



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

## BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

### MEETING

Berlin, 10 July 2012

#### Participants

Farid Hegazy, ILO Geneva (Chairperson)	Taka Ueda, JICA Tokyo
Susanne Hartmann, GIZ Eschborn	Johanna Speer, BMZ
Lasse Møller, Danida Copenhagen	Patricia Peña, CIDA Quebec
Andrei Mikhnev, World Bank Group, Washington DC (by telephone PM)	Eiko Kaufmann, GIZ
Miguel Laric, DFID London (by telephone)	Jim Tanburn, DCED Secretariat, Cambridge
Dag Larsson, NORAD	Susan Joekes, DCED Secretariat, Cambridge
Juergen Reinhardt, UNIDO Vienna	Nabanita Sen, DCED Secretariat, Cambridge
Mirjam Hansen, Netherlands	Simon White, Consultant, Johannesburg
Ivo Germann, SECO Berne	
David Elliot, DFID London	

#### Apologies

Marc Banzet, CIDA Ottawa  
Ricardo Bisso, UNDP Mexico  
Angela Strachan, ITC Geneva

Farid Hegazy, the new chair of the BEWG, opened the meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves. The agenda for the meeting was then confirmed.

#### 1. Measuring BER Results

Lasse Møller and Miguel Laric opened the discussion on this topic. Lasse highlighted its importance in terms of the kinds of information and guidance donors require when advising their embassies or programmes in the field on business environment reform. Miguel described DFID support for the World Bank-DFID-USAID joint programme as an effort to enhance the tools available for managing, monitoring and reporting on business environment reform programmes.

Ivo Germann provided a brief overview of the recent SECO BER- reform review.

Simon White presented on the work produced to-date on Measuring BER Results, including the draft models for change report. Members' comments were appreciative of this draft, but indicated the need to focus on the specific results chains for BER-reform programmes.

## 2. Issues arising from international processes

Johanna Speer reported on a number of new initiatives underway regarding better business environments. This included the G20 and the promotion of inclusive business models – launch of a competition of programmes extending to the poor. Rio+20 led to the opportunities for advice on green growth and the development of an enabling environment that is growth-oriented, including green oriented. The BEWG and the Green Growth Working Group should look at these opportunities. BUSAN led to a working group led by IFC and Germany on monitoring and evaluation of enabling environment reforms.

## 3. BER and structural competitiveness

Juergen Reinhardt provided an update on the work item, indicating that the consultant (John Weiss) has provided a first draft, which would be presented at the optional session to be held later in the afternoon after the conclusion of the BEWG meeting at 3:30PM.

BEWG members are invited to submit their comments on the first draft by 31 July 2012. Comments should be emailed to Juergen.

The second draft of the discussion paper would be expected in mid-September 2012.

The ultimate objective of the work is to produce a kind of guidance the format of which (5pager, Annex to BER Guidance, Policy Brief, other) would be decided upon later. The current document is an analytical/discussion paper and, hence, will become a deliverable on its own.

## 4. Work Planning for 2012-13

The following work items were discussed and agreed:

### *4.1 Work Item 1: Measuring BER Results*

Key priorities: (a) Production of five or six cases (4-5 pages each) on specific BER “product lines”; (b) Five-page policy brief. It was estimated that 25 days would be required. This should be undertaken in the next six months. Reserving \$10,000 for other costs associated with this project. Five days for Secretariat review of documents. Approval of work products should not be simply left to uploading on the website. Agencies should ensure this work is distributed across member agency networks.

### *4.2 Work item 2: Donor Guidance — Industrial Policy and BER*

The funds allocated in the budget reflect a double counting. The task team indicated that funds have already been committed and includes printing of the report. Currently, need to complete the current work — the discussion document. It was agreed that an additional ten consulting days should be added to synthesise the findings of this work into some kind of donor guidance (should the key messages contained in the guidance be agreed by all members). An additional \$5,000 would be allocated to the printing of this.

### *4.3 Work item 3: Guidance on using BE diagnostic tools*

Miguel spoke on this topic, highlighting the inadequacies of many of the assessment tools available. Assess tools that exist, assess their strength and weaknesses, provide advice on how these can be used. A note should be produced that explains the tools that exist and how they should be used. Separate note on what additional work should be done to fill the gaps required for programme designers. It was proposed that this work item is sequenced, beginning with a mapping of the tools available. First screening of diagnostic tools (five days); Miguel will explore the options for this within his agency’s research funds.

### *4.4 Work item 4: Guide: BER and Green Growth*

Lasse Møller spoke to this item and highlighted that the issue of green growth is very important to Danida and is eager to explore the opportunities for collaboration within the

BEWG. No decision was made on this item. Further discussion with the Green Growth Working Group is required. No task team was established.

#### 4.5 Work item 5: Quality infrastructure

Andrei Mikhnev spoke to this work item, which was supported by Juergen Reinhardt who indicated that UNIDO would support this item. Dag Larsson and Taka Ueda also expressed support for this item. The group approved this item for the work plan. The following members volunteered to the task team for this item: Andrei Mikhnev, Juergen Reinhardt (or colleague), Dag Larsson, Taka Ueda and Mirjam Hansen (to be confirmed). It appears likely that funds can be raised within the task team.

#### 4.6 BEWG Consultant

Andrei Mikhnev had proposed to revisit and clarify the role of Simon White as BEWG Consultant/Coordinator. There was vast agreement that Simon White is a very valuable resource of the group, particularly also in his institutional memory capacity. The group has discussed the different options and has agreed to incorporate the Secretariat more, specifically also for admin issues. First discussions have already taken place with the Secretariat (Jim and Susan) and they have indicated their willingness to support the group accordingly.

The BEWG 2012-13 Work Plan was revised based on the above decisions and is attached.

Comments made on funding: CIDA has contributed funds of around \$15,000, which may be made available to BEWG. The Netherlands has also allocated \$60,000 to the DCED, which may be made available to the BEWG.

#### Next Meeting

Teleconference: Tuesday, 23 October 2012, 4PM CET

Geneva: January 2013 (details to be agreed upon)

#### Annex 1: Summary of Action Points Agreed

What?	By Whom?	By When?
1. Measuring BER Results: Liaise with World Bank Group on a joint meeting with the BEWG Measuring BER Results Task Team	Simon White	31 July 2012
2. Comments on first draft of the <i>BER and Structural Competitiveness</i> discussion document submitted to Juergen Reinhardt	All members	31 July 2012
3. Explore funding opportunities for initial scan on using BE diagnostic tools	Miguel Laric	31 July 2012
4. Prepare a terms of reference for Quality Infrastructure work item	Andrei Mikhnev	31 July 2012
5. Convene next BEWG meeting	Simon White	31 July 2012