ANALYSIS OF ETHIOPIA’S HOUSE OF PEOPLES’ REPRESENTATIVES’ PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (PAC) AND BUDGET AND FINANCE (BFC) COMMITTEES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

WFD is engaging in parliamentary strengthening activities as part of its Ethiopia Parliamentary Programme. Building on the ongoing institutional reform initiatives taking place within Ethiopia and areas identified within the House of Peoples’ Representatives’ (HPR) institutional capacity assessment, the overall objective of this initial phase of the programme is to support the HPR reform process to strengthen its legislative and oversight functions through technical expertise and knowledge sharing.

WFD is prioritising a focused range of technical areas including the Rules of Procedure and Post-Legislative Scrutiny in which to share comparative expertise in areas of parliamentary reform and innovation. This activity will consist of a detailed analysis of HPR’s Public Accounts (PAC) and Budget and Finance (BFC) Committees. The programme is supported by the Department for International Development and British High Commission in Addis Ababa.

The Ethiopian House of Peoples’ Representatives have indicated to WFD the week of 27-31 January 2020 as a period in which parliamentary officials and Members in Ethiopia will be available for key person interviews, meetings, and focus group discussions. Subject to confirmation of dates, meetings and discussions will be used to directly inform the drafting and content of a detailed analysis report with findings and recommendations.

The visit is expected to be consultative in style, entailing fact-finding and discussions at this stage, rather than for instance a presentation or training of any kind. Meetings and discussions will be used to directly inform a detailed analysis and recommendation report as well as references and comparisons to other relevant legislatures, including the UK House of Commons, amongst others.

It is expected the assignment will include preliminary background research and desk-based document review (on committee membership, roles, and structure) ahead of the visit. The assignment will also entail remote analysis, review and cross-referencing towards the drafting, redrafting, finalisation and submission of the assignment report, following the visit.
Where appropriate and value added, WFD will engage other actors available to ensure localisation, coordination and sustainability of interventions. WFD will also ensure coordination between WFD activities and expert engagement teams to facilitate sharing and cross-referencing of information between activities and reports.

**Key Outputs (number of days indicated are indicative)**

1. Conduct preliminary remote desk-based research and document review ahead of the visit (1 day);

2. Conduct focus groups, meetings and interviews with HPR officials in Addis Ababa, 27-31 January 2020 and prepare a note of the visit (5 days on ground in Addis Ababa, and 2 half-days for overnight travel on 25th January and 1st February 2020);

3. Provide preliminary advice by 7 February 2020 in a post-visit debrief to WFD/the Ethiopian Parliament on key findings and observations. The structure of the analysis report should be outlined in the advice; and

4. Draft and submit detailed analysis and recommendation report by 28 February 2020 to WFD/the Ethiopian Parliament. The report will include detailed analysis of current practices including the way in which the committees interact – formally and informally; areas of overlap and distinctions between their respective mandates; and ways in which relevant external bodies are engaged/interact with the committees, for example the Office of the Auditor-General. The report will also detail ways in which work is divided and assigned between the committees, and indeed, areas in which joint working is and would be necessary, and modalities for doing so i.e. through staff, joint meetings; sharing of committee reports, etc.

In addition, the report will provide options and recommendations for establishing PAC and BFC capability, and strengthening (within each respective committee; between the PAC and BFC; and with other external bodies e.g. OAG and line ministries); and the modalities for doing so, including by identifying good practices from other parliaments including the UK House of Commons, amongst others. If and where relevant, this should include identification of areas for further training and follow-up.

Emphasis should also be given to providing recommendations on strengthening oversight tools, practices and mechanisms of the PAC and BFC i.e. hearings, parliamentary questions and interpellation, to name a few.