

Meeting Details

Meeting #	11
Date & Time	Wednesday, December 14 th 2016
Time	01:40 – 03:05 PM
Location	Minister Office, Ministry of Economy Shahr-e-Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan
Chaired:	H.E Abdul Satar Murad, Minister of Economy
Note Taker	Ghulam Reza Merzaie, Communication Specialist CoST-A National Secretariat

Attendees

No.	Name	Organization
1	H.E. Abdul Satar Murad	Ministry of Economy (MoEc)
2	Sharif Alizai	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
3	Habibullah Haidari	Ministry of Public Works (MoPW)
4	Sayed Ikram Afzali	Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA)
5	Timothy Gray	
6	Ahmadullah Mauj	
7	Zainalabedin Mousavi	Afghan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)
8	Nesar Ahmad Salimi	Afghan Builders Association (ABA)
9	Mohammad Naser Sidiqee	GIZ- Open Policy Advisory Fund
10	Sebghatullah Karimi	CoST National Secretariat
11	Ghulam Reza Merzaie	

Agenda

The following agenda was unanimously approved as distributed

No.	Subject	Facilitator
1	Review the Previous Meeting Decisions	Mr. Karimi
2	Update on Scoping Study Report Dari Translation	Mr. Naser Sdiqee, GIZ
3	Update on CoST-A Website Development	Mr. Karimi
4	Update on Disclosure Manual Development	Mr. Karimi
5	Suggestions to the MSG Workshop	Mr. Karimi
6	Presentation on the main findings of the scoping study	Mr. Karimi
7	Finalize Draft Communication Materials (slide show)	Merzaie
8	Others: b) Decide on Addition of 3 Private Sector Members and a few Observers to MSG (per Mr. Matthews Meetings) Revise the MSG Contacts Directory	Mr. Karimi

Minutes

Topic	Summary
Review the Previous Meeting Decisions	<p>At the opening of the meeting H.E Mr. Abdul Satar Murad, Minister of Economy and chairman of the meeting welcomed all participants and then asked Mr. Karimi, National Coordinator, CoST-A to provide a brief update on the previous meeting decisions.</p> <p>Therefore, Mr. Karimi briefly updated the participants about the previous meeting decisions and point out to the Mr. Petter's, the CoST international director, visit to Kabul and his presentation to MSG members about CoST mandates and aim. A brief update on the announcement of disclosure manual for the second time and the status of procuring CoST-A website is provided as well</p>
Update on Scoping Study Report Dari Translation	<p>Mr. Siddiqi said, GIZ contracted with the translation company for the translation of the scoping study into Dari language and the translation will be finished by 24 of December 2016. The Dari version will be shared with IWA and MSG for proof read and spell checking after the translation is done.</p>
Update on CoST-A Website Development	<p>Mr. Karimi updated that, finally, the Integrity Watch Afghanistan (Host Organization) select the qualified company among other companies for the development of CoST-A website and will sign the contract on 15 of December, 2016.</p> <p>The contract for the website development is for one month (from 15 December 2016 until 14 January, 2017). During this period of time, CoST secretariat and IWA are going to work closely with the company to develop a professional website.</p>
Update on Disclosure Manual Development	<p>Mr. Karimi provided a brief information about the importance of disclosure manual for CoST activities and indicated that after two times of announcements of the RFQ for disclosure manual development, Integrity Watch Afghanistan (Host Organization) only received one bid. The National Secretariat call for MSG Committee meeting for evaluation of the Bid and, finally, the committee decided to reject the bid due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of the bid was 5 times higher than the original estimated budget, • Lack of competitiveness in the process <p>Therefore, the MSG Selection Committee suggested to hire individuals for the development of the disclosure manual.</p> <p>Eventually, the participants accepted the Committee decision and agreed to hire individuals for the development of disclosure manual.</p>
Suggestions to the MSG Workshop	<p>Mr. Sharif Alizai from MRRD suggested that, the workshop should be in a CoST country where the initiative is successful with good examples of disclosing and assurance process. The participants agreed to have an experience sharing and lesson learn sessions from other countries in the workshop to see how they deal with the challenges and how they disclosed the project information successfully.</p> <p>It is agreed to share these suggestion with the International Secretariat.</p>
Presentation about the	<p>The presentation covered the following important issues:</p>

Topic	Summary
main findings of the scoping study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement reform and capacity development are still in their initial stages • The Role of Donors and of the International Community • Understanding Transparency and Accountability in the Afghan Context • Current Transparency and Disclosure Practices • A-CoST's Governance Structures in Afghanistan: The MSG and the Secretariat <p>Mr. Karimi during his presentation said that Civil society representation has been active in the MSG and has proven to be a crucial driving force for the initiative. According to the scoping study findings, he discussed the rotational chairmanship of the MSG that could be considered to enable leadership by different sectors and the participants were agreed on this issue. In addition, other main findings of the study such as the need to increase the private sectors trust and understanding of the value of transparency and accountability, donors and NPA participation in the MSG meetings as observers, independence of the initiative and the same time strong support from the government side are discussed with participants.</p>
Finalize Draft Communication Materials (slide show)	<p>The meeting briefly discussed the communication materials and conduction of the launching event for the scoping study. The participants agreed to conduct the launch event on 20 January 2017 (tentative). H.E Minister will communicate this issue with the president office for attendance of the H.E president of Afghanistan in the event.</p>
<p>Others:</p> <p>a) Decide on Addition of 3 Private Sector Members and a few Observers to MSG (per Mr. Matthews Meetings)</p> <p>b) Revise the MSG Contacts Directory</p>	<p>Mr. Karimi said, based on meetings of Mr. Petter the Director of the IS, some organizations and donor partners especially the ADB and NPA are interested to attend the MSG Meetings as observer.</p> <p>The participants agreed to this and the national secretariat is tasked to inform and welcome them</p> <p>Mr. Ikram Afzali said that the participants of other organizations such as World Bank and MEC should be approved by MSG in order to get formal prospective.</p>

Decisions

No.	Decision	Responsible
1	share the previous (#10) MSG minutes of meeting and a copy of the scoping study with the H.E Minister of Economy	Mr. Karimi
2	Hire Consultant for Disclosure Manual Development	IWA
3	Send an official email to ABA for introducing of two new constructions companies for MSG	Mr. Karimi
4	NPA, ADB and GIZ are accepted as MSG members and the NS should inform and congratulate them.	Mr. Karimi
5	Confirm with World Bank, MEC and other organizations whether they want to be as an observer in the MSG meetings.	Mr. Karimi

No.	Decision	Responsible
6	Sending an official letter to government sectors (MRRD, MoEW and MoPW) to actively and punctually participate MSG meetings, and demonstrate commitments and expertise.	Ministry of Economy
7	Sending an official email to Civil Society organizations to actively and punctually participate MSG meetings, and demonstrate commitments and expertise.	Sayed Ikram Afzali
8	Share MSG suggestion with International Secretariat	Mr. Karimi
9	Share the translated version of the scoping study with IWA and CoST-A for proof read once the translation is done	Mr. Sediqi, GIZ
10	The MSG members or MSG selection committee should set together to review and finalize the communication materials.	CoST secretariat will coordinate

End of Minutes