



Business Environment Working Group

Meeting (Teleconference)

Monday, 17 September 2018

Minutes of the Meeting

PRESENT

Stefanie Springorum (BMZ/GIZ)	Siobhan Kelly (FAO)
Andreja Marusic (World Bank Group)	Kåre Johard (SIDA)
Toru Homma (JICA)	Yuzuru Ozeki (Consultant to JICA)
Anastasia de Santos (USAID, joined late)	Jim Tanburn (Secretariat)
Michelle McKenna (DFID)	Simon White (Consultant to BEWG)

APOLOGIES

Peter Stoffelen (Netherlands)	Juergen Reinhardt (UNIDO)
Johan Veul (Netherlands)	

1. Opening and welcome

Stefanie Springorum (BMZ/GIZ), co-chairperson, welcomed all participants and opened the meeting at 14:00CET.

2. Introductions

All participants introduced themselves and the agenda was confirmed.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting (5 June 2018)

The draft minutes was reviewed and approved.

AGREED: The Minutes of the Meeting (5 June 2018) were approved.

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

4. 2017-18 Work Item Updates

4.1 BER and Investment Promotion

Toru Homma (JICA) introduced the work item, providing background and an overall status of the project and its timeline. He described how there had been changes to the hypotheses of the study, which the consultant would address. Yuzuru Ozeki, the lead consultant on the project, gave a presentation on the interim findings of the study. He highlighted the following:

- BER and investment promotion should be integrated into reform programmes, rather than treated separate.

- Based on the feedback provided in the June BEWG meeting in Toronto, he had sought to obtain more data on sector and firm-level impacts. However, this is very difficult to come by.
- The cases of Ethiopia and Myanmar were presented.

There were no questions raised, but some discussion on the next steps.

AGREED: The consultants will share a draft report in mid-October 2018. Members will provide comments on this draft by early November 2018.

4.2 Creating Better Business Environments for MSEs

Simon White presented the revised draft report on this work item. This draft would be presented at the DCED webinar on 18 September 2018. The meeting expressed its appreciation of the report. Andreja Marusic suggested it would be worth highlighting the lack of government monitoring of the MSE sector and poor tracking of the effects of government incentives.

AGREED: The final opportunity for second-round comments to the draft to be submitted by 28 September 2018.

4.3 Promoting structural and economic transformation through BER

Kåre Johard (SIDA) and Michelle McKenna (DFID) provided an update to this work item and shared the draft TOR for the consultant. It was recognised that the timeframe in the draft TOR had slipped a little.

It was agreed that the project should emphasise the need for tangible results and the identification of best practices used by donors. The results of this research would be presented in a webinar.

AGREED: Comments on the draft TOR should be sent to Kåre and Michelle by Monday, 24 September 2018. Any recommendations for potential consultants would also be appreciated.

4.4 Use of new technologies in regulatory delivery

Andreja Marusic provided a brief update to this project, including a draft TOR for the consultant. Stefanie Springorum indicated that GIZ was in support of the project and had obtained funds for the project.

AGREED: Comments on the draft TOR to be provided to Simon or Stefanie by Thursday, 20 September 2018. Any recommendations for potential consultants would also be appreciated.

4.5 Private sector trust and public institutions effectiveness

Andreja Marusic spoke on this project and indicated that, due to other priorities, it was difficult to pursue this project. Others concurred with this.

AGREED: This work item will be removed from the annual work plan.

4.6 Business Environment Reform Webinars

Stefanie Springorum and Simon White presented an update on the BER webinar series. Following the first webinar on public procurement, the next webinar on BER for MSEs, based on the draft report, would be held the following day (18 September 2018).

The other planned webinars were on BER and informality (now scheduled for 30 October 2018) and BER and Investment Promotion (based on the findings of the research, likely to be held in late January 2019).

5. Member update: DFID Investment Climate Policy

Michelle McKenna gave a presentation on the draft DFID Investment Climate Policy.

Members expressed an appreciation for this update. Stefanie indicated that Germany was also in the process of preparing a BER-related strategy.

6. Any other business

There was no other business

7. Next meeting

The next meeting would be a physical meeting in Copenhagen, to be hosted by Danida, alongside the International Seminar on Youth Mainstreaming and Youth Engagement, which will be held in Copenhagen from Tuesday, 4 December, to Wednesday, 5 December 2018.

Simon will consult with members regarding their availability and the possible 'deep dive' topics that may be addressed during the meeting.

AGREED: Next meet: Copenhagen, Thursday, 6 December 2018.

8. Meeting closure

Stefanie closed the meeting at 16:00CET.