



The World Bank

Procurement Policy Review Feedback Summary

Date: January 12, 2015

Location (City, Country): Washington DC, United States

Total Number of Participants: 13

Overview and General Reactions: A consultation session with civil society and academia took place on January 12, 2015 at the World Bank (IBRD) in Washington DC, United States. The general response to the reform was positive, with participants applauding the changes, and noting that the policy is moving in the right direction. While most concerns were addressed during the consultation, many of the issues that arose related to reducing the risk of fraud and corruption. Overall, the consultations were successful for the parties involved, with participants leaving anticipating the next phase of the review.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders

1. How should the Bank implement support to borrower procurement capacity building and institutional strengthening?

- Supporting the direction the Bank is moving, participants suggested the policy should read more focused on capacity building, rather than procurement as transaction, because the focus on capacity building is what makes this revision as innovative as it is.
- Participants expressed the need to more fully distinguish between risk of capacity building in the bid/award phase of procurement process vs. the risk associated with contract management – noting that by making this distinction risk will be able to be properly assessed, thereby increasing chances for the success of a project.

2. How should the Bank operationalize the potential broader use of value-for-money criteria in borrower contract award decisions?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VfM approach is giving more choice, more flexibility, and is more modern, but it is also introducing a greater amount of subjectivity regarding the award of a contract, because of this participants suggested the Bank work to strengthen supervision for contract awards to further ensure the success of a project.
3. How should the World Bank target its procurement staff resources to get the best results?
4. How and when should alternative procurement arrangements be used for procurement in Bank projects and how should they be assessed?
5. How should sustainable procurement matters be addressed in Bank-financed contracts?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants expressed interest in how the new review of the safeguards policy will fit into procurement projects, especially regarding sustainable procurement matters.
6. How should the World Bank manage fraud and corruption issues in the procurements it finances?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants suggested that a possibility to combat corruption could stem from furthering transparency efforts; by creating stronger guidelines regulating and supervising fraud and corruption, coupled with actively making information regarding bidding documents, contract awards, invitations etc. available to the public, the Bank will be able to save money and lessen the problem of corruption within procurement contracts. • Through the implementation of an e-procurement system the Bank may be able to further monitor corruption by more fully tracking the procurement process as a whole. • Participants also suggested the possibility of setting aside funds to help civil society engage in the procurement process, furthering the overall effort to reduce the rampant problem of fraud and corruption.
7. What would be suitable procurement metrics that the Bank should use to improve performance?
8. What role should the Bank have with regard to complaints monitoring?
9. What should be the Bank's role in contract management, and with regard to improving performance of suppliers?
10. General comments on other issues emanating from the Bank's proposals?

