



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Business Environment Working Group

Minutes of Meeting on 20 November 2024

Approved by email on 27 October 2024.

PRESENT	
Moussa Traoré (USAID, BEWG co-Chair)	Madalina Papahagi (World Bank Group)
Pilar Salgado Otonel (World Bank)	Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (DCED Secretariat)
Karolina Zurek (Sida)	Ella Duffy (DCED Secretariat)
Yuge Yasuhiko (JICA)	Simon White (Consultant to BEWG)
Toshiaki Sakamoto (JICA)	Tobias Leeg (GIZ)
APOLOGIES	
Sandra Yu (ILO)	

Welcome, introductions and confirmation of the agenda.

Moussa Traoré (USAID and BEWG co-chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. All participants introduced themselves.

Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held in Washington, DC, on 3 June 2024.

Work Plan Updates

Simon White provided an update on the current work items:

1. BER and Global Shocks:

- Final Technical Report prepared (distributed with meeting agenda).
- Final Policy Brief prepared (distributed with meeting agenda).
- Webinar being organised – members were encouraged to provide ideas on possible speakers. The current plan is to hold the webinar in mid-late-January, with the consultant presenting the report and one or two respondents (e.g., ILO or World Bank); Tobias Leeg (GIZ) will moderate.

2. BER and Competition Policy for a Green Transition: TOR is finalised, and a consultant search is underway. An inception meeting is anticipated to be held in December 2024 once the consultant has been contracted.

3. BER for private sector capital mobilisation for sustainable growth and climate resilience:

- TOR was finalised, and the consultant search was completed. Thomas Venon from the Centre for Development Finance Studies has been appointed.
- Inception meeting in preparation.

4. BER and New Environment Regulations:

- Final Technical Report prepared (distributed with meeting agenda).
- Final Policy Brief prepared (distributed with meeting agenda).
- Webinar being organised – members were encouraged to provide ideas on possible speakers.

5. MSME Development and Formalisation:

- The first consultancy was terminated.
- Revised TOR agreed to.
- Search for consultant underway (managed by World Bank)

6. BER and Digital Transformation:

- The first consultancy was terminated.
- The second consultant withdrew after a few months.
- TOR revised – Simon White is preparing the report.

7. Renewed SME Agenda in the Context of Green and Just Transition: a revised TOR was circulated a few months ago with little comment. It was agreed to recirculate this among members and decide on the next course of action.

AGREEMENTS

1. **Comments on draft documents:** BEWG invited to provide comments on the following documents *before COB 27 November 2024*. Please note, the task teams have already commented on earlier drafts, and it is not anticipated that any major changes can be considered at this stage.
 - a. BER and Global Shocks: Final Technical Report.
 - b. BER and Global Shocks: Final Policy Brief.
 - c. BER and New Environment Regulations: Final Technical Report prepared.
 - d. BER and New Environment Regulations: Final Policy Brief.
2. **Webinar on BER and Global Shocks:** This is planned for mid-late-January 2025. Members are invited to propose speakers. Currently, it is anticipated that Tobias Leeg (GIZ) will moderate and one or two respondents (e.g., ILO, World Bank) will present.
3. **Webinar on BER and New Environment Regulations:** This is planned for late-January or early-February 2025. Members are invited to propose speakers.
4. **Renewed SME Agenda in the Context of Green and Just Transition:** Simon will recirculate the revised TOR for members to comment on *before COB 27 November 2024*.

Update from GIZ/BMZ

As a part of the plan to incorporate regular agency updates into BEWG meeting, Tobias Leeg (GIZ) was invited to provide a short update on GIZ and BMZ. He noted that Germany will hold national elections in February 2025. He also spoke about the Hamburg Sustainability Conference which was held on October 7-8, 2024, with 1,600 participants from over 100 countries, including 13 heads of states and governments (go to: <https://www.sustainability-conference.org/en/>).

Key agreements and initiatives from the conference included the Hamburg Sustainability Platform (for mobilising private investment for sustainable development projects), the Global Battery Alliance (ensuring sustainable battery production across the entire supply chain, the Hamburg Declaration on Green Aviation (promoting alternative fuels and carbon emission reduction) and the Decarbonisation of Global Shipping (adopting green technologies and reducing shipping emissions). The next conference is planned for the second half of 2025 (go to: <https://www.sustainability-conference.org/en/hsc25>).

BEWG Chair

Moussa reported that Sylvia Solf (BEWG co-chair) has moved on to a new position in the World Bank, in the [Digital Transformation Global Practice](#), and will no longer participate in the BEWG. Pilar Salgado-Otónel (World Bank) will step into Sylvia's role as co-chair.

Tania Ghossein (World Bank) has also moved on to a new position, and Madalina Papahagi (World Bank) will take on her role.

Moussa thanked Sylvia and Tania for their support over the years and welcomed Pilar and Madalina.

Other Business

Melina informed members of the successful DCED Global Seminar that was held in Nairobi on 1-3 October 2024. The seminar report can be found here: <https://www.enterprise-development.org/wp-content/uploads/DCED-Global-Seminar-2024-Synthesis-Report.pdf>

Next Meeting

It is anticipated that the next meeting will be held in late-March 2025

Meeting Closure

Moussa closed the meeting at 15:00 CET, thanking members for their participation and wishing everyone a happy holiday season.