

### **Public Procurement Monitoring Forum:**

Advancing citizens' engagement with government through Social Accountability

*Dates: 6-7<sup>th</sup> May*

*Venue: Nairobi, Kenya*

### **Background and Rationale**

Social Accountability (SAc) is a process of constructive engagement between citizens and government aimed at improving performance in the use of public resources to deliver services, enhance peoples' welfare, and protect individuals' rights. Two forces drive social accountability: citizen groups, who are direct beneficiaries of public services, and government, which provides the open space for citizen participation in monitoring public programs. Further, four elements are essential to creating an enabling environment in which social accountability can take effect;

1. Organized and capable citizen groups;
2. Government champions who are willing to engage;
3. Broad access to public information; and
4. Contextual appropriateness of initiatives

Social accountability tools and actions include participatory planning, budget monitoring, expenditure tracking, procurement monitoring, and citizen report cards, among others. These tools can be used to improve procurement monitoring, which looks at bringing about greater transparency in the procurement cycle to uncover and prevent fraud and corruption, and to improve efficiency, productivity and quality in the delivery of goods and services.

### **Regional Stakeholders Forum**

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in Africa (ANSA-Africa) proposes to host a stakeholders forum in 2010 on public procurement monitoring. The forum will bring together regional representatives from CSOs, governments and donors to be a platform for learning and community building among practitioners, students, and advocates of social accountability who are interested in applying these approaches to the procurement field. The forum will bring together a wide range of stakeholders who have worked on in the procurement field.

### **Objectives of the Forum**

The ANSA-Africa stake-holders forum will highlight social accountability (SAc) as a framework and a means to strengthening governance in procurement through the inclusion of citizens in the process.

The key objectives of the Forum are:

1. To provide a forum for knowledge sharing and exchange among different stakeholders;
2. To assist practitioners in developing a platform for understanding and developing procurement monitoring tools; and
3. To initiate a network among SAc and procurement professionals in the AFR region to promote capacity building, knowledge sharing, and practitioner learning.

The Forum outcomes are:

1. A learning forum on practices, lessons and challenges on public procurement work from the perspectives of government, civil society and oversight bodies;
2. Country action plans that includes follow-up steps for developing and implementing SAc tools in procurement monitoring;
3. Launch and voluntary registration of participating stakeholders in the proposed ANSA-Africa Procurement Monitoring Network;
4. Continued engagement among participants as follow-up to the forum;
5. Participants voluntarily share insights and provide feedback through ANSA-Africa website;
6. Participants signing up as member of ANSA-Africa.

## Participants

- 1.1. The ANSA-Africa Forum will bring together participants from CSOs, governments, and donor agencies, drawn primarily from the African region. Participants will be actively involved in SAc or procurement monitoring initiatives and have relevant interests a"""" the context/history of procurement monitoring as related to SAc tools and methodologies? What are the predominant practices/approaches, tools, etc. (using the four pillars<sup>1</sup>)
- 1.2. Who are the stakeholders? What are they doing? Where are they? What tools are they using? What tactics and strategies are they applying and how are they doing it?
- 1.3. What are the outputs and results of their efforts? What are their victories? What are the challenges or issues they are facing?
- 1.4. What is it in their SAc experience that is driving their engagement with government? What obstructs this engagement?
- 1.5. What is the future direction of the procurement monitoring as a SAc practice?
- 1.6. What are the gaps that need to be addressed?

## Dates and Location

Dates: 6-7<sup>th</sup> May, 2010

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<sup>1</sup> The four elements of an enabling SAc environment: 1) access to info, 2) responsive government, 3) organized and capable citizen groups, and 4) context and cultural responsiveness

The suggested dates correspond with an OECD-DAC Task Force on Procurement meeting. Holding the conference near to these dates will allow the Task Force to interact with participants from around the region and hear about the tools and assistance needed by African governments in reforming public procurement.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya