**Minutes from the First Meeting of the Organizing Committee**

**Joint Transparency and Accountability Initiative**

The meeting was organized through the Zoom platform on June 9th, 2021, by the World Bank.

The following agenda was proposed and adopted:

1. Opening and Introductory Remarks by the representatives of the World Bank
2. Introduction by all participants
3. Discussion and Adoption of the Rules of Procedures of the Organizing Committee
4. Establishment of Thematic Subcommittees/Thematic Working Groups
5. Adoption of Conclusions and Agreement on the Next Steps

The meeting was moderated by Mr. Srđan Majstorović, representative of the World Bank Team. Participants in the meeting were high-level representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, National Assembly, Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, National Convention on the EU, and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia in the capacity of members/deputy members of the Organizing Committee, as well as high-level representatives of the development partners - the EU Delegation, Swiss Cooperation Office, and Embassies of the Netherlands and Germany, in the capacity of observers (for t**he list of participants see Annex 1**).

**1. Opening and Introductory Remarks**

On the behalf of the World Bank, Mr. Stephen Ndegwa, World Bank Country Manager and Ms. Verena Fritz and Mr. Srđan Svirčev, welcomed all participants and expressed gratitude to all participating institutions, development partners, civil society organizations and business associations for recognizing this Initiative as a coalition of those who are willing to move things forward with regards to transparency and accountability of Serbia’s public sector, emphasizing the influence of improved public sector transparency and accountability for Serbia’s global image and attractiveness for investors. The World Bank representatives reminded participants about the current WB activities and projects in Serbia that work in synergies with this Initiative. They also pointed to the Initiative’s goals and emphasized the impact of improved transparency and accountability of the public sector on Serbia’s global image and attractiveness for investments. Furthermore, they stressed that the main aim of this meeting is to officially establish the Organizing Committee and Thematic Working Groups, adopt the Rules of Procedure of the Organizing Committee, and agree on the follow-up activities. Finally, they announced a big Workshop with all relevant stakeholders to publicly launch the Initiative that will take place in October.

**2. Introduction by all participants**

All OC members and observers briefly presented their activities related to strengthening transparency and accountability and stressed that thematic areas and topics that are the subject of the Initiative's work are of utmost importance. OC members provided highlights of their ongoing activities and projects which are compatible and matching to the Join initiative. Furthermore, all members and observers strongly supported the establishment of the Organizing Committee and expressed their readiness to participate in further activities of the Initiative.

**3. Discussion and Adoption of the Rules of Procedures (RoP) of the Organizing Committee**

The moderator gave brief introductory remarks about the main role of the OC and its tasks. The work of the OC will be based on dedicated Rules of Procedures which were shared with members ahead of the meeting, thanking the OC members who provided additional suggestions. In line with suggestions of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, the moderator presented amendments to the RoP in areas of the disclosure of information and the manner of submitting the proposals for amendments to the RoP. Also, the moderator presented the proposal for amendment to the provision on the presidency of the OC and outlined that the WB team will serve as OC’s secretariat and work closely with the rotating Presidency in order to facilitate the OC’s work.

**Result:**

* Members of the Organizing Committee adopted the RoP with proposed amendments by consensus. (Adopted text of the RoP is **Annex 2 of the Minutes)**
* In accordance with the adopted RoP, Mr. Saša Stevanović, member of the OC (State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance) was elected by consensus as the first Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, for the period of six months.

**4. Establishment of Thematic Subcommittees/Thematic Working Groups**

The moderator informed members of the OC and observers about the work that WB team has done in the previous period, including the consultations with different stakeholders and mapping of possible areas of cooperation under the Initiative. The mapping was based on predefined criteria – limited or no regulatory changes; measures are not envisaged directly by current strategic documents; areas for improvements have already been identified by relevant studies or reports in the areas of Good Governance and Anti-Corruption. He presented three main thematic areas mapped out as a result of previous consultations and proposed to the OC members to establish three Thematic Working Groups (TWG): (i) Fiscal Transparency, (ii) Proactive Transparency, and (iii) Strengthening Accountability, that will deal with the topics and implementation of previously endorsed measures for the improvement in these areas. The moderator presented proposal of potential members of TWG that may serve as a starting point for the membership structure of these TWGs (**see Annex 3 of the Minutes**). He also stressed that the initiative is open for comments, suggestions, and nomination of additional institutions and organizations that might contribute to the thematic subcommittees/working groups perspective duties.

**Result:**

* Members of the Organizing Committee adopted the proposals of the Secretariat and established by consensus three Thematic Work Groups – Fiscal Transparency, Proactive Transparency, and Strengthening Accountability. **Members of the** Organizing Committee also mandated Secretariat to contact potential future members and invite them to join the work of TWG.

**5. Adoption of Conclusions and Agreement on the Next Steps**

Members of the Organizing Committee adopted by consensus the following conclusions:

1. At its first meeting, the Organizational Committee (OC) has been officially constituted. Members of the OC expressed their readiness to cooperate within the framework of the Initiative in order to improve implementation of the crucial strategic and legislative acts that should contribute to the enhancement of transparency and accountability of Serbia’s institutions and administration for the benefit of its citizens.
2. Members of the OC agreed that only together, working side by side, official institutions, CSOs, and the business community can genuinely contribute to better understanding and performance of transparent and accountable public policy implementation.
3. The OC adopted the Rules of Procedure and established three Thematic Work Groups – Fiscal Transparency, Proactive Transparency, and Strengthening Accountability. OC has elected Mr. Saša Stevanović, member of the OC and State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, as a Chairperson of the OC for the period of six months. OC mandated Secretariat of the Joint initiative to contact potential members and invite them to join the work of TWGs asap. Based on their response, initial meetings of the TWGs will take place in July. Next meeting of the OC will be held in September 2021 and the public launch of the Initiative is tentatively scheduled for October 2021.