



## **Business Environment Working Group Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**14 June 2016**

#### **Present:**

Farid Hegazy (ILO) Chair	Henrik Vistisen (Danida)
Juergen Reinhardt (UNIDO)	Arjan de Haan (IDRC)
Gayle Barnett (Global Affairs Canada)	Andreja Marusic (World Bank Group) – connected by telephone
Stefanie Springorum (GIZ)	Katsumata Susumu (JICA)
Liliana de Sa Kirchknopf (SECO)	Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (DCED Secretariat)
Jan Meijer (Netherlands)	Simon White (Consultant, BEWG Coordination)
Patricia Seex (DFID)	

#### **Apologies:**

Alexander Widmer (SDC), Tim Green (DFID)

#### **1 Meeting Opening 2:15PM**

Farid Hegazy (ILO) Chairperson: opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The meeting was opened later than originally planned due to logistical problems created by the Swedish pilots strike.

#### **2 Introductions**

Members introduced themselves.

#### **3 Business arising from previous minutes**

No business arising from previous BEWG Minutes of 16 March 2016.

#### **4 BEWG Work Plan & Budget 2016-17**

The draft work plan and budget was discussed. Each proposed work item was included.

**AGREED: It was agreed that the Draft Work Plan & Budget 2016-17 be adopted and formally submitted to the DCED annual Meeting on Thursday, 16 June 2016.**

#### **5 BER and Gender: update**

Stefanie Springorum (GIZ) provided an update on this work and presented the findings of the consultant's investigation into gender and BER (prepared by Katherine Miles), as contained in the draft report (part of the meeting package of documents). This included a series of principles for gender-sensitive BER as well as a number of recommendations

for continuing work in this field, such as the preparation of case studies, further literature reviews, expert consultations and improved donor coordination. The timeframes for completion of the report and preparation of the annex are:

- Feedback request by 24 June 2016
- Final Technical Report due: 30 June 2016
- Draft Donor Annex due: 7 July 2016
- Final Donor Annex due: 31 July 2016

In the discussion that followed there was general appreciation for the report and work done. This work connects with a range of other program areas, such as financial inclusion and SME procurement. There is interest in further work in this field, for example, in the preparation of detailed case studies. There would also be value in future research in other BER fields in which gender plays an important role; also value in exploring indicators for gender and BER further.

**AGREED:** Further work on this item should be continued into the next financial year's work plan and budget. Additional funds will be required for this. Access to finance for women should be further investigated and included into the Work Plan & Budget 2016-17.

Agreed to attempt to include the gender aspect of BER procurement in the work item on SME Procurement with World Bank support. The Task Team dealing with this project will be requested to consider this.

Agreed that more time be given to comment on the draft annex to ensure buy-in by members.

Agreed: BEWG members to submit their comments on the report by 24 June 2016.

## **6 Business Environments for Inclusive Business: Presentation of Draft Technical Report**

Gayle Barnett (Canada) introduced the item and made some general comments. Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (Secretariat) then provided an overview of the report and its findings.

In the discussion that followed there was a request for more time to respond to the draft. Members found the report interesting and helpful in terms of definitions, although there were some questions regarding the way in which 'inclusive business' is defined. This is recognised as a very broad field. The report summarises the major issues well. It would be useful to link with UNDP and their work (Liliana de Sa Kirchknopf can assist with this).

**AGREED:** It was agreed BEWG members would submit their comments on the report by 15 July 2016.

## **7 Sector BER Annex: Presentation of Draft**

Juergen Reinhardt (UNIDO) provided an update on this work item, describing the four sectors investigated and the Technical Report produced. Drawing from this investigation, the draft Guidance Annex on Sector-Oriented BER has been produced.

Simon White (Consultant) provided a brief presentation of the draft annex. The following comments on the draft were made:

- There needs to be a better connection between the Key Messages and Principles (maybe bring the Principles forward);
- Add something in Key Messages on addressing anti-competitive behaviour and indicate how broadening PPD at the sector level can be used to address anti-competitiveness;
- Where possible, distinguish between approaches defined by sector, sub-sector and value chain;
- Try to bring more detail into the annex from the technical document;
- Last principle requires redrafting.

**AGREED:** It was agreed that a revised version of the annex will be circulated to members on or before Friday, 24 June 2016, following which members would have two weeks to comment – submitting their comments on or before Friday, 8 July 2016. The task team will decide if there is a need for further revisions based upon the comments received.

## **8 Beyond National BER: Presentation of Draft Technical Report**

In the absence of the task team leader, Simon White discussed the history of this work item and the task team. He then presented the first draft first report. This was briefly discussed:

- Help offered to access information from FIAS;
- Good to have a table on programs covered (local and regional) – good to know which regions are covered;
- Members offered to comment on the report and offer further links to other respondents where possible.

**AGREED:** It was agreed that BEWG members would send comments on the report to Simon White by 30 June 2016.

## **9 BEWG Engagement with Other BER Programs and Facilities: Discussion**

Jan Meijer (Netherlands) raised the question of how the BEWG interacts with other donor-funded or supported programs and institutions. He specifically referred to two organisations the Netherlands is supporting: the African Centre for Economic Transformation and the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative.

A number of members knew of these organisations and found them useful. There was some discussion on the value and purpose of a closer interaction with organisations and programs. There is no need to change the institutional structure of the BEWG.

**AGREED:** There was general agreement of the need to share information better among the group by allowing more time during meetings for members to provide updates and to use the DCED Newsletter for this purpose. Issues of special importance to the BEWG should be brought to the attention of the Group's Chair and Coordinator for inclusion under AOB. It was agreed not to use the BEWG mailing list for these purposes.

## **10 Any other business**

There was no other business arising. However, there was a brief discussion on how new task teams will commence their work.

**AGREED: Simon White will communicate with all new task teams to initiate the preparation of work plans for each team.**

## **11 Joint meeting between BEWG and the Green Growth Working Group**

Farid Hegazy welcomed the GGWG members and handed over to Kees van der Ree (ILO), chairperson of the GGWG, who then opened the joint meeting at 5:40PM and provided a background to the work.

Technopolis gave a presentation on the earlier scoping report (discussed in Paris in November 2015) and the current case study from Costa Rica. He then outlined the next two steps:

- 1 Preparation of 5-6 case studies – looking for recommendations on possible cases. Current considerations include:
  - Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (Philippines, USAID)
  - Mainstreaming Biodiversity Management into Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (Lebanon, UNDP)
  - Payment for Ecosystem Services (Costa Rica, national funders, completed)
  - Vietnam Macroeconomic Reform/Ecological and Inclusive Growth Project (GIZ)
  - Sustainable Forestry (Global Affairs Canada)
- 2 Preparation of a guide on BER for Green Growth (20-25 pages) – looking for recommendations on the style and tone of this document.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:

- Simplification of environmental impact assessments by EU as a concrete example
- Green building codes/EDGE
- GETFIT
- Renewable energy (Philippines, Indonesia)
- Need more emphasis on cases that illustrate the de-coupling of economy from carbon-based production

## **12 Close of meeting**

Farid Hegazy closed the meeting at 6:30PM, thanking members for their support and engagement.