support of the Council and the Secretariat by the private sector. As an example, some materials were presented such as application for membership on the Consultative Council; the format of providing proposals by the private sector to generate pipeline; as well as the evaluation sheets, the Regulation on the rotation of the members of the Consultative Council; newsletters and press releases. Separate information was provided on the website of the Consultative Council, its formation and renewal.

After all presentations concluding remarks were made by Mr. J. Linn. He thanked the Secretariat staff for providing detailed information on the activities of the Consultative Council and its Secretariat. Also, Mr. J. Linn expressed his satisfaction with the work of the Consultative Council and the reforms that helped to improve Tajikistan's ranking in Doing Business Report. He congratulated the people of Tajikistan for the achievements. In addition, he had emphasized the importance of monitoring the decisions of the Consultative Council, which in turn contributes to the effectiveness of the Consultative Council and the responsibility on the part of both public and private sector. According to Mr. J. Linn, a new practice to implement the rotation of the members of the Consultative Council from the private sector is also a good example of openness and transparency of internal processes of the Consultative Council to help improve the level of confidence in the work of the Secretariat.

In closing his speech, Mr. J. Linn made several recommendations and proposals to improve the Secretariat's work. In particular, it was proposed to revise the format of sessions of the Consultative Council and make it less formal, to allow the private sector to communicate more freely through a platform for open discussions. Mr. J. Linn expressed his willingness to cooperate and support the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and its Secretariat. He noted that he would be pleased to receive the draft documents that will be discussed at the sessions of the Consultative Council and provide comments, and expressed readiness and enthusiasm to participate at the next sessions of the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In conclusion, all participants agreed on the importance of the continuation of such meetings and further cooperation.



For information: Johannes Linn is a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program at the Brookings Institution. He was Director of the Wolfensohn Center for Development at the Brookings Institution from 2005 – 2010.

Mr. Linn is also Ex-Vice President of World Bank on Central Asia and Europe. He joined the World Bank in 1973. For nine years he worked in the Bank's research wing on issues of urban development policy. Based on his research, he published various articles on urban development and urban public finance.

JOINT MEETING OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

28 January 2011 the Secretariat of the Consultative Council meeting was held with partners from the private sector and international organizations.

The following attended the meeting from the private sector: Mr. Zabiroy N. - Chairman of the Union of entrepreneurs and exporters, Mr. Lalbekov I. - Chairman of the Association of Banks in Tajikistan, Mr. Akbarov F. - Executive Director of the Association of Microfinance Organizations of Tajikistan, Ms. Uljabaeva M. - Chairman of the National Association for Small and Medium Business of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Petrushkov M. - Director of Centre for Development and Support of Association of Tajikistan (CASE), Ms. Temurova M. - Lawyer of Association of Business Women of Tajikistan, Mr. Kasimov P. - Director of Public Fund of the Internet, Mr. H. Kiebekov - representative of the Association of Milal-Inter, Mr. Kadyrov M. - Deputy Director of Dushanbe Center for Support and Development of Entrepreneurship, Mr. Radjabov F. - Chairman of the Association of Builders of Tajikistan, Mr. Bazarov S. - Chairman of the Agrarian Alliance of Tajikistan.

From international organizations: Mr. N. Guigas (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), Ms. A. Schwarz - (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), Ms. S. Sultanova (International Finance Corporation), Mr. Ms. L. Wegner (German Agency for International Development), Ms. I. Sharipova (German Agency for International Development) have attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposals of the private sector for inclusion in the Work Plan of the Consultative Council for 2011 and identify further strategies for collaborative partnership.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. N. Gigas expressed the belief that he was glad to continue to make every effort to make a positive contribution to economic development and improving the investment climate in Tajikistan. In addition, he provided information about his



experiences and expressed hope for close cooperation with the private sector through the work of the Consultative Council.

Then, the private sector made brief presentations on the issues submitted for inclusion in the Plan of the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in 2011 and that have passed the third stage of filtration.

After the presentations, participants discussed other topical issues affecting the development of entrepreneurship in the country, and the decisions on which should be taken at the subsequent sessions of the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Following the meeting it was decided to continue conducting such meetings on a regular basis, identifying the most relevant topics for submission to the Consultative Council through joint discussions.

FIRST MEETING OF REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL TO IMPROVEMENT OF BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN KHATLON

18 February 2011 in Kurgan-Tube the first meeting of the Regional Consultative Council under the Chairman of Khatlon oblast to improve the business - environment and investment climate.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Avzalov G. - Chairman of Khatlon Oblast, Chairman of the Council, Mr. Rakhmonov A. - Deputy Chairman of Khatlon Oblast, Mr. Phillipov B. - Attaché, EU RT, Project Manager for Private Sector Development, Mr. Rustamov, M. - Programme Analyst, UNDP in Tajikistan, Mr. Grigorov S. - Representative of the OSCE in the Khatlon Oblast, Mr. Gafurov F. - Director of "Navobod - Area A. Chomi Mr. Boyakov D. - director of "Zeratshoh" Farkhor region.

Special guest at the meeting of the Council were Mr. Hujamkulov A. - Deputy Head of Economic Development and Trade of the Khatlon Oblast, Mr. Amirov S. - Head of Tax Department, Khatlon Oblast, Mr. Sharipov Kh. - Deputy Head of Regional Administration of Customs Service Khatlon Oblast, Mr. Shokirov Sh. - head of the main management of the Agency for Statistics of Khatlon, Head of Investment and State Property Management of Khatlon Oblast, as well as Mrs. S. Sultanova and Mrs. S. Isoeva - representatives of IFC, Ms. Kosimova Z. - Representative of GIZ.

The main agenda item of the meeting was the establishment of Council working groups to develop proposals for the forthcoming meetings of the Consultative Council.



Meetings with entrepreneurs in the Khatlon Oblast revealed three clusters of priority issues for business development in the Khatlon Oblast, namely: 1) the problem of attracting investments in companies involved in harvesting and processing agricultural products, and 2) water supply issues of farmer households and timely payment for water supply services; 3) analysis of facilitation of tax payments.

During the meeting it was determined that the working groups will be established consisting of 7 persons: two representatives of relevant government bodies in Khatlon Oblast, two representatives from the business structures of the region, two representatives from international organizations and one representative from non-governmental organizations.

The meeting participants supported establishment of working groups and proposed to establish co-chairs for the working groups by representatives from the business structures of the region.

During the meeting, participants noted the need for technical support to working group by international organizations. Coordination of the working groups was assigned to the Secretariat of the Regional Council.

At the meeting also some organizational issues were discussed, including the approved new members of the Regional Council, determined the rules of the work of the Secretariat of the Regional Council and approved by its head.



If you have proposals for consideration at one of the next meetings of the Council, or comments and suggestions on improvement of the work of the Secretariat and/or Council you can always contact us at amavlonova@InvestmentCouncil.tj

You may also share with us your information, which might be of interest to private sector and investors. We may include it in one of the next bulletins.

The Secretariat of the Investment Council on Improvement of Business Climate under the President of Republic of Tajikistan is grateful for you interest in our bulletin and your general cooperation.

*Sincerely,
The team at Secretariat of the Consultative Council
on Improvement of Business Climate under the
President of Republic of Tajikistan*
