

BWG MEETING -28TH JUNE 2013.

VENUE: POLICY FORUM SECRETARIAT – BOARD ROOM.

Attendance

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| 1. Regina Katabi | M-WACOD CODEFA |
| 2. Nicholas Lekule | PF |
| 3. Michael Dalali | ACTIONAID TANZANIA |
| 4. Linda Lönnqvist | KEPA |
| 5. Christina Genda | PF |
| 6. Florian Schweitzer | SIKIKI |
| 7. Jane Mumina | UNA |

Agenda

1. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 21st March 2013
2. Preparation of Policy briefs and analytical think piece
3. Updates on citizens budget
4. Updates from the sessions with Parliamentarians
5. Updates of the PBO
6. Members participation in BWG
7. AOB.

1. Welcoming note

The meeting was opened and chaired by Florian Schweitzer, who started by welcoming BWG members to the meeting. He then passed members through the agenda from the secretariat which were matters arising from previous meeting and progress updates.

2. Matters arising

We discussed about the two big upcoming conferences as it was previously raised if it was possible to combine them since they are done closely, financial secrecy on 1 - 2nd of Oct, and Transfer pricing 3-4th of Oct 2013. It was decided that since the preparation for the first conference had started earlier it was not advised to combine these two at this stage and also each of the meeting is important if we separate the two and the dates remain as they are.

Comments:

- It was suggested that we try get more African perspective voice in the conference such as from TJN-A.
- Also get speakers widely from countries outside Africa. PF secretariat was requested to send online link provided by FTC for members to register themselves to the conference.

Updates on tax activities a basic introduction training on tax has been done, upcoming is training for journalist on extractive, followed by another training on tax base and exemption where it will look at analysis of legal , tax issues, loopholes in the law, tax base and exemption by early July the organizers KEPA and AA Tz will have concrete details of the content, and finally a training on tax advocacy putting together all that have been practiced i.e. research on tax.

Update on Sikika's OBI study. It was discussed and agreed that a summary report of the pilot study will be shared to the LGWG after being finalized.

World Social Forum (WSF)

Feedback was received from those who participated in the WSF that took place in Tunisia. The major appealing themes that were discussed in the seminars were Tax, Budget, land grabbing, and human right issues.

3. POLICY BRIEFS AND ANALYTICAL THINK PIECE.

The discussed focused on the new budget cycle that all of us were aware of, and it was suggested for participants' organization to commit themselves into preparation of the policy briefs. We agreed on the following:

1. Sikika – to prepare a brief based on the analysis of the Ministry of health budget.
2. AATz - to prepare a brief on Tax exemptions
3. HAKI ELIMU- to prepare a brief based on the analysis of the budget for education
4. KEPA – to prepare a brief on the revenue side of the budget

Comments:

- What ideas do we have after publishing the briefs? Presenting them during breakfast debate? Or looking for space with the Parliamentary Budget Committee and share with them.
- It was suggested to engage with the budget committee in the discussion of the new budget cycle to see how that change is significant.
- It was suggested that the briefs to be timely prepared and published

Resolution:

We agreed into looking for a possibility to engage/ share with MPs.

4. CITIZEN BUDGET

PF is in communication with the Ministry of Finance regarding this activity. We have notified the Ministry of our commitment to continue our cooperation with them in preparing the Citizen's budget. We have also communicated with the team that we

worked with the BWG members in making the last year's Citizens' Budget, and have responded informally that they have a plan to make one for 2013/2014 and they will call the BWG to input into the document.

5. SESSION WITH MPS

Feedback was given by members who had attended the meeting between Civil Societies and Members of Parliament in Dodoma.

It was advised that we make effective use of these sessions with the MPs. Also we should seek ways of strengthening this relationship with the MPs so as to make our engagement with them smoother.

Resolution:

Whenever an invitation is extended to members or secretariat, we need to discuss together and form common agenda before meeting with MPs.

6. PBO UPDATE

Members were informed of the updates in regard to the PBO agenda. Feedback was given from the session that had happened in Dodoma between CSOs and the MPs on early June 2013.

It was agreed that since UNDP as one of the Development Partners is involved in this and has interest, we may consider engaging with more donors as they have stronger voice.

Resolution:

The secretariat committed to seek for more space and room to discuss the agenda with relevant stakeholders.

It was also agreed that the draft PBO brief be finalized and shared with members before being published. This will contribute to the advocacy campaign.

7. MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN BWG ACTIVITIES

Members were informed that attendance in the BWG is not convincing. A good number of members are not participating actively, and only a few key members are the ones who keep attending.

Comments:

- We need to identify where the problem is, identify priority areas of members of the BWG
- Ask them to commit themselves in the beginning of each year of their commitment to the BWG, including commitment to attend and contribute to the group.

Resolution:

Ask members to commit themselves into activities of the BWG at the beginning of a year. And ask them to fill in a framework of their contribution.
Recheck the mailing list again just to update.

8. AOB

It was suggested it is best to see action into what we have committed ourselves to do.

The meeting was closed and agreed that a following the upcoming conferences, a date for the upcoming BWG meeting will be communicated to members by the secretariat.

