



The World Bank

Procurement Policy Review Feedback Summary

Date: June 28, 2012

Venue: Berlin, Germany

Total Number of Participants: 17

Overview and General Reactions

Ms. Maria Vannari, Senior Procurement Specialist and Mr. Marcelo Donolo, Procurement Specialist from the World Bank met with stakeholders from German government, private sector, and civil society to discuss the Bank's procurement policy review.

Participants commended the World Bank for undertaking such a comprehensive procurement review and were pleased with the broad consultative process. They also mentioned that the creation of the International Advisory Group on Procurement was important to the quality of the review. Participants were generally supportive of the intention to better use procurement to advance the wider development effectiveness agenda and to move to a more differentiated, context-specific approach that would afford clients more flexibility. A challenge in this regard will be to determine how to set the right level of differentiation as well as the operationalization of such an approach.

The range of issues of particular importance mentioned by different stakeholders included:

- Better integrating sustainability in the procurement process, which includes environmental and social standards, quality considerations and questions of local impact or value added.
- Considering ways to support local economies and SMEs.

- Considering ways to better cooperate with international enterprises.
- Addressing procurement within the wider Government and Anti-Corruption context.
- Importance of addressing use of country systems in relation to partner capacities, of strengthening country systems and taking lessons from the Bank's UCS pilot forward, and take forward international commitments on joint work to strengthen, utilize and assess country systems (Busan, New Deal for Engagement with Fragile and Conflict Affected States)
- Paying greater attention to strengthening capacity – both in partner countries and in the World Bank.
- Give special attention to needs and circumstances of fragile states, also in wider governance and stabilization context
- Addressing question of incentives at all levels – for UCS, for partner countries, for private sector
- Maintain integrity and adequate control mechanisms to prevent fraud and corruption (example of Integrity Pacts, Joint Codes of Ethics, and self-cleaning mechanisms were mentioned for consideration) – challenge to tailor control mechanisms to risks and capacities; consider how best to use oversight and control mechanisms as tool for capacity building in the process
- Improving transparency (considering how to improve transparency especially at local level, enhance domestic accountability; adjust World Bank data system to provide better information about the stage of tendering and project implementation - particularly for enterprises - and to facilitate M&E)
- Proposal to give more attention to assessment of bidder quality and performance at bid qualification / pre-qualification stage as well as strengthening the Bank's monitoring throughout the entire project cycle, specifically during implementation and contract execution
- Economy and efficiency – linked to value for money, going beyond price criteria to include non-monetary aspects, fostering life-cycle based evaluations and approaches
- Ensuring a level playing field for all bidders/ enterprises and fair & open competition; Maintaining equal access, fair contract conditions and state of the art internationally vetted tender procedures