



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

**Private Sector Engagement Working Group (PSE WG)  
Teleconference, 1 April 2020  
Minutes**

03/04/2020

Participants

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| 1. Gunter Schall, ADA (Co-Chair)               | 11. Saki Ito, JICA   |
| 2. Lars Stein, SDC (Co-Chair)                  | 12. Suzanne Krook, Sida  |
| 3. Jurgen Bartelink, NL MFA                    | 13. Thomas Lammar, Lux MFA   |
| 4. Priscilla Boardi, OECD                      | 14. Tobias Lechtenfeld, BMZ (for part of the time)                           |
| 5. Lollo Darin, Sida                           | 15. Linda Scheik, GIZ  |
| 6. Kayte Davidson, DFAT (for part of the time) | 16. Virpi Stucki, UNIDO  |
| 7. Liliana de Sa, SECO                         | 17. Sally Truong, DFAT   |
| 8. Laura Desmoulin, Finland MFA                | 18. Jim Tanburn, Holger Grundel, Melina Heinrich-Fernandes, DCED Secretariat |
| 9. Ichiro Fukuhara, JICA                       |  |
| 10. Neil Gannon, Irish Aid                     |  |

Apologies:

Urkaly Isaev, IFC  
Meredith Lee, MasterCard Foundation  
Jed Leonard, USAID

Member exchange on implications of the COVID-19 crisis on PSE and the work of the DCED

Each participant shared information on initiatives and plans to adjust PSE programming to mitigate negative impacts on businesses and engage them in responding to the crisis. Specific information on each agency will be shared in an internal note complementing these Minutes.

The DCED Secretariat has created a [new knowledge page on PSD and COVID-19](#), which is updated frequently to incorporate new information and analyses. In terms of next steps for the DCED, a draft public statement on the DCED's response to COVID-19 will be shared with members shortly.

In discussing next steps for the PSE WG specifically, members agreed that more frequent teleconferences would be helpful to learn about agencies' approaches to handling the crisis, with the next call proposed to happen in three to six weeks.

More in-depth presentations and webinars would also be welcome, such as on a particular member agency initiative (e.g. a USAID survey on how businesses respond to COVID-19 was mentioned as being of interest) or an analysis of economic impacts by an external expert.

The Secretariat will explore possible inputs by members and others to the next call; the Secretariat will also review the most commonly mentioned sub-themes mentioned during the member updates and may send out brief survey forms to identify priority questions for more in-depth discussions.

Meanwhile, members also expressed interest in bilateral discussions on specific programming questions.

Member also agreed that an online collaboration platform or closed discussion forum would be helpful to continue the exchange with other members in an informal setting. The Secretariat will explore suitable platforms and get back to the group.

#### PSE WG Work Plan

A feedback form on the draft work plan sent to members showed that all topics and activities included are of strong interest to members (12 people from 11 agencies filled in the form). Given that the feedback form only allowed members to select one theme per category (under peer learning themes and publications), members can still share additional priority themes with the Secretariat by email to inform the prioritisation of next steps.

83% of members further indicated that the production of an introductory video on PSE originally foreseen for this financial year was not an immediate priority, and should be considered again in the next financial year. This would give members more time to agree on the preferred contents and format of the video.

While all activities in the work plan were considered important, a general caveat raised by members was that their response to the COVID-19 crisis was of much greater urgency; depending on how the situation evolves, work items may therefore be postponed or take more time to be completed. This caveat, as well as plans for more frequent member exchanges on PSE and COVID-19 will be included in the work plan.

If no further comments or objections to the work plan are received by 10 April, it will be considered as agreed and ready for submission to the ExCo and DCED Annual Meeting.