

Project Executive Board – Draft Minutes

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27 September 2011

Centre for Constitutional Dialogue (CCD)

Present

Chair Robert Piper, Resident Representative

Sr. Beneficiary Netra Timsina, President, NGO Federation

Project Assurance Kalpana Sarkar, Programme Officer, Governance Unit/UNDP

Project Manager/ OIC Rohan Edrisinha, International Project Manager, SPCBN

Others Present Jorn Sorensen, Deputy Country Director, UNDP

Bandana Risal, Senior Programme Specialist, Governance Unit/UNDP

Krishna Khanal, CCD Director

Maria Ana Petrerá, Deputy Head of Mission, Danish Embassy

Charlotte Duncan, Governance Team Leader, DFID

Lars P Christensen, Programme Coordinator, DANIDA HUGOU

Thakur Prasad Baral, Secretary, CA Secretariat

Bishnu Adhikari, Governance Advisor, ESP-DFID

Martin Stuerzinger, Advisor for Peace Building, Swiss Embassy

- Robert Piper opened the meeting with introductions and outlined the purpose and context of the meeting. The main item on the agenda was to discuss the recent political developments and the way forward, review the progress of the project from July to August 2011, the next three month (October – December 2011) work plan, and the tentative workplan and budget for 2012.
- Krishna Khanal made a brief presentation on the current political situation and the constitution making process.
- Rohan Edrisinha made a presentation on the activities of the project since the last Project Executive Board meeting, the status of the constitution making process and the priorities of the project until the end of the year.
- He noted that there was a growing number of skeptics who were questioning the appropriateness of the constitution making process via the Constituent Assembly and suggested that the project should try to ensure that the process succeeds for failure might have serious consequences. He added that the project believes and plans to conduct its activities on the assumption that there will be another

extension of the deadline for the adoption of the constitution in November 2011 for at least three months; that there will be a period, perhaps shorter than originally envisaged, for public consultation and feedback once a draft is produced, and that a constitution would be produced by around May 2012.

- Mr. Edrisinha stated that some difficult decisions about the future of CCD would have to be made. He said that it was important to note that CCD had made a distinctive contribution to the constitution making process by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and a space and resource particularly for disempowered and marginalized groups to discuss/debate their issues. The resource of CCD has been mostly used by those groups. However, given the extension of the deadline, the limitations on funding, and the deliberations at the previous PEB meetings, he said that with regret the project is compelled to propose the following options for the future of SPCBN and CCD-

- 1) Closing down CCD by the end of December 2011. The important activities of CCD will continue in the name of SPCBN from January-June 2012.
- 2) A downsized group of SPCBN and CCD staff will leave the current CCD premises and move to a cheaper place.
- 3) The project will reduce the number of its staff, both local and international, by 36%.
- 4) The project will officially end by the end of June 2012. A 3 month winding up period with a skeleton staff will end in September 2012.

During the period of January – June 2012, the project will engage in similar work to that proposed for the last 3 months of 2011 with a focus on facilitating accommodation and reaching consensus on contentious constitutional issues and have a separate contingency plan and budget for a public consultation programme if and when a draft constitution was produced before June 2012. The project would also engage in a study and critique of the draft to ensure compatibility with international norms and constitutional best practice.

Discussion took place both during and after the presentations.

**Lars P Christensen** stressed the importance of the project doing all it could to ensure that the Constituent assembly process succeeded. He added that the political parties should feel much stronger public demand and the pressure from different sectors like the business community, media, NGOs etc about the delivery of the Constitution. He said project should use its resources to help stimulate such a demand. He supported the plan of activities of the project proposed for 2011 and 2012. He agreed on the need for a quick review of the Draft Constitution and support for CA in Public Consultation once the draft was produced.

He supported the decision to close CCD and agreed that there was a need to discuss how the international community could support the post constitution challenges of transition and implementation.

**Charlotte Duncan** supported the decision to close CCD and downsize the project prior to winding it up in June 2012. She proposed that there should be review of the project conducted by an independent evaluation team before further financial support for the period January to June 2012 be considered. She added that there had to be a proper exit strategy before closing down the CCD including media and human resources strategies that would avoid misunderstanding later.

**Netra Timsina** noted that the political situation was very complicated at the moment and while the project should help to revitalise public demand/pressure, the international community's support was also relevant and important.

**Jorn Sorensen** presented a brief overview of the project's financial status. He noted that given the extension of the deadline the project had managed to continue its services and activities for the extended period with additional funding from UNDP. He stated that the project had a funding gap of \$210,378 for 2011. He also presented the tentative budget for 2012. The tentative budget for 2012 is \$1,482,790 without public consultation on draft constitution and \$1,882,790 with a public consultation on draft constitution. He stressed that the project will reduce number of its staffs both national and international staff by 36% in 2012.

The workplan for the rest of the year and the tentative workplan for 2012 were approved. The proposal to conduct a stakeholder consultation was discussed. Lars Christensen stated that the consultation should not be a burden on the project and noted that the previous review that he had initiated had ended up being for more burdensome on the project and staff than anticipated. Robert Piper noted that the next few months would involve considerable work for SPCBN/CCD and suggested a quick stakeholder consultation that should be completed in not more than two weeks. This proposal was accepted.

#### SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

1. Agreed on the workplan for 2011 and the tentative plan for 2012.
2. Agreed to close CCD and move it to different location where similar work will be done under the auspices of the project. The project will end in June and be wound up by September 2012.
3. Agreed to conduct a light evaluation of the Project before the next PEB meeting in December 2011.
4. A request was made to the donors to indicate funding commitments for 2012 by November 2011.

  
Robert Piper  
Resident Representative