

<p>Conclusions Norway Grants Management Meeting 2009-14 1st meeting 3 October 2011 in Oslo</p>
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1. Meeting agenda

. The NMFA referred to Assignment Letter no. 1 for the N FM 2009-14 and reiterated that the Management Meetings shall review progress and results in implementation and results of the N FM 2009-14, including cooperation with Norwegian Donor Program Partners and preparation of Annual Meetings with the Beneficiary States. Formal decisions concerning both Financial Mechanisms shall be taken by the FMC. In order to consider aspects related to the Norwegian FM, such issues may be presented for preliminary discussion at the NMFA –FMO Management Meetings prior to FMC decisions. The meetings shall highlight problems and risks that require follow-up and seek to strengthen the dialogue between FMO and the NMFA.

The set-up of the agenda was discussed and a list of regular items that could be included was agreed.

The draft meeting agenda was adopted.

2. Issues related to the NFM

The NMFA indicated their main priorities for the remaining months of 2011.

NMFA referred to Assignment Letter, Annex II, where the main structure of the Status of Implementation report is set out in Annex II. The FMO was requested to highlight specific problems and risks and propose follow-up and mitigating actions.

2.1. Review of Progress NFM

NMFA expressed concern about the program planning. Central actors involved in the programme development such as Programme Operators and DPPs face challenges in the startup phase. Alternative actions were discussed.

The NMFA then discussed suggestions to stimulate the development of contents in the Bilateral Funds at National level.

Both issues will be followed up by the FMO.

The NMFA then reviewed the progress report country by country.

2.2. Programme for Decent Work and Tripartite Cooperation (PA22)

The FMO presented its assessment of the programme proposal received from the Programme Operator Innovation Norway (IN). The FMO recommended approval under a number of conditions.

NMFA agreed that the programme proposal shall be submitted for formal approval with the recommended conditions from the FMO and requested the FMO to proceed with the preparation of the Implementation Agreement.

3. Issues related to both FMs

3.1. Template for Progress Reports

This item was discussed under item 2.

3.2. Risk Management

The NMFA has decided to contract Ernst & Young to carry out an assessment of the total risk management set up for the FMs 2009-2014.

The FMO will present an assessment of risks related to country level management in the next Norway Grants Management meeting.

3.3. Bilateral funds

The FMO presented three recommendations for simplification of the regulation related to bilateral funds at national and programme level.

The NMFA agreed to broaden the scope of the Regulation Article 3.5.

The NMFA agreed to merge the two funds described in the Regulation Article 3.6, broaden the scope to all activities mentioned in Article 7.7 and allow potential Donor Project Partners to access the seed money.

Allowing for a lower cap on the bilateral fund at programme level for programmes above a certain size was not agreed by the NMFA.

3.4 Annual Meetings

The FMO presented an updated overview of Annual Meetings and the dates were discussed.

4. Other issues

The final Status Report 2011 was briefly presented by the FMO.

A Focal Point workshop is planned for 8 December 2011

5. Next meeting

The next meeting is planned for 22 November 2011 in Oslo.

Meeting attendees:

From NMFA:

Steinar Hagen

Vibeke Rysst-Jensen

Ingrid Schulerud

Anne Strand

From FMO:

Stine Andresen

Kristin Sverdrup

Inger Stoll

Kristin Hauge

Ragna Fidjestøl

Birthe Westerby (secretary)