

BWG MEETING -23RD MARCH 2012.

VENUE: POLICY FORUM SECRETARIAT – BOARD ROOM.

Attendance

- | | | |
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| 1. Florian Schweitzer | - | SIKIKI |
| 2. Simon Moshi | - | SIKIKI |
| 3. Gottfried Sangana | - | CODEFA |
| 4. Michael Dalali | - | AP2000 |
| 5. Johnson Kaijage | - | PF |
| 6. Christina Genda | - | PF |

Agenda

1. The BWG writing lab
2. Preparation of the budget briefs
3. Engagement during committee session
4. Updates regarding the PBO draft bill
5. Updates regarding measuring transparency at local level
6. Change of the BWG conveners
7. AOB.

1. Welcoming note

The meeting was opened and chaired by Johnson Kaijage who started the meeting by welcoming BWG members to the meeting. He then passed members through the agenda from the secretariat which was matters arising from previous updates and progress updates. There after the meeting started.

2. Writing lab

Members were informed that Pf was organizing a writing lab and that HakiElimu and KEPA had volunteered to facilitate at the sessions. KEPA had indicated that they would not be available during the tentative weeks that the lab had been planned and so a time at which both facilitators would be available to facilitate was still being arranged. Members were informed that they would be informed of the dates that would be arranged for the lab to happen as well as the logistics that go along with those.

3. Preparation of policy briefs

Members were informed that following the last meeting, some members had committed themselves to the preparation of the policy briefs for this year. They were ANSAF on Agriculture, HakiElimu on Education, Sikika on health and KEPA on revenue. This would make the number of briefs tally with our plan for those that we target to produce this year. Further, ANSAF committed itself to produce an analytical think piece and another piece had been confirmed a collaboration between the University of Dar es Salaam and Tanzania Natural Resources Forum. This would also make the number of briefs that we planned to produce for this year.

4. Engagement During Committee sessions

Members were informed that the CSO Joint Platform for Engagement (JPE) was coordinating the engagement of CSOs with the parliamentary committee sessions that were scheduled to begin in mid-April. An e-mail was to be circulated to this effect under the coordination of the CSO JPE. Members welcomed the idea although some were of the view that they usually did prepare for such engagements themselves. They however welcomed the idea and were looking forward to receiving the e-mail.

5. Updates of the PBO draft bill

Members were informed of the latest update of the PBO bill which was that it was at the speaker's desk. Members took to deliberating on strategic advocacy to move from that point forward and it was suggested that we wait for the budget session to end after which we strategically ally with MPs who are in support of the establishment of the PBO. Sikika had prepared a checklist of the pointers of an operational PBO and were of the idea that we use it in our strategic advocacy as we should be cautious that the need for the PBO should not be seen to be arising from CSO pressure but rather from the need raised by MPS. Members agreed to adopt this approach. Members agreed on using this approach and on updating each other on the progress on any event that might happen between then and the end of the budget session ending September.

6. Measuring budget transparency at Local level

Members were informed that this was an activity that had been planned to happen last year but did not take off. The aim of the activity is to measure transparency of the budget process at local level as well as examining the mechanisms in place to attract citizen participation in the process. Members were informed that Sikika had finalized preparation of questionnaires for the survey and were preparing themselves to go to the field. Members were informed that Policy Forum was also taking going to take on a similar assignment and were still at preliminary stages of putting together a questionnaire. Members were informed that they were looking into joining the two studies together to have a large sample but this would be subject to discussions between Sikika and Policy Forum. Sikika invited members who were willing to undertake the study with them although the feeling was that since it was the first time it was happening, it would be better that they await the outcome of this study and thereafter discuss ways in which the study could be scaled-up by the joining in of other members.

7. Change of the BWG Convener

Members were informed that Godfrey Boniventura had accepted to play the role of convener for the BWG and Sikika had also accepted the role of co-convener. Both were enthusiastic about the roles were taking on and Sikika pledged their commitment in playing the role effectively and realizing the objectives of the BWG. The new convener was not present at this meeting.

8. AOB

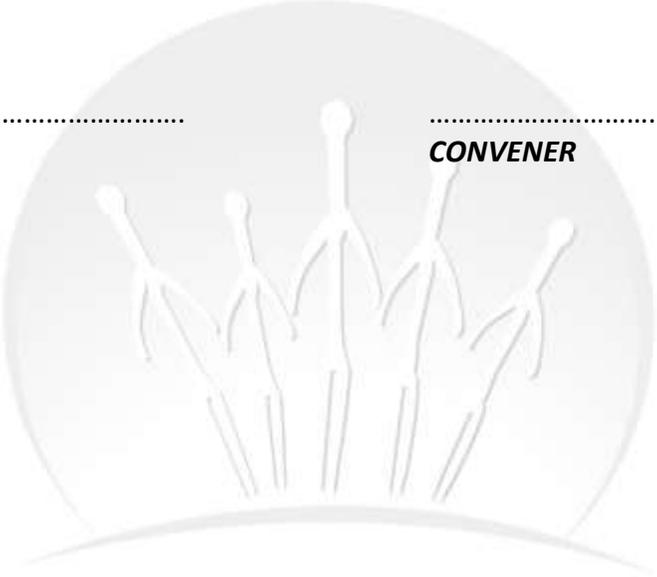
Each of the members were given a round to present the work they are doing on around budget transparency. Sikika said they were preparing themselves for the local level budget transparency survey as well as analyses on the guidelines, AP2000 said they were also preparing themselves for analyses on the guidelines and were undertaking some work on anticorruption for which they were going to publish in a brief, CODEFA also said they were preparing themselves to do work around the guidelines.

9. Closing

Johnson thanked the members for their attendance and informed the members that the date and venue of the next meeting would be conveyed to them after which he closed the meeting.

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SECRETARY

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CONVENER



policy forum