

**PROTOCOL FOR INFORMING PARLIAMENT
OF RESULTS OF FORMAL POLICY DIALOGUE**

Submitted to:

**U.S. Agency for International Development
Mission to Ghana**

by:

Sigma One Corporation

for:

**Trade and Investment Reform Program (TIRP)
Improved Policy and Financial Intermediation Project
USAID Contract Number: 641-C-00-98-00229**

**In fulfillment of:
Milestone 1.3**

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Sigma One Corporation

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Trade and Investment Reform Program (TIRP)
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Milestone 1.3 Protocol for Informing Parliament of Results of Formal Policy Dialogue

Introduction

To help institutionalize the dialogue process, Sigma One Corporation through the IMCC will assist the Government of Ghana and private sector organizations to organize and sponsor conferences, workshops, and civic education programs to reach consensus on a consistent policy framework focused on international competitiveness. One of the critical groups to be kept current on policy issues is the Parliament. The Parliament must approve the budget and the accompanying legislation that will be needed to put into effect those policy recommendations requiring changes in existing legislation or new legislation. Moreover, the members of Parliament as leaders of their communities and directly elected representatives of the people, are in close touch with their constituencies, and can provide insight into how policy reforms may be received by the citizenry. This input can lead to suggested modifications and/or can be an important aid in informing people of the need for the proposed policy changes. This protocol proposes an implementation strategy for interacting with the Parliament.

Procedure for implementation

Sigma One Corporation through the IMCC will assist the Government of Ghana to keep Parliament current on policy issues through the three following activities:

1. The Majority and Minority leaders of the Parliament and those heading all key committees concerned with economic and financial issues will be invited to all relevant seminars, briefings and working dinners as well as included on the mailing list of key public and private sector leaders to receive project briefs and documents. The reason for focusing on inviting the majority and minority leaders of the key committees is the problem of size. There are 200 parliamentarians. It is impossible to have everyone invited to everything, and the absence of a clear criteria as to who would be invited, could lead to misunderstandings and charges of favoritism.

While the majority and minority committee heads would be the focus of the contacts, they could suggest that additional parliamentarians be invited due to their special focus or interest on a topic. In terms of the committees considered key for inclusion on various TIRP related policy issues, the following are suggested:

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- a. The Standing Finance Committee
- b. The Select Committee on Trade, Industry and Tourism
- c. The Select Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs
- d. The Select Committee on Lands and Forestry
- e. The Select Committee on Local Government and Rural Development
- f. The Select Committee on Communications
- g. The Select Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and state Enterprises
- h. The Select Committee on Environment, Science and Technology
- I. The Select Committee on Mines and Energy
- j. The Select Committee on Roads and Transport

The ranking majority and minority member of these ten key committees as well as the Majority and Minority leaders of the Parliament will be the principal contact point for keeping Parliament informed on the policy dialogue process and results. Depending on the subject they will be invited to the seminars, briefings and working dinners relevant to their area of concern. In addition they will all be placed on the mailing list of opinion leaders to receive briefs, newsletters and other documents.

2. Appropriate parliamentarians will be included as members of working groups formed to address specific policy issues such as the financial sector working group. Special working groups will be formed to address especially difficult, complex and/or contentious economic policy issues. Having members of Parliament as members of these committees will allow Parliamentarians to participate in the review and analysis of these issues and the formation of the recommended solutions. The selection of Parliamentarians for participation will come from members of the relevant select committees. Not all working groups would necessarily have members of Parliament on them nor will members of Parliament want to be involved in each one. A rule for considering Parliamentary participation is whether the recommendations will lead to legislative action.
3. Special briefings and seminars will be designed for parliamentarians on critical policy issues. In addition to informing Parliamentary leadership through seminars, briefings etc. there will be times when the leadership would like their fellow parliamentarians to receive special briefings and seminars. These briefings might be for all members of a specific Standing or Select Committee or for the Parliament as a whole. Such briefing would be in response to a specific request by the leadership of Parliament or of one of the Committees. These requests will be given priority attention.