



## **Business Environment Working Group Meeting**

30 April 2018, Teleconference

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Approved by the BEWG Meeting on 5 June 2018

#### **PRESENT**

Farid Hegazy (Chair and ILO)	Michelle McKenna (DFID)
Stefanie Springorum (BMZ/GIZ)	Alain Buehlmann (SECO)
Toru Homma (JICA)	Kåre Johard (SIDA)
Andreja Marusic (World Bank Group)	Jim Tanburn (Secretariat)
Henrik Vistisen (Denmark/Danida)	Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (Secretariat)
Peter Stoffelen (Netherlands)	Simon White (Consultant to BEWG)

#### **APOLOGIES**

Juergen Reinhardt (UNIDO)	Fulvia Farinelli (UNCTAD)
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#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

At 15:00 Farid Hegazy (Chair and ILO) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. All participants were invited to introduce themselves.

#### **2. Meeting Agenda**

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

#### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting (11 December 2017)**

AGREEMENT: The Minutes of the Last Meeting had been previously approved by email and were noted.

#### **4. Resignation of chairperson**

Farid Hegazy indicated to the meeting that, due to a change of employment and responsibilities, he is required to resign from the BEWG and the position of chairperson. He indicated he could support the transition to the new chairperson until the next meeting in June in Toronto, which he would join by telephone. The ILO would provide the name of the ILO replacement on the BEWG once the internal recruitment process had been completed.

The meeting expressed its appreciation thanks to Farid in his work as chairperson.

There was some discussion regarding the role of the chairperson and members were invited to express their interest in this role. Stefanie Springorum (GIZ) indicated she had checked

with this with BMZ, but because GIZ was involved in chairing two other DCED working groups, there was a concern that the agency's resources were too committed already. However, Stefanie indicated she could participate as a co-chair.

**AGREEMENT: Members would consider this issue further, while Farid would discuss the matter further with Stefanie and Andreja Marusic (World Bank Group). A final decision would be made at the Toronto meeting.**

## **5. Business from the BEWG work plan**

### **5.1 Business Environment Reform (BER) and Investment Promotion**

Toru Homma (JICA) provided an update of the progress made on this work item with a PowerPoint presentation. The objectives are:

1. Map the range of donor and development agency support for BER which specifically seeks to increase foreign and domestic private investment in developing economies
2. Assess the focus of BER and investment promotion support and instruments used for this purpose
3. Review the ways in which donor and development agencies have endeavoured to measure the impact of BER and investment promotion on private investment levels and impact channels
4. Develop case studies on good practices for donors and countries in their effort to attract, retain and expand FDI (DDI)

It is anticipated the first draft interim report would be presented and discussed at the BEWG meeting in Toronto in June. The final report will be completed in November 2018.

This was followed by a presentation from the lead consultant, Yuzuru Ozeki. This presentation dealt with the following:

- Preliminary results from the questionnaire and interview survey;
- Observations regarding the evolving policy environment;
- A high-level overview of the programme mapping, including good practice cases;
- Challenges for DCED going forward;
- Approaches to the case studies; and
- Timeline of the remainder of work.

The following issues were discussed:

1. The narrow DCED definition of the business environment excludes a number of critical factors emerging in this study, are there plans to update the definition? The consultants were encouraged to take a pragmatic approach to this issue and, as with other studies the BEWG has commissioned, should not feel limited in their review of business environment or investment climate factors.
2. The meeting expressed its appreciation of the work undertaken to date and support for the two countries selected as case studies. Stefanie offered to provide GIZ contacts in these countries.

### **5.2 BER and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)**

Farid provided some background to this work item. Simon White then provided an up-date of progress and presented some of the key findings of the survey of donor and development agencies. He indicated the first draft would be presented and discussed at the BEWG meeting in Toronto in June.

Farid expressed a concern that recommendations on the use of size-based exclusions should be included.

**AGREEMENT: Members agreed to provide Simon with comments on the survey results by 10 May 2018.**

### **5.3 BEWG Webinars**

Stefanie Springorum (GIZ) gave a presentation on the progress in this work item, which included:

- December/January: Screening of film producers
- Simon White prepares first draft of key messages
- February 18: Contracting of film company
- March 18: Kick-off Workshop as basis for script
- April 18: Storyboard developed, and speaker chosen

The first webinar, on Public Procurement for SMEs, was scheduled for 15 May 2018.

A second webinar on DCED BER resources and launching the video would follow.

A number of members expressed their enthusiasm for this work item and were looking forward to the first webinar. Members were encouraged to distribute invitations to the webinar through their networks.

## **6. DCED Business Environment Reform website improvements**

Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (Secretariat) reported on recent improvements the Secretariat had made to the BER pages of the DCED website. This included improvements to the main working group page, which lists all BEWG publications sorted by date and theme. This is accessible through the 'working group' area hyperlinked at the bottom of the website.

In addition, a new knowledge page on Business Environment Reform as part of DCED's knowledge portal on Implementing PSD. Like all other thematic knowledge pages, it now includes top DCED publications and key resources on different sub-themes of BER. The Secretariat has incorporated recent and popular entries from the Business Environment Database and other more recent publications based on targeted online research by sub-theme. The Secretariat has also linked to older, but still frequently downloaded resources from the BE database in a PDF file at the bottom of the page.

Members thanked Melina and the Secretariat for their continued professional support.

## **7 BEWG Work Plan and Budget 2018-19**

Prior to the meeting an email 'brainstorm' of possible work item topic had been undertaken and ten possible items were proposed:

1. Engaging the private sector in sector strategy and policy design

2. Business Environment Reform to support e-trade development
3. Promoting structural and economic transformation through Business Environment Reform; cross-cutting vs targeted, sector policy measures)
4. Strengthening poverty reduction linkages in business environment reform
5. BER Webinars
6. Regulating the shared economy
7. Use of new technologies in regulatory delivery
8. Global Regulatory Impact Assessment Awards
9. The interdependencies of private sector's trust and public institutions effectiveness
10. How to better measure business perception – call for proposal for a low-cost experiment to compare different approaches to elicit perceptions by businesses

There was a general discussion on these topics and members expressed views on which topics they found most interesting.

A process would be devised to vote on and shorten this list. A draft Work Plan and Budget would be submitted to the DCED ExCo and this draft would be further discussed and approved at the June meeting in Toronto.

**AGREEMENT: It was agreed that Simon would circulate a document to allow members to vote on their selected work items. This should include, where appropriate, which items they believed they could participate in as a task team member and contribute to.**

#### **8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting will be in Toronto on 5 June 2018.

#### **Close of meeting**

Farid closed the meeting at 16:36.