



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

## Business Environment Working Group

### Meeting (Teleconference) Minutes

21 September 2022

Approved by email on 30 September 2022.

#### PRESENT

Sylvia Solf (WBG, BEWG co-Chair)	Laura-Kristin Baric (GIZ)
Moussa Traore (USAID, BEWG co-Chair)	Stefan Kratzsch (UNIDO)
Severine Deboos (ILO)	Judith van Doorn (ILO)
Anastasia de Santos (USAID)	Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
Yuka Asakawa (JICA)	Ella Duffy (DCED Secretariat)
Steffen Felix (BMZ/GIZ)	Simon White (Consultant to BEWG)
Siobhan Kelly (FAO)	

#### APOLOGIES

Toru Homma (JICA), Julian Sievers (Sida), Tania Ghossein (WBG)

## 1 Welcome

At 14:00 CET, Moussa (USAID and BEWG co-Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

## 2 Introductions and confirmation of the agenda

The meeting agenda was confirmed.

## 3 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the BEWG Meeting of 15 June 2022 had been previously approved and were confirmed.

## 4 Work item updates and discussions

### 4.1 Role of the business environment in GVCs

Sylvia Solf (WBG) provided an update. The consultant was commissioned. There was a back-and-forth on the terms of reference and on the first draft. The draft was circulated on 20 September 2022.

#### AGREED

Comments on the report will be submitted to Sylvia Solf or Simon White.

#### TIME FRAME

28 September 2022

## 4.2 Legal identification for women

Anastasia de Santos (USAID) provided an update. The consultant has provided a draft, and comments have been provided. The consultant is considering these comments and is revising the report. The Task Team has a call with the consultant tomorrow to discuss the comments and the finalisation of the report, and the focus of the policy note. A webinar will be held this year.

### **AGREED**

The final report and policy note will follow. No action from BEWG members is required at this stage.

### **TIME FRAME**

This calendar year.

## 4.3 Role of social dialogue in BER

Severine Deboos (ILO) provided an update. The consultant's report is in the process of finalisation based on the comments received. The Task Team is not completely satisfied with the report but recognises that this is a new topic, and more work is required.

Simon was asked to prepare a policy note. The draft was circulated to BEWG members with the meeting materials.

There was some discussion about whether the report was substantial enough to inform a policy note. As a result, it may be more valuable to produce a blog in tandem with the webinar. It might also be useful to formulate an enticing webinar topic to attract interest (e.g., social dialogue versus PPD).

### **AGREED**

The final report will follow. A webinar will be conducted — dates to be confirmed. Comments on the draft policy note will be submitted.

### **TIME FRAME**

Webinar: see further below.

Comments on draft policy note: 30 September 2022.

## 4.4 BER and Covid-19 Responses

Sylvia Solf provided an update. The scope of work has been finalised, and several potential expressions of interest received. Final comments on the potential candidates from Task Team members are requested. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed.

### **AGREED**

Task Team members providing comments to Sylvia on candidates.

### **TIME FRAME**

30 September 2022.

## BER and Investment Facilitation

Sylvia Solf provided an update. The scope of work has been finalised, and a few strong expressions of interest have been received. Final comments on the potential candidates from Task Team members are requested. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed and requested for additional material if required.

### **AGREED**

Task Team to provide comments on candidates to Simon and/or Sylvia.

**TIME FRAME**

30 September 2022

### Simplified Legal Status

Judith van Doorn (ILO) provided an update. The scope of work has been finalised, and nine expressions of interest have been received. There is a mix of experience and understanding among the candidates. It has been proposed that the work be broken into two stages. First, compile case studies with inputs from different consultants. Second, commission a consultant to synthesise findings and lessons. The Task Team will consider these options in a meeting next week.

**AGREED**

Support for the Task Team's proposed approach. No action for BEWG.

**TIME FRAME**

None.

### BER for the Digital Transformation of the Economy

Laura-Kristin Baric (GIZ) provided an update. The scope of work has been finalised, and 13 expressions of interest have been received. The candidates are being assessed and the Task Team may request further information and possibly an interview.

Laura-Kristin will circulate her views on the candidates tomorrow and the final comments from Task Team members are requested. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed.

**AGREED**

Task Team to provide comments on candidates to Simon and/or Laura-Kristin.

**TIME FRAME**

30 September 2022

### Measuring Results in BER: Draft Policy Note

Simon White was asked to prepare a policy note based on the two reports submitted by the consultants. The draft policy note was circulated to members with the meeting materials.

Members are invited to comment on this draft on or before Friday, 7 October 2022.

**AGREED**

BEWG members to provide comments on draft policy note.

**TIME FRAME**

Friday, 7 October 2022

### World Bank Business Enabling Environment

Following a request from the BEWG, Valeria Perotti (World Bank Group) gave a presentation on the emerging Business Enabling Environment (working title) indicator, which is being formulated to replace the Doing Business indicators. The indicators will be used to support reform advocacy, policy advice and development research. Data sources will include experts and formal firm surveys (based on additional data collected by the World Bank Enterprise Surveys). The first publication is anticipated in the first half of 2024.

The presentation will be circulated to members.

Periodic updates and information on the project can also be found at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/business-enabling-environment/bee>

## Webinars

The program of possible webinars was discussed. The following schedule was agreed:

### In 2022:

**Role of Social Dialogue:** *2 November 2022.* Severine Deboos will liaise with the consultant regarding the presentation and will explore the options for other speakers to complement the consultant's presentation.

**BER in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings:** *30 November 2022.* Simon and Tania will consider dates and other speakers, including a Case study on the new company law in Palestine.

**Legal identification for women:** *Early December 2022* – precise date to be set by Anastasia de Santos, who will also explore the option for other speakers to complement the consultant's presentation.

In early 2023:

**Measuring BER:** Simon and Sylvia will consider dates and other speakers.

## Other business

There was no other business.

## Next meeting

There was no discussion regarding the next meeting. However, the co-chairs will circulate a proposal. Typically, the next meeting would be held in late November or early December, or alternatively, late in January.

## Close of Meeting

Moussa Traore closed at 15:40.

END.