



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Business Environment Working Group

Meeting Minutes (12 April and 15 April 2010)

The Business Environment Working Group (BEWG) met twice in Cape Town in the week beginning 12 April 2010, once just before the Informality Conference and one, just after the conference. Therefore, these Minutes are presented in two parts.

FIRST MEETING: Monday 12th April 2010, 6:00PM

Venue: "Wine Cellar", Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, Cape Town

Participants

Andrei Mikhnev (IFC): Meeting Chairperson

Tue David Bak (DANIDA)

Jonathan Brooks (UNDP)

Graeme Buckley (ILO)

Martin Clemensson (ILO)

Christian Fougner (Norad)

Susanne Hartmann (GTZ)

Mikael Söderback (Sida)

Frits van der Wal (Netherlands MoFA)

Liz Winton (DFID)

Jim Tanburn (DCED)

Simon White (Consultant)

Future directions for the BEWG

Martin Clemensson briefed the group on the thoughts of the ExCo in their recent meeting, prompted by the discussion of who should chair the group in the future. Practically all members emphasised that the work of the group was important to them and their agencies; it was felt that the issue of business environment reform remained very relevant, and that the work of the group was not yet complete. In particular, more dissemination of the group's work was needed.

It was noted that the very success of the group implied a growing workload for the Chair; in the context of reducing staff in many member agencies, it was difficult to ensure a mandate within the agency for investing staff time in the duties now involved in chairing the group. Several members noted that it was appropriate for the World Bank Group to chair the group, as the organisation is responsible for so much business environment reform work already now.

If that was not feasible, then alternatives should be considered, including for example hiring Simon White to do more of the duties currently performed by the Chair. Involving the Secretariat more was another option mentioned; Jonathan Brooks stressed the importance of linking the work of the group with that of other groups under the DCED umbrella. It was agreed that these options would be considered further, and discussed again at the next meeting.

It was also noted that the ExCo was keen to see a strategic or longer-term vision for the group; Tue David Bak agreed, and invited the group to Copenhagen for a day dedicated to developing that vision. He agreed to lead the process, stressing that it needed to be dynamic and participatory; recent developments and the achievements of the group have both created fresh opportunities and requirements. The previous document "[About the Working Group](#)" may serve as a starting point for developing a Group new strategic note. Jim Tanburn was asked to distribute copies to the group before the next meeting.

Simon White suggested that the group also consider at that time the findings of the mapping process currently under way, as it contained interesting insights on trends in member agencies.

Preparations for the Conference on Informality and the Business Environment

The meeting took place immediately before the Conference, so various practical aspects were discussed and agreed.

Main action points agreed

	Action Points	By whom	By when
1	Circulate last About the BEWG document to the group in hard copy	Jim Tanburn	Asap
2	Organise a one-day workshop in Copenhagen for the group to articulate its vision and strategy as part of the next BEWG meeting	Tue David Bak	Asap

SECOND MEETING: Thursday 15th April 2010, Cape Town

Venue: V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa

Participants

Andrei Mikhnev (IFC/World Bank Group): Meeting Chairperson
Martin Clemensson (ILO)
Tue David Bak (Danida)
Susanne Dorasil (BMZ)
Susanne Hartmann (GTZ)
Frits van der Wal (Netherlands MFA)
Mark Gawn (CIDA)
Liz Winton (DFID)
Christian Fougner (Norad)
Mikael Söderback (SIDA)
Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
Simon White (consultant to the BEWG)

BEWG Chair and group modalities

The discussions commenced at the meeting on 12 April 2010 (outlined in the Minutes above) continued. Andrei Mikhnev's term as chair of the group has expired. While other candidate for the position of chairperson were discussed, it was agreed that the group would adopt a rotating-chair mode and rely on the BEWG consultant (Simon White) for further coordination and logistical support.

Members were eager to ensure this decision was not misinterpreted: this decision was not taken because of a lack of interest in the group's work. Instead, it is an attempt to employ a more efficient means of organising logistics and support. Indeed, other DCED working group have relied on the DCED Secretariat to perform similar functions.

Thus, as consultant to the BEWG, Simon White will provide logistical and secretariat support to the group. These functions will be considered in more detail at the next BEWG meeting in Copenhagen.

Informal Economy

As a conference follow-up it was agreed that Simon White would circulate the *Report on Conference Outcomes* for comments among participants. The outcome document should be finalized by the end of April 2010. Moreover, the question was brought up whether the Donor Guidance should be revised in order to incorporate results of the Cape Town Conference and principles affecting specifically the informal sector. As alternative option a supplement to the Donor Guidance was discussed.

For the way forward on the topic of BE and the informal sector, BEWG members saw the need for more examples of Business Environment reforms affecting the informal sector.

It was agreed, that member agencies would collect such examples in order to have a basis for extracting common lessons learnt.

Political Economy paper

DFID through Liz Winton will take the paper forward. The DFID plan is to launch/publicize it at a later meeting (e.g. in Rio). The DCED Executive Committee will be approached about funding for the paper. The paper will not reflect the Cape Town conclusions, but rather the parallel stream initiated earlier by DFID. Liz will redraft Terms of Reference for the Political Economy paper and circulate for comments. The Terms of Reference should assure that the problems experienced with the previous draft of the paper would be avoided. The BEWG members supported this DFID led approach.

User Survey on the Donor Guidance

The Guidance user survey has been launched and will remain open until May 30th, 2010.

The BEWG peer review process

Simon White will continue to liaise with country PSD coordinating groups in Bangladesh, Kenya and Rwanda to organize the country level reviews. He indicated that it was looking less likely that these reviews could be held prior to 30 June 2010. Andrei Mikhnev indicated that it was preferable these were completed by 30 June 2010 because the IFC-funded contract will be come to an end at this time.

Zinnes paper

It was agreed that the Informality conference paper by Dr. Clifford Zinnes is to be uploaded to the DCED website.

Next BEWG meeting

It was agreed that the next BEWG meeting will be held in June 2010. Danida will host the meeting in Copenhagen. The focus of the meeting will be on the strategy and vision for the BEWG during the period 2010-2011. Tue David Bak (Danida) and Simon White (consultant) will co-organize the meeting. DFID (Liz) and GTZ (Susanne) will help in the preparation.