



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

**Business Environment Working Group (BEWG)**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010, IFC, Washington D.C.

16<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Participants**

Andrei Mikhnev, chair (IFC)  
Wade Channel (USAID)  
Martin Chrisney (IADB)  
Martin Clemensson (ILO)  
Bjorn Eriksen, Christian Fougner (Norad)  
Ewa Hagwal (Sida)

*Joined by telephone:*  
Jonathan Brooks (UNDP)  
Jim Tanburn, Kevin Seely (DCED)  
Simon White (Independent)  
Liz Winton (DFID)  
Esra Yilmaz (MFA — Netherlands)

**1. The preparations to the informality conference on April 13-15, 2010, in Cape Town.**

Informality conference: ref. (S. White) report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

1 – Additional study tour in Cape Town on Monday. Simon White outlined the general nature of the study tour, which involves exposure to the reform initiatives of the City of Cape Town and representatives of the local informal enterprise sector. Further details on the tour will be provided as they emerge.

2 – Funds available in budget to bring in participants from informal enterprise associations (travel and accommodations).

3 – (G+BE) Knowledge fair: How many participants needed to make it viable? Only a handful of participants have indicated they are interested in participating in the KF. Simon will write to participants to see if there is more interest in this event.

4 – Keep website registration open past initial deadline until number reaches 110. As of March 4<sup>th</sup> 82 persons registered. Leave space to invite informal economy associates (representatives of informal enterprise associations). In most cases donor should sponsor the participation of informal assoc. etc. only then would conf. funds be used

- a) Website will indicate that conference full, participation by confirmation of sponsors.
- b) A standard note will be prepared to target invitation to informal assoc. gov'ts etc...
- c) Should initiate the confirmation process for those who have already registered.
- d) Cape Town team will send out confirmation (Martin will be responsible).
- e) Provide deadline for participants by which they should book, otherwise not confirmed.

5 – Informal economy vs. informal enterprise participation. More focused to be given on latter.

- March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for hotel bookings.
- Representative from Jambi Bora to be invited (Ingrid Munro).(Andrei)
- 120 copies of the informal economy paper to be printed (Catherine Widrig Jenkins)
- Jim to send a request to donors for their ordering of the informal economy paper. Orders to be made by end of March.
- Simon to send a PDF copy to participants to the conference.
- There is still some space left for additional participants. Members to invite representatives of informal enterprise associations, as well as officials from developing country governments who are involved with business environment reforms. Check with Jim to avoid possible overbooking.

Knowledge fair participation: three participants so far. Could invite local traders as well.

1. Translation: No facilitation for translation. Should be made clear in invitation that conference is in English.
2. Clarify objective of conference:
  - Goal to reach conclusions on what is effective policy to move from informality ----> formality.
  - What is link between informality and BER?
  - More donor collaboration.

Format of The Conference is to be much more dynamic (maybe more unpredictable) as compared with previous conferences. This will hopefully be a better suited format and a good experience.

## **2 BER- Country level reviews – outcome of dialogue with country contacts (dates, methods and process).**

The main focus now should be on executing the mapping exercise at country level.

Countries selected: Bangladesh, Kenya and Rwanda. All PSD Working Groups at the country level in all three countries have confirmed their interest in participating in the country BER reviews. Simon will prepare and circulate ToR with tentative scheduling for the planned reviews in Kenya and Rwanda (in addition to the details of the planned review on Bangladesh which is already produced).

DFID, The Netherlands and IFC expressed interest in participating as members of the review task teams. The Secretariat also expressed interest in participating in the review task teams. Colleagues from the field as well as from HQ are welcomed to participate in the review teams.

The review is not an evaluation of the programmes or someone's performance but rather a review on the practice of supporting reform in developing countries. While doing the country review, the definition of BER, as stated in The Guidance, can be tested, verified, and reassessed.

Synthesis of the 3 countries reviews to be presented to the Donor Committee Annual Meeting in November 2010.

## **3 BER mapping review HQ level – information from other member agencies.**

As of today, Danida, DFID, BMZ/GTZ, IFC, ILO, Netherland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNIDO have submitted information on processes and programs for BER support and compiles in the report "Reviewing the Policies and Practice of Donor Supported Business Environment Reform: Agency Process and Programme Mapping Report (draft?), dated 14 November 2009 and written by Simon White. The draft report has been well received and there is a desire to have more member agencies to submit information in order to produce a more comprehensive report.

### Information from other member agencies.

Sida has now submitted mapping documentation for inclusion in the next revision. IDRC and CIDA have been working on details for the process and programme mapping to be received soon and Norad has submitted a preliminary general list of programme which needs further elaboration. UNDP will not provide inputs as this exercise does not get sufficient priority at HQ. JICA will be contacted with a request to provide inputs. USAID expressed their interest to join the mapping exercise.

Concern over the lack of specific markers identifying donor projects and programmes as targeting specific BER support was discussed. More emphasis to be put on identifying commonalities before producing a final synthesized report. Simon to check with the relevant agencies whether the draft report can be made public and be used as an intermediary product.

There seems however, to be less appetite for peer reviews at HQ level, which was the second of two objectives in the Agency Process and Mapping Review Exercise. The first objective was to identify ways in which participating agencies structure and organize their PSD-BER programs. However, peer reviews at the country level is welcomed and appreciated.

It was proposed that a specific session (possibly a one-day event) be held at the time of a BEWG meeting at which the findings of the mapping exercise could be presented and discussed in detail. The decision to do this was postponed until the second edition of the synthesized mapping report has been produced.

#### **4 BEWG Chairmanship.**

The Netherlands has expressed interest in possibly taking The Chair of the BEWG, and will get back with more details on the possible decision at the BEWG meeting which will take place in Cape Town in April. The period of chairmanship is two years.

Should Netherland choose not to take on The Chair, the BEWG will discuss other modalities of chairing the group which will make use of the Secretariat and Simon White in a more prominent manner. The members of the group are asked to consider on the issue of the Groups Chairmanship for the Cape Town meeting.

#### **5 Agree on survey questionnaire that helps us understand how the Donor Guidance has been used so far.**

Now that the Guidance is out, is it in use? Is it in use at HQ level and is it in use at country level? Are the principles contained in The Guidance applied?

Issues of definition of BER might come up during the survey period and suggestions for amendments and improvements might be proposed by the respondents. A web based questionnaire will be designed along the proposition made by Simon in Consultant's report, dated 2 March 2010. It was decided not to merge survey on the DCED with survey on the usage of The Guidance which will be based on experiences from the field. Our colleagues in the field would be the prime targets for the Survey. The survey should also inquire into possible areas where in the future The Working Group should put focus on. Is the DCED adding value to the respondents work?

There is also a need to check out the awareness The Guidance has had at our respective HQ levels. Proposed dates for survey is mid April until end of May. Simon to make a revised questionnaire along with an invitation to perform the survey which will contain links to the DCED website.

#### **6 2010 – "Parked Work Items": Political Economy, climate change issue, PPD.**

- DFID willing to take on the Political Economy Paper for further elaboration.
- Simon will send an email to members with questions related to interest and engagement of donor agencies with respect to Public Private Dialogue (PPD).
- UNDP has sent an email to members with ToR for the possible formation of a working group on Climate Change (CC) and BER.

Next working group meeting to take place in Cape Town. Simon White was asked to liaise with members regarding appropriate times for this meeting.