

Major Decisions and Next Steps: Meeting of the Working Group – OECD-DAC Joint Venture for Procurement (June 27 – 29, 2007)

The Working Group (WG) of the Joint Venture (JV) met at Tunis, Tunisia, hosted by the African Development Bank.

1. Participants

Jocelyn Comtois, CIDA – Ottawa (Co-Chair), Bernard Becq, World Bank – Washington (Co-Chair), Henry Malinga, - Pretoria (Co-Chair), Emmanuel Lomo (African Development Bank-Tunis), Sabine Englehard (InterAmerican Development Bank – Washington), Pam Bigart (World Bank – Washington), Kirsten Jensen (UNDP – Copenhagen), Mogens Strunge Larsen (DANIDA – Copenhagen), Kjerstin Andreasen (OECD/ DAC/ DCD/ EFF – Paris), Barbara Bech (World Bank – Washington) and Micheal Lawrance (OECD/ DAC/ DCD/ EFF – Paris)

2. Summary: Major Decisions

a) JV Pilot Exercise: results to date - June reporting milestone (ref. JV Guidance Note for a Monitoring and Reporting Framework).

- (1) A reminder email and the list of reports received to date needs to go out. The June report cut-off date is July 13.
- (2) If the pilot country agrees, the progress reports (June and end-August) will be published on the JV website to promote transparency and to share experiences.
- (3) A summary of common issues, general experiences and some good and not-so-good lessons that have been learned from the June reports will be produced during August, translated and posted on the website prior to the JV meeting.
- (4) The end-August reports will also be posted on the website, if the country agrees.
- (5) When the reports are posted on the website, it has to be clearly stated which organisations participated in the assessment and whether the assessment has undergone a validation process and, if so, involving whom. This information will be important for those who access these reports when they are made public. Those who were not part of the validation will be able to contact those who participated if there are questions about the assessment results.
The JV recognizes that these results obtained from applying the methodology do not replace the need by development partners and partner countries to conduct their own due diligence as part of their institutional risk assessments.
- (6) The round table discussions during the JV meeting will discuss ways to using the assessment results at the country level to address such areas of weakness. Good practices will emerge from sub-group discussions and could include using the assessment results in developing plans for capacity development, strengthening local ownership and development partner coordination, managing a credible validation process involving local stakeholders, financing and implementing capacity development and strengthening linkages to financial management.
- (7) The DAC Secretariat intends to use the aggregated data from the scored 54 sub-indicators, as per the “banding” methodology established for this purpose by the

JV for Procurement, to convert the sub-indicator scores into a single A – D reference level. This is to be done in order to provide the JV on Monitoring the Paris Declaration with the baseline data for Indicator 2b for the respective partner country. Participating countries will be asked by the DAC Secretariat to agree beforehand to have their data used in this way. The intent is for this baseline data to be included in the 2008 Survey Report.

However, this issue of attributing a single reference letter to a particular country in the monitoring report is not yet agreed and further discussion is required at the next JV meeting.

b) “Non-pilot countries”: who are they and which want to use the methodology?

- (1) “Non-pilot” countries is a term that refers to:
 - I. **The balance of the partner countries that participated in the 2006 baseline survey** (and which are not pilot countries) and are interested in using it to produce baseline data as part of the 2008 field survey.
 - II. other, non-Paris Declaration partner countries that have **not used the JV methodology at all** and might wish to use it as a means of strengthening their public procurement system and
 - III. other, non-Paris Declaration partner countries that **have recently used the methodology** in collaboration with the World Bank or one of the regional development banks
- (2) Many of the non-pilot countries have been introduced to the BLIs of the methodology by the World Bank and the regional development banks over the past couple of years since the BLIs were agreed by the former OECD-DAC / World Bank Round Table on Strengthening Procurement Capacity in November, 2004. These early applications were not normally fully scored and did not undergo a validation process.
- (3) A comprehensive list of non-pilot countries that have recently used the BLIs in collaboration with one or several banks needs to be established in order to identify all users of all or part of the methodology.
- (4) All interested countries who have not used the methodology but who would like to will be invited shortly to an international orientation workshop in September in Paris (details to follow) for an orientation and awareness-raising session on the application of the methodology and the uses of the results. This workshop will be similar in approach and content to the regional orientation workshops that were delivered earlier this year in Nairobi, Jakarta and Yaoundé to the pilot countries.

c) Evolving JV “Good Practices” Guide from pilot and non-pilot experiences and lessons:

- (1) A summary of the lessons and experiences from the June reports will be produced and posted on the website before the JV meeting. The end-August reports will be posted as they are received.
- (2) Following the JV meeting, a consolidated draft incorporating the June and end-August reports and the input from the JV will be produced and approved by the working group before posting. This draft will be available for the any interested country including those non-pilots and pilots currently using or about to use the

methodology as part of the 2008 field survey from January – April, 2008. Ongoing user feedback and country experiences that are sent to the DAC Secretariat by pilot and non-pilot countries will be encouraged and the draft will be updated as new good practices emerge.

- (3) A possible eventual use of this good practices guide could as a reference for a common training program for donor and partner staff.

d) Anti-bribery and anti-corruption links to the work of the JV:

- (1) OECD Public Governance Committee and the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions have recently produced important and relevant documents that have been reviewed by the working group to JV members:
- I. “Integrity in Public Procurement: Good Practice from A to Z” – available on the website
 - II. “Bribery in Public Procurement – Methods, Actors and Counter-Measures” – to be made available in the future
- (2) The WG considers these issues to be important factors in effective procurement reforms. They will be discussed at the JV meeting in September.

e) Engaging the private sector and civil society: how and when?

(1) The private sector:

- I. Micheal Lawrance, OECD-DAC Secretariat, and Pam Bigart, World Bank, met with the OECD - Business / Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) on behalf of the Co-Chairs on April 3 as a first step in establishing a process of ongoing consultations. There is a summary of the discussion of this meeting and some suggested next steps posted on the website.
- II. The WG has endorsed the proposal to meet with interested BIAC members just prior to the JV. It was agreed that it is important for the working group of the JV to consult with the representative group of the private sector in OECD member countries on an ongoing basis. While it is the responsibility of government to design and manage the public procurement system, it is accepted best practice for government to consult with the major stakeholders – the private sector, civil society and the development partners – regarding the quality and the performance of the system.
- III. The working group felt issues relating to local private sector development and input into country procurement systems are best discussed at the country level.

(2) Civil society:

- I. The possibility of the WG of the JV participating in the planned international CSO conference in Ottawa in February, 2008, will be investigated. This conference is being planned by the Advisory Group on Civil Society, a member of the Steering Committee for organizing the High Level Forum in Accra (September, 2008)
- II. As with the private sector, the role and possible capacity needs of civil society at the country level could also be discussed during break-out sessions on the validation of the assessment process and results.

f) DAC Secretariat meeting with member reps of the JV: untying

- (1) The Chair of the DAC has asked that it be arranged for DCD/ PRG representatives to meet in Copenhagen with the member country reps of the JV just before the JV meeting to discuss untying.

g) **JV Communications Plan:**

- (1) The WG discussed and approved the proposed plan and asked the revised version be posted on the website and presented to JV members in Copenhagen.
- (2) The WG agreed the focus has to be at the country level and that existing regional institutions should be used as a means of awareness raising and passing the key messages. The main communications targets of procurement specialists and donor/ government aid coordination groups require specific messages and accompanying communications tools.
- (3) It was also agreed the results of the assessments and the uses they should be used for (eg an input for capacity development) should play a prominent role in communications with pilot countries.

h) **The evolving shape of the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Accra, Ghana (Sept. 2 – 4, 2008):** The Steering Committee for the HLF3 is a special body mandated by the OECD-DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness to plan and implement the HLF. To date, the HLF looks like this:

- (1) **“Marketplace”** during Days 1 and 2: an open event with a broad scope for presentations, mutual learning sessions, opportunities for sharing of methodologies and tools
- (2) **Roundtables** during Days 1 and 2: up to 10 subjects some of which could involve the JV such as:
 - I. Increasing Ownership and Capacity
 - II. Using Country Systems
 - III. Applying Paris Declaration Principles in Fragile Environments
 - IV. Capitalizing on Civil Society to Advance the Agenda
 - V. Integrating New Donors into the Partnership
 - VI. Strengthening Mutual Accountability (including domestic accountability)
- (3) **The ministerial session** on Day 3 including the endorsement of the Accra Agenda for Action

3. Next Steps / responsibility

a) **JV pilot exercise**

- (1) Solicitation of permission from countries to post mid-June and end-August reports on the website, distribution of these reports to working group members beforehand and actual posting of reports when working group members in agreement (M. Lawrance)
- (2) Summary document of June and August reports received prepared, translated and posted on the website following working group approval (M. Lawrance / K. Andreasen, DAC Secretariat, B. Bech, World Bank)

b) **“non-pilot” countries**

- (1) Preparation and posting on the website a comprehensive list of “non-pilot” countries (M. Lawrance, K. Andreasen)
- (2) Planning and coordination of the international orientation workshop in Paris in mid-September for interested non-pilot countries wishing to use the methodology (M. Lawrance, K. Andreasen)

c) “Good Practices” Guide

- (1) Coordinate the evolution and development of the guide via the JV meeting and the experiences and lessons learned by pilot and non-pilot countries up to the HLF
- (2) A draft TORs for a consultant will be circulated to WG members (M. Lawrance)

d) Anti-bribery and anti-corruption

- (1) Coordinate the participation of OECD specialists in the JV meeting and elsewhere, as required (M. Lawrance)

e) The private sector and civil society

- (1) Coordinate the timing and proposed agenda of the meeting between the members of the WG and the BIAC (M. Lawrance, BIAC Secretariat)
- (2) Discuss the possible participation of the WG in the international CSO conference in Ottawa in February, 2008 (J. Comtois, Co-Chair)
- (3) Report to the JV meeting on these results (M. Lawrance)

f) Untying meeting: JV member country reps with the DCD/ PRG (Copenhagen)

- (1) Coordination with DCD/ PRG and the authors of the untying paper (M. Lawrance / Bill Nichol, Head of Division – Poverty Reduction and Growth, DAC Secretariat)
- (2) Providing JV participants with the revised paper and a list of indicative questions ahead of the meeting (M. Lawrance)

g) JV Communication Plan

- (1) Finalizing the JV communications plan for review and approval of the working group, posting it on the website and presenting it to the JV members (M. Lawrance, K. Andreasen)
- (2)

h) Planning for the next JV

- (1) Administrative / logistical planning, conceptualizing / planning the marketplace and the break-out sessions, costing the translation / simultaneous interpretation needs (K. Jensen, UNDP – Copenhagen / M. Larsen, DANIDA – Copenhagen / K. Andreasen / B. Bech / U. Janen, UNDP – Copenhagen)