



EFIC MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM – OUTCOMES

23rd November 2011

EFIC's first multi-stakeholder forum was held in Sydney on 23rd November 2011. This document presents an overview of the meeting outcomes.

1. Participants

Participants were representatives from the following organisations:

- EFIC
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Trade and Economic Policy Division
- Human Rights Law Centre
- Jubilee Australia
- Oxfam Australia, and
- Transparency International.

2. Agenda

The meeting agenda is attached as Appendix 1.

3. Outcomes

3.1 Terms of reference

The forum agreed a terms of reference for the multi-stakeholder forum as follows.

The forum's main aim is to facilitate regular dialogue between EFIC and civil society organisations (CSOs) on issues related to EFIC's commitment to upholding best-practice environmental and social standards in the transactions it supports. The forum is a two-way process with all participants learning from the experience of the others. The CSO participants in particular hope that their experience will inform EFIC thinking on environmental and social issues.

General topics for discussion at each forum will include:

- Implementation of EFIC's Policy and Procedure for environmental and social review of transactions.
- Specific transactions (subject to EFIC's confidentiality obligations which limit EFIC staff to discussions revolving around information in the public domain).
- Other relevant EFIC initiatives.
- Broader corporate social responsibility and corporate accountability trends, initiatives and debates.
- Other issues of mutual interest.

The multi-stakeholder forum will be held under the “Chatham House Rule” which states:

“When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.”

3.2 Meeting organisation

EFIC will chair meetings of the forum, but it was accepted that the main role of the chair is an organisational one involving:

- distributing a draft agenda to be agreed by the participants prior to the meeting
- organising and chairing the meeting
- preparing the meeting outcomes which, after agreement of the participants, will be published on EFIC’s website.

Participants are expected to prepare for specific topics of the forum’s agenda and lead discussion on that topic.

Forums are proposed to be held twice a year or as otherwise decided. The next meeting is proposed to be held during May 2012 at EFIC’s Sydney office.

3.3 Other discussion outcomes

- EFIC will establish a multi-stakeholder forum “page” on its website. Actual details are to be confirmed by EFIC, but it will include details of past and future meetings and a means for other parties to indicate their interest in participating.
- EFIC will further development the draft complaints mechanism discussed at the forum. CSOs were asked to provide any further thoughts in writing by 7th December. EFIC will prepare a further draft which forum members would be asked to comment on by email and possibly teleconference.
- Human rights will be an important topic for the forum. If possible, an external expert would be sought to provide input to the next forum. EFIC is considering its response to human rights in the context of the activities of its peer ECAs and the reviews of the OECD Common Approaches and the Equator Principles.
- The HRLC, Jubilee and Oxfam all indicated their organisations had made submissions to the Government review of EFIC being conducted by the Productivity Commission. All indicated a willingness to share their submissions with EFIC.
- Agenda items proposed for the next meeting were:
 - presentation from EFIC specialists on country risk assessment
 - presentation from EFIC on how new EFIC business procedures are proposed, approved, implemented and reviewed for improvement/enhancement.

APPENDIX 1 MEETING AGENDA

23rd November 2011

1. Introductions

Agenda lead: EFIC

Each participant to provide a brief introduction to their organisation and its expectations for the forum:

2. Forum organisation

- a. Discuss multi-stakeholder forum terms of reference

Agenda lead: Oxfam

- b. Discuss locations for the forum

Agenda lead: EFIC

- c. Discuss chairing the forum

Agenda lead: Oxfam

3. Update of the reviews of the OECD Common Approaches and the Equator Principles

Agenda lead: EFIC

EFIC will provide feedback on recent developments concerning the reviews of the OECD Common Approaches and the Equator Principles.

4. EFIC's Annual Report

Agenda lead: Jubilee

Jubilee wished some discussion on EFIC's Annual Report. This is available at:

<http://efic.gov.au/about/governance/AnnualReports/Pages/AnnualReport.aspx>

5. Grievance mechanism

Agenda lead: EFIC

One of the outcomes of our meeting in December 2010 was: *CSOs requested that EFIC investigate developing an internal grievance mechanism*. EFIC will provide feedback on the status of its grievance mechanism.

6. IFC Performance Standards & Human Rights

Agenda lead: HRLC

EFIC would appreciate some feedback from the CSOs on the coverage of human rights in the new IFC Performance Standards.

7. Any other business

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