



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Business Environment Working Group Meeting

13 November 2015 — World Bank Offices, Vienna, Austria

Meeting Minutes

Present

Farid Hegazy (ILO) Chair	SyedAkhtar Mahmood (World Bank Group)
Tim Green (DFID)	Simon-Pierre Rheaume (Canada)
Melina Heinrich (DCED Secretariat)	Francisco Campos (World Bank Group)
Elizabeth Santucci (USAID)	Mehraz Rafat (Norway)
Cecily David (USAID)	Maria Campo Perfecto (EC – Joined by telephone in the afternoon)
Liliana de Sá Kirchknopf (Seco)	Gayle Barnett (Canada – joined by telephone in the afternoon)
Stefanie Springorum (GIZ)	Kees van der Ree (ILO – joined the discussion on Green Growth by telephone)
Ola Sahlen (SIDA)	Simon White (consultant – joined by telephone)
Jan Meijer (Netherlands MFA)	
Peter Kusek (World Bank Group)	
Ana Goicoechea (World Bank Group)	
Andreja Marusic (World Bank Group)	

Apologies

Lasse Møller (Danida)	Alexander Widmer (Swiss)
Juergen Reinhardt (UNIDO)	Wade Channell (USAID)
Christine Zhenwei Qiang (World Bank Group)	

1 Opening and introductions

Farid Hegazy (ILO) opened the meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves.

2 Welcome

Ivan Nimac welcomed meeting participants on behalf of the World Bank Group in Vienna and provided a brief introduction to the work of Vienna Office.

3 Work Item: BER and Gender

Stefanie Springorum provided an outline of the work item and updated members on progress. She presented the terms of reference that has been prepared for commissioning a consultant. She then asked the following questions:

- Is the proposed focus of the TOR correct?
- Is it realistic to include the preparation of annexes in the TOR or should this be a second step?
- Can anyone recommend consultants to be considered?

The discussion that followed provided some suggestions and ideas on taking this work forward, but in general the approach and the TOR were endorsed. A broad approach, taking into account lessons from women-specific programming as well as programmes that mainstreamed gender considerations was recommended.

AGREEMENT

It was agreed that the annex preparation could be a second step in the process, which will be decided upon after preparation of the report. This is how the BEWG has generally done this. It was also agreed that the task team should try to speed up the work, so that at a final version of the report might be considered by the BEWG in June 2016.

Members agreed to provide final comments on the TOR before end-November 2015 in response to an email by the task team in which apart from comments on the TOR, members would provide information about their work/tools in this area and propose consultants to approach to undertake this assignment. Following this, the consultant will be commissioned as soon as possible.

4 Work Item: Sector BER

Stefanie Springorum provided a brief update on this work item since Juergen Reinhardt, the task team chair, has been unable to attend. Simon White presented an overview of the study that was conducted and then presenting the main findings of the report. He indicated that there was a question as to whether the study of four industry sectors (pharmaceuticals, horticulture, renewable energy and mining) was sufficient to generate information to justify the preparation of a new annex to the Donor Guidance.

After Simon's presentation, there was some discussion of the report. In general, members indicated that the report did contain sufficient information to justify a new annex. While some of the common findings presented in the last two chapter of the report appeared general, they were supported by detailed evidence found in the earlier chapters. Thus, it would be useful to ensure that key findings and recommendations contained in the report, and the annex that follow, are sufficiently detailed and specific. The use of examples drawn from the four-sector assessment would help.

AGREEMENT

It was agreed that members would be given until 15 December 2015 to provide any final comments on the report. Final revisions should include an executive summary and revisions to the final two chapters to better connect the lessons and conclusions of the study with the detailed findings. It was then agreed that the task team would begin the process of drafting an annex on this subject, which would be presented to the BEWG at its meeting in June 2016 for final approval.

5 Work Item: BER for Green Growth update

Kees van der Ree (ILO) joined the meeting by telephone and provided an update on the progress with this work item. A draft report for the first phase of the assignment has been submitted to the task team. A decision will need to be made on a request for proposal for phase 2, subject to available funding. Phase 2 could either focus on in-depth research of some of the case studies featured in the phase 1 report (including field visits), or on developing guidance for donor agencies based on the desk research findings. BEWG members are invited to join the Green Growth Working Group Meeting on 15 December in Paris to provide feedback on the phase 1 report and next steps.

AGREEMENT

Jan Meijer and Akthar Mahmood expressed an interest in holding individual interviews with the consultants to provide their perspectives on the phase 1 report. Further feedback from the wider group could be provided via teleconference at a later stage.

6 Investment Climate Impact Evaluation and Applied Research

Peter Kusek from the World Bank Group provided a presentation of the work of the Bank on Investment Climate Impact Evaluation and Applied Research

Francisco Campos presented the rationale of impact evaluations in Trade and Competitiveness. IE allows agencies to measure and compare interventions, test new invention types and impact on target groups. He recognized M&E as an important tool, but not enough to measure causalities. IE brings critical thinking & evidence for the discussion with governments.

DCED members agreed on the importance, but implemented it to varying degrees in their own programming as it is very costly and not economically viable for smaller programmes.

Ana Goicechea then presented some practical experiences they have made with impact evaluation and stressed that impact evaluation has huge advantages throughout programme life cycles.

7 Work Item: Business Environments for Inclusive Business

Gayle Barnett joined the meeting by telephone and provided an update on the work conducted under this item. The consultant commissioned in January did not produce a report that could be accepted by the task team. The quality of the work was unsatisfactory and the task team in consultation with the wider BEWG members advised to only provide partial payments. This was however not possible, as apparently the colleagues managing the Trust Fund had released several payments for the consultant without getting back to the task team members, who are ultimately technically responsible for assuring a quality output. This will necessitate revising the modalities of both contracts and dealing with the Trust Fund. This will be taken up by the BEWG Chair as a separate issue. As a result, Melina Heinrich has prepared a revised scoping paper outline on this topic. Peter Kusek spoke about the recent survey and the creation of a global platform on inclusive business. Melina then presented the proposed scoping paper outline.

There was a general discussion on the item and high appreciation of the proposed scoping paper outline. It was suggested that online research could be widened as some practical examples of relevance for the paper may not be labeled as 'Inclusive Business'. Peter Kusek offered to provide further suggestions in writing and committed to remain disposable for further peer reviewing.

AGREEMENT

It was agreed that Melina Heinrich will continue to develop the scoping paper in collaboration with the task team, following the scoping paper outline presented. Consideration regarding a possible annex on this topic will be given once the scoping paper has been prepared.

8 Work Item: Beyond National BER

Farid provided an introduction to this work item. The task team has produced TOR for a consultant to undertake this work. However, progress has stalled since the task team chair has taken leave. Maria Campo Perfecto indicated that the European Commission could possibly continue to lead this work, unless any other members wished to do so.

AGREEMENT

It was agreed that Simon would liaise with the European Commission about taking this work forward, keeping the task team and Farid informed of these developments.

9 Other Business

A general discussion took place in which some members provided updates on recent developments in their agencies.

10 Next Meeting

AGREEMENT

It was agreed that the next meeting be a teleconference in March 2016.

The next physical meeting will take place on 13 June 2016, the day before the DCED Annual Meeting, 14-16 June 2016, in Härnösand in Sweden.

11 Close of Meeting

Farid closed the meeting at 4:20PM.

END OF MINUTES