

Private Sector Engagement Working Group (PSE WG) Teleconference, 13 January 2022 Minutes

26 January 2022

Participants

1. Katie Garcia, USAID (Chair)

2. Gunter Schall, ADA

3. Julika Breyer, BMZ

4. Tobias Zeller, GIZ

5. Laura Allison, DFAT Australia

6. Daan von Thiel, EC

7. Ian Felton, FCDO UK

8. Nirosha Gaminiratne, FCDO UK

9. Annie van Klaveren, ILO

10. Githa Roelans, ILO

11. Takafumi Ueda, JICA

12. Yoshiyuki Ueno, JICA

Apologies:

Matthias Altmann, EC Urkaly Isaev, IFC

13. Naho Aizu, JICA

14. Ernstine Kornelis, Luxemburg MoFA

15. Nafis Muntasir, MasterCard Foundation

16. Thierry van Helden, Netherlands MoFA

17. Luca Etter, SDC

18. Massimo Bloch, SECO

19. Andrea Lilja, Sida

20. Dominika Dor, UNIDO

21. Emmi Ylinen, UNIDO

22. Melina Heinrich-Fernandes, Holger Grundel, Jim Tanburn, Ella Duffy, DCED Secretariat

Lars Stein, SDC Keith Dokho, USAID

Introductions

In light of the significant turnover in WG membership in recent months, the meeting started with a round of introductions from all participants. New participants were also briefly introduced to the history, vision, operational framework and recent work items of the PSE WG.

Scoping paper on RBC: Introduction, presentation of key messages and initial feedback

 The background, components and key findings from the draft scoping paper on RBC were presented (see the slides shared along with the Minutes), and feedback invited. Overall, the paper was warmly welcomed as timely, well-structured and addressing a priority theme for many WG members. Several members noted that they were keen to use it for internal review processes and planning of RBC-related work, as well as for coordination with other stakeholders.

The following suggestions were made by members:

 Several participants offered to share relevant resources such as online tools for RBC, background papers, and project examples (including from other government agencies, such as the Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry). GIZ will confirm whether all the examples from Germany highlighted in the paper are still current. The FCDO team offered to share their draft synthesis paper on evidence on the economic case for RBC as well as learning papers from the now completed Vulnerable Supply Chains project. ILO is willing to share some project examples under the umbrella of accompanying measures to legislations (e.g. sectoral dialogue, capacity building of producers etc)

- When referring to legislation, the paper could be clearer in places whether this refers to legislation in OECD countries or in developing countries. Some wording could also be included upfront to highlight the challenges of enhancing developing-country legislative frameworks and enabling conditions for RBC.
- It was suggested that the paper might explain and expand on some relevant wider concepts related to RBC, e.g. Inclusive Business and Shared Value, to locate the practical focus on processes in a wider context. If possible, a graphical illustration of these concepts would be welcome. It could also be helpful to say a bit more about sectoral approaches beyond natural resources, e.g. the financial sector and other service industries.
- Several members expressed an interest in continued exchange and mutual learning on the topic, including about appropriate accompanying measures alongside legislative instruments for RBC. Without these, there is a risk that global supply chains will reorient themselves towards regions with lower standards.

Next steps

Finalisation of the RBC scoping paper

- It was agreed members will provide any further written feedback no later than 28 January.
- The Secretariat will work to incorporate member comments shared during the meeting and in writing to the extent possible, and finalise the formatting.
- The aim is for the paper to be finalised by mid-February.

Follow-up work on the RBC scoping paper

- The PSE WG work plan foresees a public launch webinar of the paper; preparations for the webinar will begin after the paper's publication.
- The work plan also includes the possibility of an internal 'deep-dive' meeting to facilitate peer exchange among members on key issues related to PSE emerging from the paper. In order to narrow down the themes of most interest to PSE WG members, the Secretariat will gather members' views on these as part through individual consultations in the next 1-2 months.

Prioritisation of other PSE WG work items

 The current work plan also foresees other possible themes, including an update of the DCED's 2014 guidelines on demonstrating additionality; meanwhile planning for the work plan for July 2022 – June 2023 will need to start soon. The Secretariat will therefore gather members' views on near- and medium-term thematic priorities.