



Meeting of the IATI Governing Board

Date: April 4th, 2017; **Time:** 09:30 – 11:00 (EST)

Attendees:

(Governing Board) Stephen Potter (Canada, Chair of the IATI board), Yohanna Loucheur (Canada); Rupert Simons (Publish What You Fund); Timothy Takona (UNICEF); John Adams (DFID, TAG chair) Zefania Romalahy (Madagascar)

(IATI Secretariat) Joni Hillman (Development Initiatives); Annelise Parr, Nina Grinman (UNDP); Katrin Lichtenberg; Argjira Belegu-Shuku (UNOPS)

(Absent): Bangladesh

Minutes:

Meeting opens

Agenda for today's meeting and minutes from the January 25th meeting were approved.

Information and updates

1. Update on TAG

- TAG event in Tanzania was really successful, and location contributed to openness and active participation of 150 delegates, particularly African and southern delegates, as well as the opportunity for regional and topical taskforces to work closer together. It will be important to maintain the excellent momentum achieved during and since the TAG, and the Secretariat is looking into the possibility and potential costs of mini-TAGs as one way to do so.
- One important achievement was the change in the language around the need for use of data – it was clear that people are already using it and finding value in many different ways. There were useful sessions around 'what next' for IATI, and the Standards Day was really well run and covered a lot of ground. Important outcome was to move from talking about publishers and users as opposing groups, towards recognition that everybody is a user.
- Feedback from partner countries noted the importance of explaining concepts clearly to new IATI focal points.
- CSOs – data is already incredibly useful to them particularly in terms of business intelligence (e.g. which donors are active and where) and working across borders. Next step is to consider how CSOs could become publishers, in which the usual challenges were identified around resources and language.
- Donor meeting identified low level of awareness of IATI and the tools to access it, as well as lack of clarity about how AIMS and IATI intersect.

2. Update on activities since the last board meeting

- Highlights only provided verbally – Board has received a full update in regular Google Doc.
- Secretariat is working on synthesising outcomes from the different TAG sessions and the communications interviews contributing to work on website and branding for November launch.
- Following donor meeting in Tanzania UNDP is exploring ways to expand its work with donor groups at the country level to raise awareness and capacity around IATI.
- New members are IFC, Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Italy's International Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), France, and IOM; Ukraine is also in the process of joining.

3. Update on financial status

- Currently \$2.1 million received funds for the Y4 budget.
- 80 Members (including new members) 33 have already paid the membership fee. Countersigned agreements with another five, and in negotiation with the remaining 41, mainly 24 partner countries, with 5 donors (Canada, GAVI, UNIDO, Netherlands, Belgium) hoping to finalise agreements shortly. Four consortium members make contributions in kind and Sweden has provided a voluntary contribution at the level of a membership fee.
- IATI Secretariat expects to be able to cover 100% of the approved 2016/17 budget.

4. Institutional Review IATI

- The Board considered timing of the work which would be the main focus of the 2017 MA. Consultants have been identified but yet to be contracted for this work.
- Two options were presented:
 - 1) A late (September/October) MA to allow the consultants to have more time for consultations and discussions with members ahead of the meeting and enable the Board time to develop fully or near-fully formed recommendations; or
 - 2) A June MA; consultants would be expected to complete the early steps of the report to identify key dimensions for discussion to be fleshed out at the MA, after which they would then work on the finalized report to present later. A drawback of this timing would be that members do not have the opportunity to engage and debate a fully-formed set of recommendations and lead to final outcomes.
- Original TORs did not include a formal consultation process. Nonetheless consultations at the right time with key stakeholders would be important to ensure buy-in; when the Board takes recommendations to members they would need substantial time to work through them. Approaches could include some one-one skypes with key members; consultation calls.
- **The Board agreed on option 1**, to work towards a September/October MA with suggested timeline for options to be submitted for review to the Members in July/August 2017 with good time ahead of the MA, and then have calls with constituencies (Bond, UNICEF, Madagascar would support). Secretariat (UNDP) can provide any budgetary and support requirements of meetings by constituencies for consultation.

- **Action:** *PWYF/Canada/Bangladesh to take this work forward with consultants and keep the Board informed. Need to establish and stick to a clear timeline for this work to allow adequate time for consultation before the MA.*

5. Strategic Direction

- **Action requested:**

- In view of the decision in Item 4 it was agreed that the MA should take place in either last week of September or the first two weeks of October (should be before the Bank Fund annual meetings in the third week of October).
- Secretariat will revisit the dates and venue as UN City does not currently appear to be available at that time) as well as other venues such as Rome, Paris, Brussels, Geneva or Bonn (when UNFCCC not in session).
- **Action:** *Secretariat to communicate new options to the Board by the end of the week. Board asked to think of any other possible venues.*

- **Provide feedback on draft agenda items:**

- With MA taking place later there is more time to review the agenda. There is no time-sensitivity as in previous years around the need to approve a budget. However, it should not drift too late to allow time afterwards for institutional transition.
- In the agenda, include plenty of time for institutional review. Reduce time on routine business and instead build on some of the TAG work to look at IATI Standard Version 3 and beyond, to get broad consensus on direction to take IATI to make it more user friendly. Consider how to frame technical discussions to ensure they are accessible by all – what are barriers to use and how do we address these on the technical side; what would make using the data simpler.
- **Action:** *Secretariat to work on the technical aspects of the Agenda and revisit this at a subsequent Board meeting.*

6. MDB fee:

- The following three options were presented (separate paper) in response to a letter from the World Bank concerned with the Year 4 increase in fees:
 - (Option A) Retain the principle that MDBs should pay the same level of fees as other providers, making up the full fee amount for Y4 and Y5;
 - (Option B) Negotiate a sliding scale of fees, similar to the process undertaken with UN agencies; and
 - (Option C) Negotiate a special rate for MDBs only.
- Important to engage in a political conversation to identify any underlying problems not clear from the incoming letter and to collectively work on ensuring that IATI works for the banks and others and benefits from their willing support and participation, including in the review of institutional arrangements.
- Clarification provided on IFC – which has joined recently by signing up based on the full fee. They have not yet however received the formal contribution agreement. IFAD, also in cc, comes within UN arrangement.

- The Governing Board agreed on the need for a political conversation with the banks to work out the real issues and if such meeting is face to face, Secretariat to cover some part of travel costs of board members involved.
- If there is a need to determine a measure for calculations/projections/negotiations, the banks themselves are best placed to make such proposal.
- Reminder from UNOPS that decisions on changing SOP need to be recommended by the Board for approval by the MA. The Chair confirmed that intention in relation to the discussion with MDBs is not however to renegotiate a new membership fee.
 - **Action:** Start a Yammer thread on what to propose and what to bring forward in a political discussion with the bank. Work through EDs to set up meetings in May with WB and others.
 - Secretariat to prepare a response to the letter from Board Chair explaining what we would like to discuss and when.
 - Look at IATI budget to partially fund approved Board travel, per SOP.

7. **AOB:** N/A

11:05 Adjournment