



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Experts Group Meetings on PPP Projects for Ports In cooperation between ESCWA and IsDB.

Amman, 23 -24 November 2019

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

The growing prevalence of Public Private Partnerships as a mechanism for developing, operating, and maintaining infrastructure has created the need for competent, capable and trained public sector personnel with the knowledge and expertise required to successfully guide infrastructure projects from inception, through the project pipeline and the bidding process, to financial closure and beyond. The capacity to monitor and evaluate project performance and renegotiate, if necessary, the terms of a complex PPP contract is crucial in ensuring that any country's PPP program successfully delivers services and infrastructure that serve the public interest without unfairly burdening the contracting public authority.

At the same time, PPP can have undesirable anti-competitive effects that can raise prices and lower optimum efficiencies. unless properly structured. A strong legal and regulatory framework and a robust PPP contract with a focus on outputs (as opposed to inputs) are therefore essential. Selection of the right partner by the right procedures are critical too. Several options are on the table in this regard including the possibility that China may simply nominate the Chinese company that would work with the Government to develop the project.

Many countries around the world have had numerous experiences with Public Private Partnerships in the transportation sector, with mixed results. Some PPP projects have failed due to poor project preparation, an imbalance in the risks assumed by the parties, and even the structure of the partnership itself or the agreement terms. Often, changes in economic conditions threaten the viability of a project and parties to an agreement must have the necessary contractual mechanisms, the internal capacity as well as flexibility to fairly and expediently adapt agreement terms accordingly. Ultimately, public service delivery should not be hindered or halted because parties to the agreement cannot reach an adequate and reasonable solution to disagreements or respond to changes in the economic landscape.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this meeting is to strengthen the capacity of senior government officials and public sector employees in the field of public-private partnership contracts in ports, with special

attention dedicated to the preparation and drafting of PPP contracts, bidding and selection process and renegotiation and conflict resolution. Special focus will be given to explore the axes and models of regional cooperation that maximize the potential benefits of PPP projects in ports.

Specially, the meeting will try to bring contribution to the following concerns and issues:

- Identification of the top potential port operators in the region
- State of art about operating models, advantages / disadvantages for each operating model
- Feasibility of each operating model from both the government and operators viewpoints and risks share between owner and operator
- PPP model in relation with public interest
- Evaluation criteria for potential port operator capabilities and performances
- Success requirements for the PPP project; i.e. the ideal situation key operational requirements for the success of the PPP model.

III. TENTATIVE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Day One, Saturday 23 November 2019

Session (1)

Presentation of the meeting and its objectives

Overview on Institutional model

- Risks share matrices
- Benchmark (with focus on 4-5 cases)
- Road map for PPP process

Session (2)

Presentations of Countries, Experience and Needs.

- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Syria

Day Two, Sunday 24 November 2019

Session (3)

- Presentation of Private sector operators.

Session (4)

- Interactive session between representatives and experts.
 - Lessons learned from success and unsuccessful stories / cases;
 - Identification of framework for debates (tentatively: Institutional – Role of regulatory bodies / authorities – selection criteria – indicators);

Conclusions / Recommendations

IV. PARTICIPANTS

- Government officials and representatives of concerned institutions: directors of planning, directors of legal and administrative affairs in the ministries of transport and public works, representatives of maritime authorities and ports and key institutions and agencies concerned by public private partnership projects in ports
- Private Sector representatives of key firms that invest in, operate, or maintain PPP projects in ports.

V. REGISTRATION

Invited participants and those nominated by their government are kindly requested to complete and return the meeting registration form to ESCWA by Monday, 11 November 2019.

VI. DATE AND VENUE

The meeting will be held 23-24 November 2019, in Amman, Jordan, at Le Royal Hotel (Zahran st., Tel: +962-6-4603000).

VII. CONTACTS

For inquiries or further information, kindly contact the following meeting focal points:

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