

**Concluding Statement**

**adopted at the**

**Regional Conference on “Investment and  
Competitiveness in Central Asia”**

Investment and Competitiveness Initiative for Central Asia

OECD - OSCE

**4 – 5 November 2008, Berlin**

## **Preamble**

We, the Delegations of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan, participating in the regional Conference,

**CONVINCED** of the need to spur economic growth, development and social progress across countries in the Central Asian region, especially in the times of global financial crisis;

**RECOGNISING** the need to increase investment, competitiveness, and private sector development by designing and implementing policies to improve the investment and business climate;

**SUPPORTING** regional co-operation for the overall benefit of economic development, security and stability;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the OECD, its Member countries, and the OSCE in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, can provide valuable support to the efforts of governments in the region to create favourable conditions for increased domestic and foreign investment through implementing the Investment and Competitiveness Initiative for Central Asia;

**HAVE** adopted the following statement:

## **Objectives**

The Delegations agree with the following objectives of the Investment and Competitiveness Initiative for Central Asia:

- Increase investment, competitiveness and private sector development by helping countries to design and implement policies to improve the business climate and encourage regional co-operation for the overall benefit of economic development, security and stability;
- Share OECD best practices and experience in policies to improve investment and competitiveness;
- Support countries from the region in discussing and sharing their own best practices and reform experiences; and
- Assist governments from the region in developing policies aimed at supporting local businesses and attracting more foreign investors.

## **Key principles**

The Delegations agree with the following key principles, which will drive the implementation of the Investment and Competitiveness Initiative in Central Asia:

- Clear links with the National Development Plan and the priorities of every country;
- Tailored to reflect the needs and the priorities of the participating countries, based on their active ownership;
- Review and coordination with existing donors and other international organizations to avoid any overlap or/and duplication;
- Voluntary self-evaluation of the government on its policy reforms;
- Involvement of the private sector whenever possible;
- Result driven approach with a clear implementation road-map.

**Approach:**

We have discussed the Concept of the Initiative, developed by the OECD and OSCE in consultation with the Central Asian countries, Afghanistan and Mongolia, and agreed with the objectives and key principles as described above. We believe that the Initiative can be of assistance in our policy reform work at sectoral and national levels and, when appropriate, at regional level.

The proposed regional working groups could contribute to the sharing of experience and information useful to the work carried out in our countries. The regional working groups shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairmanship of the working groups may also be organized on a rotation basis.

Implementation of the Initiative will start in 2009 and will initially last for 3 years. It will be funded through donor contributions.

The Initiative will be managed by an Advisory Council that will consist of representatives of participating countries, the OECD, the OSCE, donor countries, relevant international organizations and the private sector. The Advisory Council shall meet twice a year and a Ministerial Meeting will be held once a year.

Participation in the Initiative is open to all countries of the Central Asian region.