

**MDP-ESA MINUTES FOR THE VIDEO CONFERENCE ON THE AFRICA-LATIN
AMERICA PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING INITIATIVE ON PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING, HELD ON THE 8TH OF AUGUST, 1000-1300 HOURS
(WASHINGTON TIME).**

Present:

Brazil, Ecuador, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, United States of America (USA), Zambia and Zimbabwe

Apologies:

Gambia-participant could not be connected

Deliberations according to the Agenda

1.1. House keeping Issues

The meeting was opened by Mr. Andre Herzog (World Bank Group – WBG) by pronouncing housekeeping issues for the meeting to go on well with a minimum of interferences and disturbances.

1.2 Welcome and Opening Remarks

1.2.1 Purpose of the Meeting

Mr. George Matovu (MDP-ESA) made the stage-setting remarks highlighting the purpose of the meeting, which he highlighted as mapping the way forward by having exchange of ideas on the Africa-Latin America Peer-to-Peer Mutual Learning Initiative (ALAPPMLI). The specific of the objectives of the meeting, he highlighted as to:

- i. Reflect on what transpired in Durban in March;
- ii. Discuss the ALAPPMLI
- iii. Express the position of MDP-ESA and World Bank Group (WBG) in terms of the technology and communication tool they have set by way of demonstrating usage of blogs to members of the meeting; and
- iv. Update members on how ALAPPMLI is funded.

1.2.2 Long-term focus of ALAPPMLI

Mr. Matovu further spelt out that the ALAPPMLI was still in a pilot form. Once it succeeds the intention is to scale up the initiative and further strengthen the links within the African Continent and between the African Continent and Latin America.

1.2.3 News

Mr. Matovu summarized to the members, the good news about how the Durban Seminar on Participatory Budgeting has influenced a lot of groupings since it was held. He mentioned that it was bearing fruits on the ground. Specifically, he mentioned how the idea of ALAPPMLI was hailed by delegates that attended the ANSA-Africa Conference (Ethiopia), the Pan-Ministerial Conference (Yaoundé, Cameroon), UCLGA Conference (Accra, Ghana), and how Maputo put Participatory Budgeting to the centre-stage of its development, by official adopting it. This is evidence to show how the idea of PB is getting continental as a tool to enhance governance.

1.3 Introductions

Introductions were done according to the schedule on the programme. Most members took the opportunity to give testimonies of how they have so worked hard after the Durban Seminar to advance the idea of PB in their municipalities and nations.

1.4 Progress and Position of MDP-ESA in collaboration with the WBG

Dr. Takawira Mumvuma (MDP-ESA) highlighted to the members on what his organization, in collaboration with the WBG, has been doing since the Durban Seminar when the ALAPPMLI was launched.

1.4.1 Project Proposals and Projects

Dr. Mumvuma mentioned that in Durban 12 joint project proposals were drafted. MDP-ESA sent to members some templates which they had to fill in. After the templates had been sent to MDP-ESA only seven were found to be 'viable' given what the members had inputted in the templates. Of the 7, the WBG managed to fund four and the other three remained unfunded. But the three remaining unfunded once have since been accepted for funding by a prospective donor. Among the four WBG funded projects, one, on Revenue Generation, has already been completed (on the 30th of June, 2008). The remaining three have their Terms of Reference still being refined; CVs for all members have been requested, and vendor numbers (to allow for the processing of contracts).

1.4.2 The importance of Networking and Communication

Dr. Mumvuma underscored the importance of networking within and between teams.

1.4.3 Blogs and Other Web Resources to advance the ALAPPMLI

Ms Hiam Abbas took members through the MDP-ESA website, on the specially designed webpage for ALAPPMLI, showing them how it has been so prepared for them allow entry and access of information in blogs, news, resources, guidelines, etc. She explained that blogs were a platform for sharing information and resources. She told members that MDP-ESA may also give them some administrative rights for them to upload some of the material they may have generated or accessed in their teams or places.

The direct link to the ALAMALI Homepage is:

<http://www.mdpafrica.org.zw/peer2peer4.html>

How to get to the page from the MDP-ESA site and How to get to the Blogs

Getting into the ALAMALI Page

1. Open the MDP-ESA main site www.mdpafrica.org.zw
2. go to the right side of the page in the "In the News" side of the page
3. On the News Item on the Initiative click on the **logos** or click **Read More>>**.
4. This opens the ALAMALI page. In this page body there is the following:
Brief Introduction, Projects Under this Initiative - funded and unfunded, PB Resources and Links
5. go to **Links to Resources** to access documents relevant to the initiative but not project specific and to access the link that takes you to the **Registration Details Submission** page.
6. go to **Projects Under this Initiative** and look for your project of choice. There is **projects already funded** and **projects not yet funded**. Here there are quick links that are also available in the project pages.

The available links are:

[Meet the Team](#) | [Enter the Blog](#) | [Download Proposal Document](#) | [TOR Document](#)

7. Click the project title to get into the desired project page.

Getting into the ALAMALI Project Pages

1. do 6 and 7 above
2. Have you submitted your desired registration details? If No, use the link in the **Links to Resources** section to access the **Registration Details Submission** page. If yes proceed to Point 3
3. Click the clearly highlighted **ENTER THE BLOG** link to enter the Blog

In the Blog

1. If you used the **Registration Details Submission** page you have your user information by now
2. Click login (Near the Upper right Corner of the Page in the Navigation Bar)
3. Supply your **username** and **Password** as they appear in the e-mail dispatched to you after you submitted your registration details.
4. Click submit.
5. Click **add entry** or **add comment**. Comments will be added to entries
6. Always remember to click Submit/Post to save entries into the blog.
7. To contact the administrator/moderator use the **contact us** link in the the upper right corner of the Page in the Navigation Bar
8. In the right navigation bar there is the calendar and search functions
9. When done using the Blog you can **Logout**

Mr. Herzog underscored that blogs were a tool but one which would only prove useful provided members made use of it by sending their ideas into it. He stressed that communication is a serious business. Blogs have the dual role for sending and receiving ideas, hence it is two-way. He also indicated that from Peru, Africa has many things to learn, particularly that their Ministry of Finance was well informed hence in partnership and support, something very unique, for aspects pertaining to PB.

Mr. Victor Vergara (World Bank Institute) suggested that a reader be provided, showing how blogs work since most members were new users. He spelt out that blogs are an email tool for building a structured dialogue.

Ms Anna Luiza (Brazil) gave the members some testimony of how Brazil has made use of blogs. She spelt out that the system has worked with the engagement of an Information and Technology (IT) Consultant and a dedicated journalist.

Mr. Roger Salhuana (Peru) testified that they have a web-based technology. Although the technology is not a blog, per se, it works very well.

1.5 The Question and Answer Session

1.5.1 Languages' Problem

Q.1: With so many languages used by project members, how can we overcome the communication problems?

A:

- Use Simple means by allowing everyone write and read in their language. Also look for interpreters (Mr. Matovu)
- We shall learn as we go (Mr. Herzog)
- Use videos and documentaries that can be uploaded. There are also soft wares that be used to make interpretation ease (member in UK).
- Use translation tools on the internet. They are free and help you understand the gist.
- For example: <http://babelfish.yahoo.com/>

Q.2: What are the roles of MDP-ESA, CIGU (Centre for International Urban Management) and WBG in the ALAPPMLI?

A:

- Just facilitating. Partners (members) have the role to create information by getting comments from other practitioners. It is important to work on common issues (Mr. Herzog).
- MDP-ESA, with the help of CIGU will provide technical advice as and when required, help facilitate communication between teams, within teams, and between teams and the WB G.

Q.3: Is it possible to postpone the deadline for funding? Why are we working with tight schedules, until December?

A:

- The Trust Fund deadline for the Results-based Participatory Budgeting Project cannot be extended. It is a three year fund project which is winding up hence the deadline is strict. However, for all other projects the deadline is June 30, 2009. THE

ONLY project that has a December 31, 2008 deadline is the Result-based Participatory Budgeting Project.

- Those who may wish to share their results at the International Seminar on PB in December in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, should work between now and December. MDP-ESA will do the quality control of the projects. The deadline for the submission of completed projects is June 2009.

Q4: How is dissemination of results to be done?

A:

- Make results accessible through MDP-ESA.
- We can use the ALGAF sessions
- Other dissemination ideas are welcome
- Dissemination is key to this initiative
- WB can organize a series of VC seminars where team members can present their project, project outcomes and results learnt

Q5: How do we make use of the survey tool given the differences of our countries?

A:

- Let the tool be country specific

Q6: What are the roles of the team leader and the co-leader?

A:

- All communications should be through the team leader who should help in identifying an institution through which funds can be transferred. Funds will be transferred to an institution and not individuals. The team leader has the role to manage the funds.
- Team Leader can also appointments people in his/her team to contribute to the blogs and other activities.

Q7: Are there criteria set for the institutions?

A:

- The Trust Fund can only be transferred not to a government or a municipality/local government account.
- Make use of MDP-ESA if you cannot identify an institution where funds can be transferred to you.

Q8: What should we do with members who are not responding to their emails, some who have not even participated until now?

A:

- Find support and help of MDP-ESA as the facilitator.
- The blogs will help in overcoming these challenges.

Q9: Do we still have the chance/leeway to change our project ToRs?

A: Possibly, please communicate through MDP-ESA

Q10: The submitted project on Revenue Generation does not include some results from Zambia. What should we do given that the results we have them?

A:

- They can still be incorporated.

Q11: How best can we include other stakeholders into the ALAPPMLI, those who did not attend the PB seminar in Durban?

A:

- More people are need into this initiative. Room is there for them to participate.

Q12: How best do we make blogs effective?

A:

- We must have a standard of engagement, for example, three times a week. There is need for a clear infrastructure, personnel to work on it.

Q13: How possible is it that a member at Entebbe municipality who is in another group, work with Peru, which is in a different group?

A:

- it is very possible and this is a good example of the interchange between groups

Q14: What should we do in the meantime of waiting for our projects to be funded?
MDP-ESA will be in touch with you regarding funding and next steps

Q15: How is procurement of project resources to be done?

A:

- Invoice should be attached with outputs and WBG and MDP-ESA will pay accordingly.

1.6 Presentation by Projects Teams

1.6.1 Capacity Building and Budget Demystification

- working together with MDP-ESA to improve its TORs.
- facing communication challenges with members

1.6.2 A pilot engagement of peer institutions in PB:

- TORS have been developed; intend to produce a booklet which will be disseminated

1.6.3 Results-based PB

- Intend to develop a tool/methodology for linking resources to outcomes so that short term investments do not obliterate long-term priorities

1.6.4 Revenue Generation and PB

- have completed their study but subject to further refinement; to be uploaded on the MDP-ESA website

1.6.5 Communication for inclusion and Gender Sensitivity

- involving four countries

1.6.6 Monitoring of PB on Service Delivery.

- Focus is on what makes PB produce results i.e. it is cost-effectiveness
- has four areas: examination of the whole process of PB, revenue generation, allocation and expenditure
- It focuses on the actual practice of PB.

1.6.7 Guidelines for Implementing PB step by step

- Still need reviewing of schedule

1.7 Disbursements

Ms Eri Watanabe (WBG) spelt out that the trust fund to disburseable to each group is \$20,000. She said projects should start by 1 September. December can be a time to share results for those who would have managed to complete them by that date.

Mr. Herzog outlined that the unfunded projects will be funded by the third week of September.

1.8: Closing Remarks

Mr. Matovu ended the meeting by encouraging members to make use of the established blogs. He also encouraged members to publicize their projects within their countries. This, he said will also create a window and avenue for more support and resources to further the ALAPPMLI.

1.9 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1900 Hrs.

Note that as already been indicated above, if your team is planning to attend the conference that Belo Horizonte is going to organize in December you should make sure that your team

has made significant progress in implementing your project in order to be invited to present it at this important gathering. What is of interest to you also is that Belo Horizonte and the Brazilian Participatory Budgetary Network have done some very innovative things for PB, for both peer to peer learning and for networking. It's important to learn from them whilst attending this conference.