



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Business Environment Working Group Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, 16 June 2015

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Copenhagen

[Minutes approved by email 3 July 2015]

Present	
Farid Hegazy (ILO) Chairperson Lasse Møller (Danida) Juergen Reinhardt (UNIDO) Stefanie Springorum (GIZ) Katharina Spiess (BMZ) Gabin Hamann (EC) Fiorina Mugione (UNCTAD) Nilgun Tas (UNIDO) Iris Boutros (IDRC) Arjan de Haan (IDRC) Johan Veul (Netherlands) Liliana de Sá Kirchknopf (SECO)	Melinda Kelly (Canada) Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard (ILO) Kenji Mishima (JICA) Ola Pettersson (SIDA) Sahba Sobhani (UNDP) Gayle Barnett (Canada) – joined by Skype for the inclusive business discussion Fulvia Farinelli (UNCTAD) – joined by Skype for the inclusive business discussion Melina Heinrich (DECD Secretariat) Simon White (BEWG consultant)
Apologies	
Rick Meis (Netherlands)	Tim Green (DFID)

1 Welcome

Farid Hegazy opened the meeting and welcomed members. A brief round of introductions were held.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting: Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 BEWG 2015-16 Work Plan and Budget

There was a discussion on the work plan and budget. The proposed work items were further discussed and agreed to:

- Business Environments for Inclusive Business (Budget requested for 2015/16: US\$10,000)
- Sector-Specific BER (Budget requested for 2015/16: US\$10,000)
- Cooperation with the Green Growth Working Group (this activity is funded within the GGWG budget)

- Beyond National BER (Budget requested for 2015/16: US\$25,000 – it remains unclear if Danida would be able to financially support this item)
- Gender and BER (Budget requested for 2015/16: US\$35,000 – with financial support from Germany, Switzerland, UK)
- Preparation toward a plan for information-sharing or training in BER (Budget requested for 2015/16: US\$10,000)

AGREEMENT:

It was agreed that the BEWG 2015-16 Work Plan and Budget be adopted and submitted to the DCED as the final version for approval.

[BEWG 2015-16 Work Plan and Budget is attached]

4 Business Environments for Inclusive Business

Gayle Barnett (Canada) joined the meeting by Skype and presented an update on this work item, with contributions from Iris Boutros (IDRC) and Fulvia Farinelli (UNCTAD). The task team reported that there have been some concerns with taking this work forward. They are unsure if the consultant is fully understanding the role and having trouble finding an appropriate framework for analysing the role of BER in inclusive business. There has also been some concern regarding the definition of BE and how narrow or broad a definition should be applied.

There was a frank discussion about the options that are open to the group.

There was further discussion regarding the ‘unit of analysis’ and the definition—narrow or broad—of business environment. The task team was encouraged to develop or apply clear typologies of inclusive business and to use this to consider the entry points to, or connections with, the DCED definition of the business environment. The UNDP efforts on inclusive business approaches under the G20 were also discussed.

AGREEMENT

It was agreed that the task team will continue with this work item, recognising that the timeframe will be affected. The decision to continue with or terminate the consultant’s contract will be made by the task team.

5. Business Environments for Green Growth

The meeting then joined with the Green Growth Working Group (GGWG) to discuss the joint work programme

Kees van der Ree (ILO) provided an update on the joint-GGWG-BEWGG work item and reported that the Technopolis Group in the Netherlands (the team consists of: Michal Miedzinski, Matthias Ploeg and Geert van der Veen) has been commissioned by the GGWG to conduct the review. Geert van der Veen presented the Project Plan for this work. This was followed by a question and answer discussion on the review and project plan.

There was a discussion on the preferred models of interaction between the consultants and the GGWG and BEWG.

AGREEMENT

It was agreed that the consultants will present work in progress to the BEWG and GGWG indicating their need for feedback. Furthermore, Farid Hegazy will liaise with the GGWG and the consultants further on this matter.

6. DCED Indicators

Claudio Volonte (IFC) and Christopher Calvin (consultant) presented the work on harmonising indicators for PSD. Merten Sievers (ILO, representing the Results Measurement Working Group) also joined the discussion.

Data from 18 agencies was collected. Some 25-30 indicators have been collated. These are divided into five categories: access to finance, business development services, business environment reform, green growth, and value chain. Only quantitative indicators were used.

There was a question and answer discussion that followed this presentation.

The excel document containing the draft indicators were circulated with the meeting documents. There are a number of definitional issues applied in the proposed indicators that still need to be addressed.

There were a number of concerns expressed with this work. The direct link proposed between business environment reform and jobs, among other issues and concerns, was discussed. Some indicators appear convenient, but are not accurate and misleading. The BEWG indicators were good because they presented options for use, not indicators that agencies must use. Members indicated they would look closely at the proposals and comment.

AGREEMENT

It was agreed that members would submit their comments on the proposed BER Indicators by 29 June 2015. Comments will be sent to Simon White, who will send these on to Claudio Volonte.

7. Next meeting

This next meeting will be held in Vienna in conjunction with the forthcoming IFC meeting. The precise date will be determined on advice from the IFC.

The IFC had offered to host this meeting.