

Public-Private Dialogue

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Africa Regional Workshop

DEVELOPPING A 12-MONTH WORKPLAN FOR IFC-SPONSORED PPDs IN AFRICA

Organized by:

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With representatives from:

Burkina Fasso
Chad
Cameroun
Central African Republic
Ethiopia
Liberia
Rwanda

Workshop rationale and objectives

Recent years have seen an upsurge in interest in Public private dialogue (PPD) as a means for promoting private sector development. Business forums, investor advisory councils and other dialogue platforms have become an important part of private sector reform process. These initiatives are not an end in themselves, but are created as umbrella processes that carry forward specific Business Enabling Environment (or more broadly, policy reform) programs from diagnosis and prioritization to the implementation stage. Findings support that such advocacy mechanisms, when applied on specific substantive issues, and when organized in an efficient and fair manner, serve as a quite efficient implementation interface between the private sector, the government and the donors.

Benefits of PPDs include the following:

- Business forums facilitate **investment climate reforms** by supporting champions for reform, creating momentum and accelerating the reform process.
- They promoting better **diagnosis** of investment climate problems and **design** of policy reforms (governments that listen to the constraints of the private sector are more likely to devise sensible prioritization plans and workable reforms). By involving the private sector from the start, they make policy reforms easier to **implement**.
- The most tangible benefits of PPD are the **policy reforms** it can precipitate and in turn the **economic impact** it has (reducing operating costs, opening new markets, levelling the playing field, promoting trade, etc, through new legislation, amendment or removal of existing legislation, simplifying regulations and controls, standardizing procedures across different jurisdictions, and setting up new institutions).
- PPD also produce deeper benefit in building a sustainable **constituency** for investment climate reform, an atmosphere of mutual **trust** and **understanding** between public and private sectors, improving predictability and in turn enabling **investments**. This is especially prevalent in post-conflict countries.

In view of achieving such results, IFC's PEP-Africa has focused its recent efforts on setting up a number of PPD throughout the continent.

This workshop is targeted at the PPD facilitators working on IFC projects in the region, plus their private sector or government counterparts (15 to 25 people).

The objectives of the workshop are:

- 1- to build the capacity and skills required to set up and drive effective partnerships,
- 2- to output a detailed project plan per program represented (after the workshop, all the PPD facilitators from Africa will have a specific work program for the next 12 months).

Location and dates:

Douala, Cameroun (hotel to be determined).

Wednesday April 18 and Thursday April 19, 2007.

Participants need to arrive in Douala on Tuesday the 17th.

Material

Each participating facilitator will have to provide the following before the workshop:

- 1) A four-page note summarizing the case
- 2) A seven slides PowerPoint presentation

The 4 page case study, as well as 7-slide PowerPoint presentation, will be included in the workshop material and distributed before and at the event (dissemination with public access through the “2007 Africa Regional PPD Workshop” page on www.publicprivatedialogue.org).

The short paper and presentation will need to cover the following:

- Context and particularities of the partnership
- Objectives
- Status of partnership to date
- Structure, processes and milestones
- Results if any
- Challenges
- Details of the author/presenter (this should include a 1/2 paragraph short biography outlining relevant experience).

Each participant will also receive a folder with all the material, including a copy of the PPD Handbook.

Agenda

Wednesday April 18, morning session:

- PEP Africa work in the region, PPD work in the region (James Emery, 30 min.)
- Framework to approach PPD for BEE, lessons learned (Benjamin Herzberg, 1 hour)
- A short overview of context for each represented PPD (facilitators, 6x20 min. = 2 hours)

Wednesday April 18, afternoon session & Thursday, April 19, morning session:

- Eight of the 12 PPD process points are going to be detailed, each in the context of one PPD represented at the workshop. During these eight sessions, a short 15 minute overview of framework and best practice will be delivered by Herzberg followed by a work session elaborating on that particular process point in the context of one specific PPD.
- The aim of each session is to come to conclusion on work program on a specific point for a specific PPD. Each participant will hence see how a work program is elaborated for 8 of the 12 points, with some of these session on his/her specific partnership.

Thursday, April 19, afternoon session:

- Each PPD country team (even if represented by just one person) will retreat and work on their own project plan for 2 hours (each on a computer). They each will have to develop a detailed

12-month project plan for their own partnership, including objectives, activities, resources, budget, indicators, etc.

- They will have to do this for each of the 12 process points, with an action matrix per point, to compose the full project plan, which will be 15 pages. This is doable in 2 hours, because of the work done the previous day and that morning. Herzberg and Emery will circulate between groups to provide support.
- Reporting and conclusion.

Contact Information

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