



CORE TOPICS:

- Secretariat of Investment Council had conducted a round table on «Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan – an instrument to facilitate open dialogue between the public and private sectors».
- Development of Public-Private Dialogue at regional level
- Meetings of staff of Secretariat of Investment Council with partners on monitoring of implementation of the Council's decisions

CONDUCTING OF ROUND TABLE ON “CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON IMPROVEMENT OF INVESTMENT CLIMATE UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN – AN INSTRUMENT TO FACILITATE OPEN DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS”

On February 5, 2013 Secretariat of the Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (hereunder the Investment Council) conducted a round table on «Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan – an instrument to facilitate open dialogue between the public and private sectors».





Representatives of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, State Committee on Investment and State Property Management, private sector as well as development partners participated in the round table.

Mr Zavqidjon Zavqiev - Head of Secretariat of the Council opened the round table and pointed out that the goal of the round table is to provide brief information on key achievements of the Investment Council in 2012 and on main priorities of the Council for 2013 as well as exchange of views among partners.

Then speech of Mr Zavqidjon Zavqiev- Head of Secretariat of the Council on the Council's activity in 2012 was heard. It was mentioned that last year the Council conducted its two meetings under the leadership of the Chairman of the Council, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency, Emomali Rahmon, where a number of important issues related to improvement of investment climate and business environment were discussed.



The visible achievements of the Investment Council include the reforms in areas of establishment of legal and economic foundation for development of public private partnership, reform of taxation system, simplification of administrative procedures for investors, simplifying the procedures of inspections of entrepreneurship activities, Removing administrative obstacles to entrepreneurship, which function with licenses, and improvement of investment climate in the tourism sector.

During the reporting period within the Council's activity, the Law of Tajikistan "On Public Private Partnership", Tax Code of the Republic of Tajikistan in new edition and other legal and regulatory documents were adopted and the draft Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Inspection of Activities of Entrepreneurs" was developed.

Also, to follow up the initiatives of the Investment Council, Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Investment Agreements" and State Policy Concept on Encouragement and Protection of Investment were adopted and Tajikistan ratified the United National's Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (in other words New York Convention).

It is worthwhile pointing out that the international community recognized the results of implemented reforms and according to the World Bank's "Doing Business" Report last year Tajikistan's ranking improved to 6 positions.



The Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan established a favorable framework for establishment and improvement of public private partnership at regional level, as a result of which currently Consultative Councils on Improvement of Investment Climate under Chairmen of GBAO, Soughd and Khatlon provinces and Farkhor district have been operating successfully. By the instruction of the Council's Chairman, the President of the country, establishment of similar councils under Dushanbe Mayor and in Rasht Valley is under the process.

The Investment Council's Secretariat, in close cooperation with private sector's representatives and development partners, identifies priority areas for reform on a regular basis, analyzes each issue proposed by the private sector and submits the results for consideration to the Investment Council.

At the end of his speech, Mr Zavqidjon Zavqiev- Head of Secretariat of the Council emphasized that based on the private sector's proposals issues like strengthening public private dialogue, improving investment climate in the insurance sphere, establishing sovereign credit rating of the country, promoting the accession of Tajikistan to Hague Convention (or Apostille Convention of 1961) on recognition of documents in countries that ratified the Convention and continuing the reform in the system of permits and licenses are identified as key priorities of the Investment Council for 2013.

Then, Mr Ulf Hindstrom - Resident Representative of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Tajikistan on behalf of development partners, and Mr Izatullo Lalbekov - Head of banks Association of Tajikistan on behalf of private sector delivered speeches, which highly acknowledged the useful activity of the Council for the last year and gave useful recommendations.

At the end of the round table, participants had useful discussion and provided their proposals to further improve the investment climate in the country.



DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE AT REGIONAL LEVEL



We are pleased to note that with the purpose of development of public private dialogue at regional level Consultative Councils on Improvement of Investment and Entrepreneurship Climate were established in several towns and districts of the country.

As of now, Consultative Councils on Improvement of Investment and Entrepreneurship Climate in Farkhor district and cities of Isfara, Istaravshan and Panjakent had been established with the UNDP technical assistance.

The main purpose of establishment of regional councils is creation of favorable environment for entrepreneurship and attraction of more investment to these towns and district, also improvement of standard of life of population and strengthening public private partnership.

Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan had established close cooperation with newly established regional councils and would assist in improvement of their activities.

On February 07, 2013 a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between State Committee on Investment and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan by the Head of the Committee Mr. Davlatoli Saidov and the OSCE by the Deputy Head of Organization Mr. Larsen H.P.

Head of Secretariat of the Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Zavkidjon Zavkiev participated in this event.

According to the Memorandum in implementation of the instruction of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan a Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate in Rasht Valley (Jirgatal, Tojikobod, Rasht, Nurobod and Tavildara) was established and the OSCE made commitment to provide technical support.

The main purpose of establishment of the Consultative Council in Rasht Valley is to assist in development of business and investment in this region.

MEETINGS OF STAFF OF SECRETARIAT OF THE INVESTMENT COUNCIL WITH PARTNERS ON MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS

On February 14, 2013 the Secretariat of the Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan held a multilateral meeting with main Development Partners, namely EBRD, IFC, SECO and GIZ.

Issues of monitoring of implementation of the Council's decisions such as access to the country, improvement of investment climate in tourist sphere and simplification of administrative procedures for investors, monitoring of Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Public Private Partnership", "On Permission Procedures" and the need to redraft Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Inspection of Entrepreneurship Activity", also strengthening flow of information between development partners and the Secretariat were discussed at the meeting.

Head of the Secretariat of the Investment Council Mr Zavkidjon Zavkiev informed about topics of discussion and emphasizing the importance of contribution of development partners in implementation of the Council's decisions, stressed out that the existing opportunities have not been fully used. Thus, development partners need to take additional measures to provide technical assistance for the implementation of the Council's decisions.



Representatives of International Organizations expressed that currently they are providing technical assistance in implementation of a number of the above mentioned legal acts of Tajikistan and would continue cooperation on implementation of the Council's decisions.

At the end of the meeting, Head of the Investment Council Mr Zavkidjon Zavkiev expressed his hope that the topics, which were discussed during this multilateral meeting would be supported by International Organizations.

Also, during February 2013 Investment Council's employees had bilateral meetings with representatives of development partners such as EU, IFC, SECO and others. Issues of coordination and monitoring of implementation of the Council's decisions, namely improvement of investment climate in tourist sphere and simplification of administrative procedures for investors and access to the country were discussed during these meetings.

In addition, staff of Secretariat of the Investment Council held several meetings with partners from the private sector, namely MIDAT, Center for Support and Development of Entrepreneurship in Dushanbe, as well as with members of the Investment Council from the private sector. Views and proposals of representatives of the private sector on process of economic reforms with regard to improvement of investment and business climate and monitoring of implementation of the Council's decisions were heard and counterparts agreed to strengthen cooperation and coordination.

Sincerely Yours,

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