

BWG MEETING -21ST MARCH 2013.

VENUE: POLICY FORUM SECRETARIAT – BOARD ROOM.

Agenda

1. Financial Secrecy and Transfer Pricing Seminar
2. Special Group on Tax
3. SNOB
4. Budget Preparation
5. World Social Forum
6. AOB

Welcoming note

The meeting was opened at 10:15am and chaired by she started by welcoming BWG members to the meeting. She then let members introduce themselves before the meeting started.

1. Financial Secrecy and Transfer Pricing Seminar updates

Financial Secrecy (Finnish Embassy) and Transfer Pricing Seminar are the meetings to be held in October and November consecutively. BWG suggested that it is wise to combine the meeting together as they all have the same interest in Tax Justice and Capital flights. Financial integrity has already started preparation for October 1st and 2nd. Due to preparations that may affect if the meetings are to be combined, it was again suggested that it is best to keep the meeting separate in October. Also capacity building is required before the event.

Comments/Resolution:

- What is the idea of making two meetings of the same nature flow in two months (October and November)
- Proposal from Policy Forum is Agenda Participation and Kepa to take the lead of the second meeting (Transfer pricing)
- Communicate with International Tax Justice in Europe about tyhis idea of combining the meetings.

2. SPECIAL GROUP ON TAX

Since the September BWG had the idea of having CSO's engaged in Tax issues. This was to be done through CSO's to declare their interest in working on tax field. BWG will support the interested CSO's in capacity building to give them practical on tax analysis. KEPA, Action Aid and NCA have resources and are planning to have series of events on tax analysis to enable SCO to capacitate on tax issues.

Comments/ Resolution

It was discussed that what was going to be done on tax evasion issues, what's the burning issue on tax exemption. Through the process of analysis of who is to be involved in the Special Group on Tax, there were some concerns on how to get the interested

- Who is to call, interested and resources
- Who is involved and time to be involved
- To create a mailing list and let everyone know through emails.
- Email set a date of first meeting
- BWG and LGWG email list circulated
- Ask Extractive Industry Working group as well if interested to join tax working group

3.Sub- National Open Budget Survey

Snobs is the new survey introduced by..... Aiming At looking for budget transparency in Tanzania, this survey will mainly be conducted to bring out the flow of budget and its allocation towards developments. Leading to availability of budget documents to citizen which will make easier to track the budget and to track if the funds correctly used.

OBI-Signature Survey to assess budget transparency around the world and use the score to improve budget transparency. The idea is to see how we could expand it to local level for a budget transparency at local level, to take it to the local people simply how citizen are able to be involved in budget proposals at local level

- Useful
- Availability
- Government proactively commits to share information
- Civil Participation is crucial

Research will base in 20 districts in Tanzania. Survey is to access the content and let the citizens access them as well.

Comments

- CSO to join forces, SIKIKA has finance, the idea is to do big coverage survey . SIKIKA works on 10 districts.
- Coverage – Tanzania mainland
- DED- Planning offices of the local council.
- It is an annual survey
- Attend as an ordinary citizen rather than an organization during research not to remove the cover that it is researched for different purpose.
- Special researcher
- Share with the local working CSO`s

Resolution

In two month feedback how many organization are interested to take part in the study.

4. BUDGET PREPARATION

Budget working Group has to come up with a statement towards budget preparation of 2013/2014. This statement is meant to train Members of the Parliament on the development of budget and the tracking of the previous year`s budget development. Estimates of the budget are needed for the statement to be prepared. Budget processing have changed and budget guidelines are issues
The angle of the statement this year`s topic are in Health, Education, Food and security.

Despite discussing on the statement, Policy Brief idea came in and discussed well, it was also decided that policy brief will be produced after the budget

COMMENTS

- Tax exemption 7% of GDP Action Aid
- Food security Action Aid and ANSAF
- Education training policy
- Policy brief to be produced basing on the areas to be concentrated on the budget 2013/2014

RESOLUTION

- Comment on the budget Proposal 2 weeks after the receiver of the budget proposal- 1st week of May 10th .
- Use the budget guidelines to produce Policy briefs for advocacy share with the parliament.

- Briefs have to be out before the budget is tabled target up and after budget for awareness .
- Water aid- they wanted to have it before the sessions and do a policy brief on water to target MP`s.
- Discuss internally in their organization for them to agree before on policy briefs
 - HAKIELIMU- Before the budget
 - SIKIKA – After the budget
 - KEPA – After the budget
- Focus on media, use policy brief to take one fundamental issues for awareness
- Policy briefs by the end of budget sessions.

5. WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

WSF is a world event established to counter work. Developing country invited to enhance world social economy. This year's World Social Forum will be held in Tunis March 23RD 2013. It's the conference conducted yearly with the objectives to bring all CSO`s in the world together, to train in different tactics to solving problem in respective countries also to share the culture and campaign on poverty reduction, debt reduction to developing countries

Tanzanian CSO`s members attending have to go with one goal/ theme of Transparency in budget, tax justice towards Tanzania`s development.

Comments/ Resolution

- Do government people attend
- What achievement have been observed so far
- Scholars do attend experts input changes
- Learning in general- Global gather, give a space for learning
- Attendants should Share information and lesson after returning/ get back from WSF

6. AOB

Budget Working Group discussed when to meet again, and it was decided to be on 8th May 2013.

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SECRETARY

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CONVENER



policy forum