

Guidance for Participants in the African Regional Procurement Capacity Development Workshop

During the second day of the regional workshop, participants will selectively attend special topical work sessions related to key areas of interest to countries working on improving the functioning of their national procurement systems. The following six topics have been selected as being of key interest to national governments and to donors supporting reform initiatives in partner countries.

- I. Complaints Mechanism
- II. Procurement Controls and Oversight Function
- III. Decentralization
- IV. Fighting Corruption in Procurement
- V. Sub-regional harmonization
- VI. Contract Management

Method of Introducing and Managing Topical Sessions:

Each topic above is critical to developing and managing a national procurement system. Each relates to or is covered directly by indicators and sub-indicators contained in the OECD/DAC Joint Venture for Procurement's *"Methodology for Assessment of National Procurement Systems"*. Two facilitators will be nominated for each topical session.

1. One facilitator from a donor/IFI will make a short presentation on the international standards in the subject benchmarking tool that relate to the topic under discussion. The purpose of the presentation is to ensure an understanding of the good practice standards of the assessment tool and what they mean with regard to the national system.
2. One facilitator selected from partner country participants will make a short presentation that describes the situation in their country. The partner country presentation should raise issues they are facing and/or describe success they have had in dealing with the topic under discussion.
3. Other participants in the session will then be invited to comment on the standards of the assessment tool and to share their own experiences and/or issues with regard to the topic under discussion.

Prior to the end of the session, the facilitators and participants will develop a list of issues and good practice experiences or examples that they wish to have presented during the reporting out on topical session that will take place during the final day of the workshop. These issues and good practice examples will form the basis for a publication that will be issued following the workshop to capture the knowledge and experiences to be shared. Issues that are identified will be taken aboard by the JV for Procurement for further consideration with regard to the use and implementation of the procurement assessment and monitoring tools and for development of programs to support partner countries in working to improve the quality and performance of their national procurement systems.

Participants: All participants in the upcoming Workshop are asked to review the *"Methodology for Assessment of National Procurement Systems"* which is posted on-line on the OECD DAC's website created for the Workshop. It is also available on-line in the World Bank's website (www.worldbank.org/procurement under Strengthening Procurement Capacity).