



The World Bank

Procurement Policy Review Feedback Summary

Date: August 2, 2012

Venue: Lagos, Nigeria

Country/ies connected by video conference: Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone

Total Number of Participants: 68

Overview and General Reactions

The first round of the World Bank Procurement Review Consultations was held in Lagos, Nigeria, on August 2, 2012 with Video Conference connections to Accra, Ghana; Monrovia, Liberia; and Freetown, Sierra Leone. Participants included representatives of government agencies, procurement regulatory bodies, donor agencies, a regional organization, World Bank-funded projects, the academia, organized private sector, professional bodies, the media and the civil societies. The Bank was represented by the Regional Procurement Manager, V. S. Krishnakumar, who coordinated the proceedings, and the Procurement staff of the Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone Country Offices.

The overview of the review was presented by V. S. Krishnakumar.

The key issues raised by the participants included:

- Need to simplify the procurement procedures for community-based projects and to build the capacity of beneficiaries to manage community approach procurement.
- Domestic preference, which no longer adds value to the procurement process, should be abolished.

- Consideration should be given to social and environmental issues in public procurement.
- Use private sector model to implement e-procurement
- Procurement procedures of donor partners should be harmonized.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders

1. The analysis presented in the Initiating Discussion Paper captures the key issues and concerns that should be addressed in the review. Are there other challenges which the review should try to address?

- Simplify the procurement procedures for community-based projects and building the capacity of beneficiaries to manage community approach procurement.
- There should be a common approach to assess the capacity of implementing agencies before agreement is reached for intervention.
- Financing agreements should provide for Project sustainability. Many projects are not sustainable after cessation of World Bank funding.
- Financial instruments required as part of the bidding process are costly and some of them may not add value to the process.
- Consideration should be given to supporting a regional training center to build the procurement capacity of borrowers.
- Consider abolition or reduction of domestic preference.
- There should be a monitoring mechanism for the supply chain system and quality assurance of the procurement process.
- Evaluate the relevance of securities in the bidding process.

2. Taking into account the new concepts of public procurement and the broader context of public sector management best practices, what type of changes should the Bank take into consideration in modernizing its procurement policies?

- Consideration should be given to less developed countries to adopt procurement policies that suite their level of development.
- Bank-financed Project Procurement Officers should be mainstreamed into the core civil service to fast-track development of the country systems.
- It is unfair to use different qualification and evaluation criteria for foreign and local firms, especially when using the NCB procurement method.
- Social and environmental considerations should be given to public procurement.

3. In light of various levels of risks and capacity among borrower agencies, how can the Bank best ensure that funds provided by the Bank are used for the purpose intended?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While supporting the development of country systems, particular attention should be paid to the development of procurement capacity at the local government level where a large size of public resources is expended. • Resources should be made available to anti-corruption agencies to monitor procurement implementation. • Support the technical and professional capability building of borrower staff to effectively monitor projects. • Information about projects and procurement processes should be made available to the public. • Frequent changes of project-trained staff should be discouraged in order to retain a pool of highly trained staff to manage project implementation. • Civil societies should be assigned the role of watchdog in procurement implementation. • Consideration should be given to the development of contract management tool . • There should be an in-country independent audit of Bank-financed projects. • Incentives should be provided for the management of procurement implementation.
4. The Initiating Discussion paper highlights the multiplicity of demands and contexts procurement is serving today –diverse sectors, instruments, delivery mechanisms and clients with varying institutional frameworks and governance conditions. What recommendations could help the Bank best tailor its procurement requirements to meet these diverse and varying demands and needs?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bidding documents should be amended to reflect country-specific needs. • Design procurement policies for fragile countries.
5. What could the Bank do to simplify and streamline its current policies and to take advantage of the potential gains offered by e-procurement and IT-based tools?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bank should support the public sector to use private sector strategy to implement e-procurement. • E-procure should be introduced on pilot basis.
6. International consensus calls for use of country systems and harmonization among development partners. What can the Bank do to advance the use of country systems and harmonization among partners?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We confuse borrowers when they are advised to use World Bank procurement procedure where there is a functioning country system. World Bank procurement procedures should be harmonized with country systems. • All donor procurement procedures should be harmonized. This will facilitate the capacity building of borrower staff instead of dissipating resources and energy in adopting the procurement procedures of the respective donors. • The use of country systems should be provided for in the financing agreements.

7. What suggestions do you have to monitor and evaluate the Bank's Procurement policies and assess their impact and effectiveness?

- All stakeholders should be included in the evaluation of project outcomes.
- Determination of achievement of Project objectives should be hinged primarily on the perception of the beneficiaries.

8. Do you have other suggestions to help the Bank develop a proposal for a new policy framework and guiding principles for revisions to the Bank's procurement policies?

- Consider supporting an institution to regulate the conduct of professional bodies.
- Policy makers should be supported to receive capacity building in procurement.
- Stimulate the interest of bidders to build skills in procurement implementation.
- Comprehensive review of World Bank procurement policies should be undertaken more frequently in order to accommodate emerging issues in an ever-changing world.