

MINUTES OF THE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS SELECTION COMMITTEE (IPSC) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21/08/2019 AT THE SMALL OED BOARDROOM

AGREEMENT: DPWT ATTAPEU

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Dyfed Aubrey
2. Joerg Weich
3. Saidou N'Dow



MIN/24/2019 PRELIMINARIES AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The meeting was called into session by Jorge Weich. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an Agreements of Cooperation (AoCs) between UN-Habitat and DPWT- Attapeu (Implementing Partner). Bernhard Barth provided a brief background of the AoC between UN-Habitat and DPWT where he stated that the proposed Implementing Partner, a Government Institution, was sole sourced and the proposed duration for the agreement is seven (7) months. The Implementing Partner had previous agreements with UN-Habitat and had a proven track record.

MIN 25/2019 ISSUES RAISED AND DELIBERATIONS

Bernhard requested for to things (i) a reduction of the mandatory audits from two to one audit and (ii) waiver for procurement in AoC being that procurement is more than 50%. Some members agreed that the issue to waive one audit be discussed with Mohamed to get his views as he was not in the meeting. Joerg was in support of the waiver since the Implementing Partner has an established working relationship with UN-Habitat and has previously been subjected to audits at an international level but insisted, that Mohamed should be consulted on the matter. He further proposed a plan B that we can have an intermediate assessment which is not a fully-fledged audit at some point in a worse case scenario.

MIN 26/2019 ENDORSMENT

The committee agreed on the waiver for procurement which is above 50% but, did not endorse the proposed agreements. They agreed to review the agreement upon consultations with Mohamed.

P.S. Upon consultation with Mohamed on email he suggested that Considering the circumstances we may accept 1 audit but recommend the following compensating measures in lieu of the audit:

- 1- *The audit be performed by an independent professional audit firm pre-selected by a major UN agency (e.g. UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA). We need to contact these Un entities and request the name of an audit firm they have already selected in Laos.*
- 2- *We need to have clear and effective monitoring controls in place. UN-Habitat staff or consultants have to be continuously and regularly vetting the quality of the progress and the deliverables. For that purpose, the team needs to develop a monitoring plan with actions, responsible staff and timeframe and implement and enforce the plan.*
- 3- *The PMO needs to review a sample of a minimum 30-40% of all financial transactions to ensure they are in line with the project requirements.*

Bernhard accepted this but suggested that “given the location of the Project IP in the south of Laos can we modify point three by having the transactions reviewed by the international project manager (with backstopping support from PMO)”.

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MIN 27/2019 AOB

The committee agreed that each of them should nominate an alternate member who would ably represent the absent member. The committee also agreed that the meetings should be frequent; on Wednesdays after every two weeks on a case by case basis.