

Minutes of the meeting of the Project Board

The Support to the Sierra Leone Constitutional Review Project

UNDP Conference Room, 10th January 2014

Summary

The Project Board meeting for *the Support to the Sierra Leone Constitutional Review Project 2013 – 2014* was held on 10th January 2014 at 10.00 am in the Conference Room UNDP's office, 55 Wilkinson Road, Freetown. The meeting was chaired by the Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee. The meeting was attended by the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC), the Law Officers' Department, the Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), DFID, and the United Nations (UNIPSIL, UN Women and UNDP).

The main item on the agenda was the presentation of the Sierra Leone Constitutional Review Project Annual Work Plan 2014 for adoption.

1. Opening remarks

The Chair, UNDP Country Director, Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee welcomed all to the meeting, especially the Chairman and Executive Secretary of the CRC, the Solicitor General, the DFID and CGG representatives and other UN colleagues. The meeting the Chair said was unique, being the first Project Board meeting of the CRC and the first with the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) Mr. Sana Baloch who is a former Senator from Pakistan.

The Chair apologised for the slow start of the project but intimated that with technical advice on the design of the project and financial contribution from DFID, coupled with the CTA in post, a lot of progress has been made. He mentioned that the EC were also considering contributing funds for the project.

Explaining the duties of the Project Board, the Chair said the Board was responsible for making consensus for the project. He said he was the Project Manager but had delegated the duties to the CTA. The Chair informed that the meeting was essentially to review the Annual Work Plan (AWP), and that the Board needed to ensure the review was done, taking into account best value for money and integrity. He pointed out that the Steering Committee was responsible for strategic positioning of the project.

Summarizing the objectives of the project, the Chair stated that it sets out to consolidate national peace building with focus on getting constitutional dialogue and reforms for peace resolution. The other underlying working principles include mitigate risks of conflicts, collaborate with national counterparts; promote, social cohesion, ensure inclusive and maximum participation, adopt flexible approaches and maximize mutually beneficial partnerships.

The Chairman of the CRC, Justice Edmond Cowan thanked the Chair for inviting him to the meeting and said that he had come with an open mind to listen and see how they would be able to forge ahead. He added that he had been working amicably with the CTA.

2. Overview of the Project through power point presentations by CTA:
a. Constitutional Review Committee snapshot

Giving a rundown of the power point presentation, the CTA cited the legal instruments from which the mandate of the CRC was derived. CTA elaborated CRC's process timeframe, representation including details, methods and process of inclusive and participatory constitutional review.

He explained "Civic Education and Public Consultation" methods that CRC will use in undertaking its activities; the "Outcome" of public consultation will reflect in several theme-specific reports such "what the people say" to guide CRC's work. Based on wider consultation a draft Constitution would be ready to go through the process for adoption. If the entrenched clauses are amended, the Constitution would go for a referendum.

Note: For detailed Constitutional Review Committee Snapshot, please see Annex A

b. Snapshot of the process

The CTA explained that the 2013 process intends to have a very wide civic education component and to reach more people, as opposed to the 2007/2008 process which was more technocratic with not much civic education undertaken.

Note: For detailed Snapshot of the process, please see Annex B

c. Constitutional Review Committee Progress Report - 2013

This summarizes the activities of the Project since its launch in July. The project had a slow start but had gathered momentum as several meetings were held in December.

Note: For detailed CRC progress report, please see Annex C

d. Outputs with proposed budget

This presentation depicts the budget breakup and shows major funding to the outputs for Civic Education and Public Consultation.

Note: For more details, please see Annex D

e. Public Consultation Process Flowchart

The chart shows the flow of the process from the Civic Education and Public Consultation partners to the CRC Analysis Unit that feeds reports to the Public Consolidation Committee, for onward transmission to the CRC Thematic Committees. Recommendations from these committees are forwarded to the CRC plenary.

Note: For a detailed flowchart, please see Annex E

f. Annual Work Plan

The AWP comprises 6 Outputs with several activities.

Output 1 – Capacity development of CRC members

Output 2 – Capacity development of the CRC Secretariat to provide legal and research services

Output 3 - Communication and messaging strategy

Output 4 – Civil Society led inclusive and informative civic education process

Output 5 – CRC led inclusive and transparent civic education and public consultation process

Output 6 – Capacitating MPs, political parties and traditional leaders

Note: For detailed AWP, please see Annex F.

The Chair, Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee informed that the CTA would do a presentation to World Bank and other donors to solicit some more support.

Mr. Moses Orogade, UNIPSIL reminded the meeting that UNIPSIL will not be available after March 2014. He stressed the need for capacity building in archiving and asset management. He wanted to know what would happen to the assets after the project would have ended.

Mr. Augustine Sheku, Executive Secretary CRC, updated members on activities undertaken by the CRC in the last six months. The process he said was launched by H E the President in July 2013 but due to funding constraints much was not done. The CRC also wanted to produce jingles to air over the festive season to capture holiday makers from the diaspora, but that too unfortunately did not go as planned. The government he said pledged Le150 M (one hundred and fifty million leones) to kick start the process. The CRC held meetings with UNIPSIL and civil society. The civic education process is to be led by the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), whom the CRC expects to do preparatory work on the ground ahead of the CRC. Mr. Sheku expressed the need for more staff.

Mr. Moses Orogade, UNIPSIL explained that UNIPSIL was complementing the work of the CRC; UNIPSIL empowered the Non State Actors and CSOs to spread the message of peace for the 2012 elections.

Justice Edmond Cowan, Chair, CRC stated that all stakeholders were working towards the same goal, and that one important point to remember is that the populace needs to be involved; the people should be pivotal and should be telling the CRC what they want. In his opinion the UNDP and UNIPSIL are working in parallel to the CRC, whilst the donor partners are in concert with the CSOs.

Ms. Martina Kroma, Solicitor General expressed concern about the civic education being that a high percentage of the populace is illiterate. She would like to see civic education taken to the tiniest village

and have the people participate in the village meetings, hence the need to synchronize the work of the CRC and CSOs.

Ms. Valnora Edwin, Campaign for Good Governance first of all thanked the CRC for including civil society in the process. She expressed concern about data preservation, i.e. how the data collected over the life of the project would be preserved and distributed to target places like the universities etc. She advised that the CSO engagement could take the form of consultations and town hall meetings, but not workshops. What is necessary is to get the CSOs to collaborate with CRC to facilitate the latter's work; she implored the CRC not to feel sidelined. Ms. Edwin intimated that tackling the problem of illiteracy would depend on the way the communication is put across.

Ms. Melrose Kargbo, UNWomen, stated she would like to see a mapping area of the CSOs who intend to contribute to the process; she stressed that the CSOs needed to coordinate their activities and update the CRC. She informed that UNWomen hired the services of a Gender Consultant to highlight the clauses that were not in favour of women, and the instruments that talk about the advancement of women in the 1991 Constitution. She also supported the fact that the work the UN and the CSOs are doing, complement the CRC.

Justice Edmond Cowan remarked that if the CSOs and the UN are complementing the CRC he would expect that by the time the CRC gets to the villages, the people should be in a position to engage the CRC on equal terms.

Mr. Augustine Sheku confirmed the CRC has a work plan which is activity based and costed.

Mr. Mohamed Abchir, Deputy Country Director, Programmes, narrated how he CRC work plan came about, which is as a result of discussions between a mission and the government on the latter's areas of need. A programme document was then developed in consultation with the government, based on its areas of need; the Annual Work Plan is wholly based on the programme document. The government of Sierra Leone committed \$1.4 million dollars, and DFID were contemplating supporting some of the activities.

The Chair, UNDP Country Director, intimated that the Project Board is the Project level coordination whilst there is also a Steering Committee. The Chair informed that CTA would do a presentation to the UN Country Team.

Ms. Lucy Hayes, DFID, buttressed the need for synergy and for CSOs and UN to act as foot soldiers to pave the way for the CRC. She mentioned that the CRC is a key process for Sierra Leone and expressed concern about the Executive Secretary's request for resources. Commitments from DFID and EU she said were based upon commitments from GoSL. She said that DFID would not be able to approve the AWP there and then, as DFID was only seeing the latest version for the first time in the meeting and had not had time to review it in detail nor discuss with UNDP. She also expressed some concern that there were discrepancies between what was in the AWP and what had been agreed in the concept note prepared by UNDP on support to civil society, which DFID would also like to have an opportunity to discuss with UNDP.

The Chair reminded that the main purpose of the meeting was to endorse the AWP. Endorsement of the work plan was crucial as no activity could be implemented until the work plan is signed off.

Mr. Edward Kamara, UNDP also reiterated that the UN was not working in parallel to the CRC and that the AWP was an offshoot of the programme document.

Mr. Augustine Sheku pointed out that GoSL had not reneged on its commitments and had purchased some equipment.

Ms. Martina Kroma observed that the Peter Tucker Review Commission was limited to consultations only due to lack of funding.

Mr. Issa Conteh, UNDP, recommended that the data collection, monitoring and evaluation be subsumed in the Research Committee.

Mr. Samuel Palmer, UNDP, commented on CSO engagement - that CGG for example was doing a good work in sensitization. He noted that some CSOs were part of CRC and requested a list of such CSOs.

It was noted that GoSL wrote to CSOs to send representatives to the CRC and that a lot of the vibrant CSOs are represented in the CRC.

It was also noted that the UNDP procurement system will prevail in the execution of the project, and that assets purchased will be managed by GoSL's asset management system

Ms. Valnora Edwin briefly explained how CGG operates and informed that Sierra Leone is leading in CSO participation.

Conclusion

The Chair in rounding up discussions, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to get inputs from members and endorse the AWP; since that was not achieved, he suggested and it was agreed that additional comments be sent electronically to the CTA, who would also meet members individually for discussion. The comments and discussion should be done against 17th January 2014 by which time the AWP would be endorsed. If there happens to be a significant change in strategy, it will be cleared by the Steering Committee.

The Chair informed that the Project Board was supposed to meet quarterly, but suggested that the Board meets monthly for the time being.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for **Wednesday 12 February 2014**.

Ms. Martina Kroma

Mr. Augustine Sheku

Ms. Lucy Hayes

Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee

Mr. Sana Baloch

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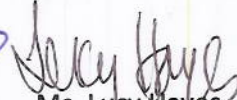
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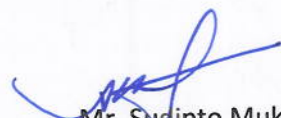
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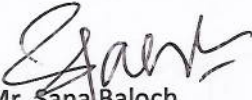
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Ms. Martina Kroma


Mr. Augustine Sheku


Ms. Lucy Hayes


Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee


Mr. Sana Baloch

Attendance list

1. Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee, UNDP Country Director, Chair
2. Justice Edmond K Cowan, Chair, Constitutional Review Committee (CRC)
3. Mr. Augustine Sheku, Executive Secretary, Constitutional Review Committee (CRC)
4. Ms. Martina Kroma, Solicitor General, Law Officers' Office
5. Ms. Valnora Edwin, Campaign for Good Governance (CGG)
6. Ms. Lucy Hayes, DFID
7. Ms. Melrose Kargbo. UNWomen
8. Mr. Moses Orogade, UNIPSIL
9. Mr. Mohamed Abchir, Deputy Country Director Programmes, UNDP
10. Mr. Sana Baloch, Chief Technical Adviser, CRC
11. Ms. Lakshimi Pillai, UNDP
12. Ms. Saskia Marijnissen, UNDP
13. Mr. Peter Cross, UNDP
14. Mr. Edward Kamara, UNDP
15. Mr. Samuel Palmer, UNDP
16. Mr. Issa Conteh, UNDP
17. Ms. Gloria Thomas, UNDP

ANNEXES

ANNEX A – Constitutional Review Committee Snapshot

ANNEX B – Snapshot of the Process

ANNEX C – Constitutional Review Committee Progress Report 2013

ANNEX D – Outputs with proposed budget

ANNEX E – Public Consultation Flowchart

ANNEX F – Annual Work Plan