



## **Business Environment Working Group**

### **Meeting (Teleconference) 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - Minutes**

Approved by email circulation 23 December 2020.

#### **PRESENT**

Moussa Traore (USAID, BEWG co-Chair)	Tania Ghossein (WBG)
Sylvia Solf (WBG, BEWG co-Chair)	Toru Homma (JICA)
Lindsay Napier (FCDO)	Takafumi Ueda (JICA)
Saul Hathaway (FCDO)	Naho Aizu (JICA)
Severine Deboos (ILO)	Steffen Felix (GIZ, and GGWG chair)
Judith van Doorn (ILO)	Laura Atienza Urcelay (EU)
Anna Schrenk (UNIDO)	Aurelien Pastouret (EU)
Stefan Kratzsch (UNIDO)	Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
Siobhan Kelly (FAO)	Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (DCED Secretariat)
Peter Stoffelen (Netherlands)	Simon White (Consultant to BEWG)

#### **APOLOGIES**

Matthias Altmann (EU), Christine Weinreich (GIZ), Dragan Radic (ILO)

#### **MEETING OPENED**

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

The following membership changes were noted:

- Matthias Altmann (EU) has indicated he is moving post. The EU will be represented by Laura Atienza who has been participating in the BEWG for some time.

#### **Minutes of Last Meeting (21 April 2020, previously approved)**

There were no matters arising

#### **Business Environment Responses to Covid-19**

Sylvia Solf (WBG) provided a brief update on the work of the task team, which met on 2 December 2020, and of the two draft policy notes. The two draft policy notes have been circulated.

**AGREED: Comments on the draft notes to be submitted to Sylvia by 20 December 2020.**

#### **New and emerging trends in PPD**

Simon White provided an update on this item. The consultant's earlier draft was presented at the last meeting. There was very little feedback on the draft received. The consultant has finalised the report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

There were no comments on the report.

Simon White noted that there has been very little engagement on this topic and report. Thus, it would be useful for members to give this report some consideration.

**AGREED: Any comments to be sent to Simon by 15 January 2021.**

### **Green business environments**

Siobhan Kelly (FAO) provided an update on this item and spoke to the TOR, which was previously circulated. A request for expressions of interest was sent out and consultants have been shortlisted. Siobhan wondered if it might be good to split the work up based on the comparative strengths of different candidates. However, it was understood this might not be optimal. BSR are a strong candidate and Siobhan would approach them to ask if they can adequately address the policy work.

**AGREED: Any comments on best candidate to be provided to Simon and Siobhan by end of this week (11 December 2020). Siobhan will liaise with BSR. Aim to complete negotiations next week and move to contract.**

### **Dealing with Firm Informality**

Tania Ghossein (WBG) provided an update on this item and spoke to the TOR, which was previously circulated. A request for expressions of interest was sent out and 18 individual candidates expressed an interest. There was some discussion about the strengths of various candidates.

**AGREED: Simon will share list of candidates to BEWG members for comments they may have. Comments to be provided by end of this week (11 December 2020). Aim to choose an appropriate candidate next week.**

### **Enhancing the Use of Evidence, Results Measurement in BER Programming**

Lindsay Napier (FCDO) provided an update. This item is an update on the BEWG's work in 2014. TOR have been prepared and circulated to the group prior to the meeting. Comments on the TOR are invited.

In this work, it will be important to link to BER to productivity, investment, jobs, etc. and to think through the theory of change and results chain; and ideally to look for sets of indicators that can be commonly used by donor and development agencies in this work. World Bank Doing Business indicators are very useful but have limitations. Thus, a cross-agency view of this would be very helpful.

Comments:

- May be worthwhile to identify data gaps. World Bank Doing Business is very broad in its coverage, but it would be useful to know where the gaps are. This might help to identify where future investments into data should be directed.
- It would be very useful for the consultant to consult closely with a selection of agencies to better understand their approach to these issues. These might be a form of case study or profile on how the agency does this. It would be very helpful for interested BEWG to volunteer to cooperate in this way.
- Will there be a connection with Results Measurement Working Group (RMWG)? Yes, this would be useful. Key issue is to explore what the theory of change is. Following this, it would focus on indicators, etc. RMWG created the DCED Standard

(still not very focused on BER). Presently, the group is quiet, but considering other items.

- Will there be a revision of the Results Framework? Is there an understanding of how much the framework is used (e.g., downloaded from the website)? This work may contribute to the results framework. It is possible to obtain information regarding downloads, use, etc.

**AGREED: Members will provide comments on the TOR to Lindsay and Simon on or before 15 January 2021. Following this, a call for consultants will be issued.**

**BEWG members are also asked to consider volunteering to include their agency in a small group would be profiled or investigated further in this work.**

## Webinars 2021

There was discussion on the range of webinars that could be held in the first few months of 2021. There was general agreement around conducting a webinar series in the first half of 2021 on the theme: **Using BER to Build Back Better**.

Webinar Topic	Date/Time
<b>Informality in the wake of COVID-19</b> Presentations: ILO, WBG, others?	PROPOSED: Thursday, 28 January 2021 14:00CET
<b>Digital reforms in regulatory delivery in the context of COVID-19</b> Chairperson? Goran Vranic, WBG (author of report) Tambet Artma, Head of Business Register Division, Centre of Registers and Information Systems, Estonia	AGREED: Tuesday, 23 February 2021 14:00CET
<b>COVID-19 and the need for Digital PPD</b> Chairperson? Will Nielson (author of report) Other?	PROPOSED: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 14:00CET
<b>Retaining, attracting and servicing investors in COVID-19</b> Presenters?	PROPOSED: Wednesday, 21 April 2021 14:00CET
<b>BER in Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations</b> Chair? Simon White (author of report) Other?	PROPOSED: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 14:00CET
<b>Social protection in small enterprises in COVID-19</b> Presenters? ILO?	PROPOSED: Wednesday, 23 June 2021 14:00CET

### **Other business**

Need to look for better ways to share knowledge. Webinars are good, but we should look for additional modes for information sharing.

- Jim: DCED surveys have found that members appreciate short, synthesised brief on work produced.
- Simon: Effective knowledge and information sharing by BEWG members is typically a results of: (1) members who take an active role in sharing BEWG information (e.g., information products, events) with their embassies, regional offices, etc.; and (2) member who look for connections between their own work and the BEWG work (e.g., finding work items to share, discuss or even do jointly).
- Steffen Felix: Agencies are often looking for very practical examples.

### **Next meeting**

**AGREED: Wednesday 3 March 14:00CET**

### **End of meeting**

Moussa closed the meeting at 16:20 thanking everyone for their time and wishing everyone a happy holidays.

See you in the new year!