



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Business Environment Working Group

Teleconference, Wednesday, 30 September 2020

Meeting Minutes

These minutes have been approved via email consent on Friday, 23 October 2020

PRESENT

Andreja Marusic (WBG, BEWG Chair)	Toru Homma (JICA)
Lindsay Napier (FCDO)	Takafumi Ueda (JICA)
Kåre Johard (SIDA)	Naho Aizu (JICA)
Anastasia de Santos (USAID)	Tomoyuki Yamada (JICA)
Moussa Traore (USAID)	Laura Atienza Urcelay (EU)
Wade Channell (USAID)	Christine Weinreich (GIZ)
Severine Deboos (ILO)	Brigitte Bruhin (SECO)
Anna Schrenk (UNIDO)	Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
Stefan Kratzsch (UNIDO)	Ella Duffy (DCED Secretariat)
Siobhan Kelly (FAO)	Melina Heinrich-Fernandes DCED Secretariat)
Peter Stoffelen (Netherlands)	Simon White (Consultant to BEWG)
Sylvia Solf (WBG)	William Nielsen (consultant)
Tania Ghossein (WBG)	

APOLOGIES

Matthias Altmann (EU)

MEETING OPENED

Andreja Marusic (WBG), BEWG Chairperson, opened the meeting at 15:00 CET and welcomed all members.

The following membership changes were noted:

- GIZ/BMZ: Martin Weidner is departing for Rwanda and will be replaced by Christine Weinreich. Welcome Christine!
- Sida: Kåre Johard will be leaving to a secondment to the EU Commission's Directorate-General for Development Cooperation. This will be his last BEWG meeting.
- UK: Michelle McKenna-Stewart moved to a new position in April and Lindsey Napier is holding the fort. Welcome back Lindsay.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 21 April 2020 were previously approved by email. There were no matters arising.

WORK ITEM UPDATES

Business Environment Responses to Covid-19

Sylvia Solf and Tania Ghossein (WBG) provided an update on this work item.

A first draft of the two policy notes based on the TORs circulated in spring 2020 (1. Business regulation in the context of the coronavirus; and 2. Investment climate in the context of the coronavirus) are under preparation. The first note should be ready in December 2020.

Anastasia de Santos (USAID) raised the issue of whether resilience and recovery efforts can be used to nudge firms towards formalisation. As an example, a recent reform in Ecuador introducing a simplified company structure was cited (WBG). Wade Channel (USAID) indicated such a simplified company reform was also introduced successfully in Colombia.

Task Team members: FAO, GIZ, ILO, JICA, SECO, UNIDO, and WBG (lead).

MEETING AGREEMENT:	
1	The meeting agree to await the first draft policy note in December 2020.

New and emerging trends in public-private dialogue PPD

Andreja provided a short update on this work item. A draft report had been circulated to members. William Nielsen (consultant) presented a summary of this report and its findings. The report focuses on the rise of technology in PPD and the collection of feedback data, including the use of technology in e-governance service delivery.

There were no comments or questions on the presentation.

MEETING AGREEMENT:	
2	Members are invited to submit any comments on or before Friday, 16 October 2020.

Green business environments

Siobhan Kelly (FAO) provided an update to this work item and spoke about the terms of reference (TOR) that had been finalised.

There was general agreement regarding the terms of reference. Lindsay Napier (FCDO) supported the TOR indicating that while it is important to learn from firm behaviour, this work is specifically concerned with how this affects public policy and the incentives for firms.

Task Team: FAO (lead), FCDO, GIZ, and ILO.

MEETING AGREEMENT:	
3	Members approved the TOR. The Task Team will initiate the search for a suitable consultant.

Dealing with Firm Informality

Andreja provided an update on this work item and the TOR. She indicated a revised TOR would be shared on Monday, 5 October 2020. Additional considerations will include: informal clustering, support to firms without the aim of formalisation, use of simplified legal statutes, and behavioural insights.

Tania indicated it would also be useful to incorporate the issues related to Covid-19.

Anastasia asked, what value are we adding to this topic? Growth and compliance are different issues. The four avenues presented appear very interesting and relevant.

Laura Atienza (EU) supported the study and expressed interest in participating in the task team. Different types of informality need to be included in this work — BER affects firms in different ways. There is also a need for examples of access to technical services to improve formalisation (e.g., cooperation processes and instruments); need to look for cases that include training and social protection, for example, as well as cooperative enterprises and access to finance. Laura also suggested links to PPD should be examined, adding that she would send a written contribution.

Tania suggested that we all agree this is a big topic. There is a need to do a stocktake of the literature and the policy recommendations emerging from this; identifying new areas for research.

Three of the members (EU, ILO, FAO) have provided written comments post-meeting. The WBG will take the lead to refine TORs to incorporate the suggestions received and circulate again by October 19 for comments by the working group members.

Task Team: EU, FCDO, GIZ, ILO, SIDA, USAID, WBG (lead)

MEETING AGREEMENT:	
4	Andreja will provide an updated TOR on Monday, 5 October 2020. Members would then comment on this by 19 October 2020.

BER in fragile contexts

Simon White provided an update on this work item, describing the process of preparing the technical report, which was circulated to members and study respondents for comment on 9 September. The deadline for comments was 25 September. To-date, a number of general, supportive comments had been received along with some more substantial comments and revision recommendations.

Toru (JICA) expressed his appreciation of the report and indicated it was very relevant for JICA's work on FCAS and investment promotion. He also indicated that the use of artificial intelligence and big data in refugee camps was an important, emerging issue.

Anastasia also supported the report and the use of practical recommendations in the executive summary. The issues related to peacebuilding and trust were considered relevant. This goes beyond financial support issues and are important in reform messaging.

MEETING AGREEMENT:	
5	Members agreed that any further comments on the report could be provided by Friday, 2 October 2020, following which the report will be revised and published.

Enhancing the Use of Evidence, Results Measurement in BER Programming

Simon White provided an update on this work item, which has only recently begun.

Lindsay expressed strong support for the work item and indicated the FCDO was prepared to lead the task team. She indicated that there is likely a need to update the DCED guidance on this topic and to review the evidence framework for BER.

Task Team: EU, FCDO (lead), BMZ/GIZ, JICA, SECO, SIDA, USAID

MEETING AGREEMENT:	
6	Simon White and Lindsay Napier will revise the TOR and share with the group.

Webinar on Digital reforms in regulatory delivery

Andreja updated the meeting on this work item and indicated a list of speakers and case studies would be provided in the coming weeks before the date is set.

MEETING AGREEMENT:	
7	Andreja to provide a list of speakers and case studies.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Andreja indicated that she is required to step down from the role of chairperson (previously co-chair) due to her being transferred to Europe and Central Asia.

Two nominations for the co-chair positions had been received: Sylvia Solf (WBG) and Moussa Traore (USAID). There being no other nominations, Sylvia and Moussa were warmly welcomed as the new co-chairs of the Business Environment Working Group.

Kåre Johard (SIDA) lead the meeting's thanks for Andreja for her excellent chairing. He then indicated he was moving to Brussels to work with the European Commission in Aid for Trade.

MEETING AGREEMENT:	
8	Sylvia Solf (WBG) and Moussa Traore (USAID) elected as co-chairs.

MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was then closed at 17:00CET.