

Technical Assistance to Government of Mongolia: Orientation Workshop on Functional Assignment

3-7 July, 2017

Background

Under Mongolia's state policy on decentralisation, formally endorsed in 2016, functional assignment (FA) has been identified as an important element contributing to effective local governance. The Cabinet Secretariat has made efforts to review the current state of FA in the country and formulate a methodology to apply in allocation of functions moving forward. Direct support to the FA process in Mongolia is being provided by the bilateral Decentralization Policy Support Project (DPSP), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

During LOGIN's 4th General Assembly in Colombo, Sri Lanka (2016), discussions were held with the Cabinet Secretariat representative and members of the Mongolia Country Platform, and following areas of potential support to FA activities in the country were identified:

- Workshops for Mongolian government officials aimed at explaining the concept of FA
- Review and validation of current efforts (as undertaken for the environmental sector) and additional support by way of conducting FA exercises in other priority sectors

After a consultative process involving the LOGIN Secretariat, SDC Office in Ulaanbaatar, and the LOGIN Country Facilitator in Mongolia, Terms of Reference and an agenda for the technical assistance were defined. LOGIN's FA specialist, Rainer Rohdewold, was identified as the resource person for the technical assistance mission.

Technical Assistance on Functional Assignment

The overall purpose of the mission was 'to provide technical know-how and advice to the relevant actors on the methodology of functions at central and local government level in Mongolia'.

The crux of the mission was the design and facilitation of three training workshops on FA (concept, methodology, experiences in other countries) targeted at different stakeholder groups:

- First workshop with representatives from sector ministries and the Cabinet Secretariat
- Second workshop with representatives from local administrations
- Third workshop with academia and civil society representatives

Outputs of Mission

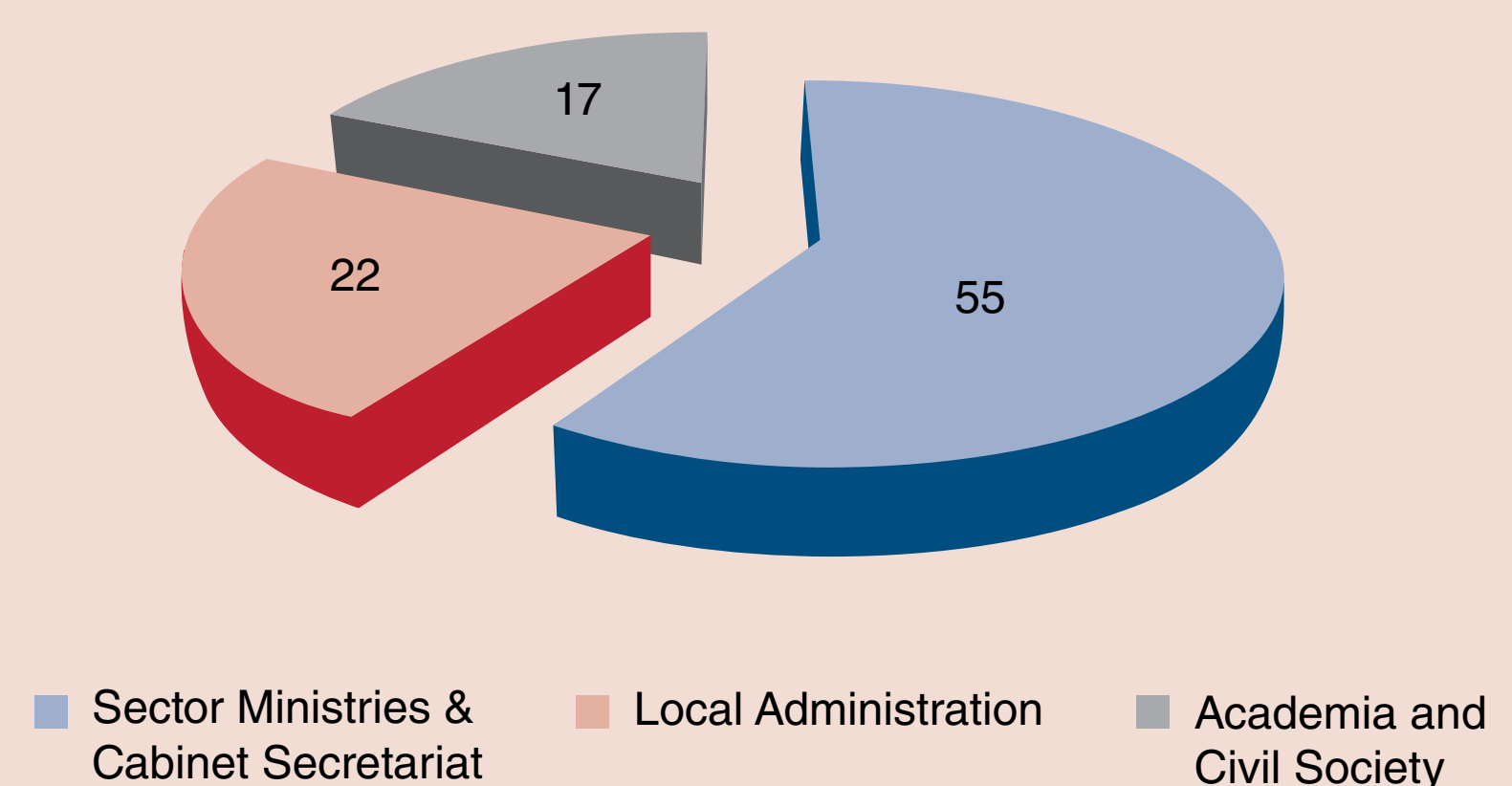
The expert commented on the FA concept currently piloted in Mongolia and provided recommendations to the Cabinet Secretariat as well as the Project Implementation Unit of DPSP on possible steps to further the FA process. The technical assistance included sharing advice on:

- Draft FA methodology
- Concept Paper that serves as part of the technical assistance to the Cabinet Secretariat;
- Experience of piloting FA in the environment sector; and
- Draft Government Resolution on FA

Recommendations

- Consider modification of relevant legal instruments in order to accommodate the new FAs so as to minimise inconsistencies
- Explore the possibility of introducing the concepts of 'obligatory' and 'optional' functions to guide local governments; definition of 'function' to be clarified
- Consider securing the intellectual and conceptual resources which are available in academic circles through greater inclusion of the national academia
- Consider investing significantly in involving the sector ministries so as to get their buy-in
- Invest in creating a technical pool of experts who can assist in conducting the FA process for all sectors and develop material, manuals, worksheets that can be shared with sector officials
- Align the investments made by Cabinet Secretariat in the FA process with the Function Review process anchored with Ministry of Finance

Workshop Participants



Mode	Timeframe	Location
Workshop	5 days	Mongolia