

## **ARTF Steering Committee Meeting**

**September 6, 2015**

### **Summary of Discussions**

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A virtual ARTF Steering Committee Meeting held in Kabul from August 31-September 6, 2015 with participation from the Ministry of Finance and the donors, endorsed on an absence of objection basis: (i) the extension of the ARTF termination date until December 31, 2025 and (ii) the addition of a joint rotating seat on the ARTF Strategy Working Group for donors with annual contributions below USD10 million.

The meeting was co-chaired by the World Bank Country Director Bob Saum and the Minister of Finance, Eklil Hakimi. Both issues put forward for the ARTF Steering Committee's endorsement were discussed and supported by the ARTF Strategy Working Group during a meeting on August 26, 2015.

**ARTF Closing Date Extension:** The Steering Committee was requested to endorse a five-year extension of the ARTF Termination Date from June 30, 2020 until December 31, 2025. The extension is being proposed five years prior to the current termination date because the termination date caps the implementation period of projects funded under the ARTF. Thus, the current termination date of June 30, 2020 limits the ARTF to financing only those projects that would be completed prior to this date.

**Strategy Working Group Membership:** The inclusion of one joint rotating seat on the Strategy Working Group to allow donors with annual contributions under USD10 million to participate in formulation of the strategic directions of the ARTF was put forward for the endorsement of the Steering Committee. This was in response to a specific request from Switzerland which has expressed interest in renewing its contribution to the ARTF, as well as being part of the SG.

**Attachments:**

Annex 1: Background Note on ARTF Termination Date Extension and SG Membership