

April 23, 2008

Business Enabling Environment Coordination Working Group

Terms of Reference

These terms of reference clarify the background, objectives, membership, and activities of the Business Enabling Environment Coordination Working Group (BEE Working Group).

I. Background

The BEE Working Group was launched on April 4, 2008 at a meeting held by the State Committee for Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan (Goscominvest). Goscominvest's mandate from the Government of Tajikistan includes foreign aid coordination and support to entrepreneurship development.

The Working Group is designed to support Goscominvest in coordinating donor activities in the business enabling environment sector and in achieving the reform objectives outlined in the following documents:

- National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Period to 2015 (NDS)
- Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2007-2009 (PRS)

The BEE Working Group continues and expands the work of the SME Legal Environment Working Group, which met regularly from March 2005 to May 2007 and was facilitated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

II. Objectives

- Support Goscominvest in completing its reform agenda in the business enabling environment area, as outlined in the NDS and PRS.
- Improve coordination of current and future donor initiatives through collaborative dialogue.
- Speed implementation of business environment reforms.
- Facilitate the discussion of important issues among stakeholders and the development of recommendations for submission to the donor community and other government agencies.
- Build capacity of Goscominvest to coordinate donor activity and implement the government's strategy for private sector development.

III. Membership

Goscominvest is the chair of the BEE Working Group. The Head of Goscominvest's Division of Entrepreneurship Support, or his delegate, will attend each meeting. IFC will support Goscominvest by facilitating the BEE Working Group via its Business Enabling Environment – SME Policy Project.

Goscominvest invites representatives from all of its project partners, and their donors, involved in interventions related to the business enabling environment to join the BEE Working Group. Additional participants – such as representatives of various government agencies, business associations, public and international organizations, or the private sector – may be invited to individual meetings depending on the issues to be discussed.

IV. Activities

In order to achieve its objectives, the BEE Working Group will meet approximately once a month. Minutes of the meetings will be posted at the UN Tajikistan Information Platform, <http://www.untj.org/?c=21&id=150>. During and between these meetings, the group will undertake the following activities:

- Identify high-priority reform areas and help Goscominvest to develop a specific action plan to address them, including the steps that must be taken by other parts of government;
- Develop monitoring tools to ensure progress on the pilot reform areas;
- Identify obstacles to progress on the pilot reform areas and develop strategies to overcome them;
- Liaise with other working groups addressing specific reforms or issues in the business environment;
- Map current donor activities related to improving the business environment as compared to the government's priorities, as identified in the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and identify gaps;
- Prioritize areas for additional donor support to Goscominvest;
- Contribute to elaboration of the Joint Country Support Strategy (JCSS) as it concerns the business environment;
- Provide capacity-building assistance to Goscominvest through joint training activities, such as workshops, seminars and study tours;
- Share information among the group's members about current and planned initiatives, events, research findings and knowledge resources.

The working language of the group will be English.

V. Reporting lines

The BEE Working Group will report to the head of Goscominvest, and it will operate as a sub-committee of both the Donor Coordination Council and the Private Sector Development Consultative Council (once established) within Goscominvest. The BEE Working Group will also exchange information regularly with the Consultative Council of Business Associations, and other interested bodies and individuals, including available advisory bodies.