Consultations Workshop
Regarding
The Comprehensive Review of the AfDB’s Procurement Policy

South Africa
10 March 2014
## Consultation Workshop

**Concerning the comprehensive Review of the African Development Bank’s Procurement Policy**

**Attendance Sheet**

**Date:** 10 March 2014  
**Location:** Pretoria, South Africa

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Conclusions

- The new policy should enable the Bank to develop smart partnerships with its borrowers and assist them to build the capacity in their institutions and enhance their country systems through providing budget support and technical assistance.

- The revised policy should be, principles based in order to provide the required flexibility to handle complex procurement. In addition, the procurement rules should be more harmonized with the principles, and there is also a need to produce more flexible and user friendly standard bidding documents.

- While reviewing its policy, the Bank should consider assessing its internal capacity to ensure efficient implementation of the revised policy.

- It is recommended for the Bank to consult industry/sector specific experts to receive necessary guidance on specific procurement while drafting the revised policy.

- The revised policy should take socio-economic factors into consideration.

- The project design and the procurement packaging should always take into consideration the capacity of local bidders. The evaluation criteria should not be exaggerated to enable the participation of local bidders.

- The domestic/regional preferences included in the current Bank procurement rules are not effective and do not achieve their intended purpose. The revised policy should incorporate a smarter and more effective mechanism for applying preferences while taking into consideration the required financial and technical capacity of the local/regional bidders.
• The revised policy should encourage the use of E-procurement and any other IT tools that would enhance the efficiency of the procurement process. However, it should be noted that the development of an E-procurement system requires investment by the borrower countries as well as the internet penetration in the different regional member countries.

• The revised policy should facilitate the use of country systems. In addition, it should be able to accommodate different contexts in borrowers’ countries and should be able to achieve the Bank’s fiduciary as well as development objectives.

• Harmonization amongst the policies of different MDBs is important in order to facilitate the implementation of co-financed projects. However, equally important is for the new policy to take into account the specific aspects associated with the African context.

• There is a need for the Bank to conduct progressive assessment (against baseline targets) of the new policy once in force in order to ensure that it is achieving its intended purpose and to address any identified gaps or shortfalls.

• While drafting the revised policy, the Bank is advised to have a closer look on the contract implementation phase and consider how this phase may be addressed. The civil society may also play a role in the monitoring of project implementation.

• The participants felt that there is a need for the Bank to have a thorough consultation with the private sector.

• The participants indicated the need for the new policy to better address issues like, unsolicited bids, abnormally low tenders and the participation of State Owned Enterprises from outside the borrower’s country.