

## **Meeting of the IATI Governing Board**

25 February 2020 - Virtual

*Attending:* Theo van de Sande (Chair, Netherlands); Joseph Barnes (UNICEF); Leo Stolk (Oxfam Novib); Sarah Johns (Bond); Steven Flower (Open Data Services Cooperative); Zefania Romahaly (Madagascar); Annelise Parr, Anna Whitson, Sarah McDuff (UNDP / Secretariat), Carolyn Culey (Development Initiatives / Secretariat), Argjira Belegu-Shuku (UNOPS / Secretariat)

*Not attending:* Bangladesh

*Notetaker:* Sarah McDuff (UNDP)

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. Standing Items**

November 2019 Board meeting minutes were accepted by the Board.

The Board reviewed and approved updates to the **risk register**, adding a further risk around data sensitivity, particularly in fragile/humanitarian contexts. The Board agreed to include this item for discussion at the 2020 MA and in discussions on donor harmonization, to begin assessing how to deal with this issue in practical terms. No changes were required in the **conflict register** since the November 2019 meeting. The Board took note of 2019 implementation **monitoring** and requested further information on the testing of the connection between d-portal and the datastore. Secretariat reminded the Board of the timeline for the production of the **annual report**, and agreed that the full report will be shared with and approved by the Chair and that the Chair will share with Board members for endorsement. The Board requested additional time to review the **financial papers** which had been received late, and agreed to share any questions with the Secretariat via Yammer. The Board took note of the verbal update provided on **staffing updates** across the Secretariat.

#### **Action points:**

- Secretariat to include data sensitivity in MA 2020 agenda.
- DI to provide additional information on d-portal and the datastore at the next technical focal point call.
- Secretariat to share the Annual Report with the Chair for review and approval by 10 March.

## 2. Data Quality

The Board reviewed and supported a **2020 Data quality workplan** developed that responds to the strengthened focus on data quality in the Strategic Plan. Board members noted the challenges around clearly defining and measuring data quality, and the importance of ensuring that data use informs data quality work, adding that the paper should clarify that this work already had a strong foundation. Further thought is needed on the best ways of engaging with members, whether through a new working group working on ad hoc questions as they arise, or through another mechanism, ensuring that any solution should be closely tied to data use.

The Secretariat presented a proposal for more **accurately measuring active publishers**, to address a communications concern around the challenges of displaying a publisher number that was misleading on the website homepage and not consistent across all tools. Board members suggested retaining the current metric for historical reasons, but adding a new metric that highlights positively which publishers are actively refreshing their data in a particular time period (i.e. xx% of publishers have refreshed their activity files in the last 12 months). This question should be reconsidered after further work on the dashboard has been completed.

### Action points:

- Secretariat to update workplan to reflect Board comments on measuring data quality and links between data quality and data use, and to consider later in 2020 whether there should be a data quality WG or COP.
- Secretariat to develop a single metric to describe publisher numbers, consistently use clear language across all platforms and communications materials, and bring an updated proposal to the Board when the dashboard work has been completed.

## 3. Data Use

Updates were provided on the **ongoing work of the DUTF** which will in due course be formalised as a working group. The Board reiterated the need to maintain clear links with the data quality work.

The Secretariat presented proposals for **strengthening partner country engagement and for carrying out partner country analysis** in 2020 as a step towards identifying barriers to data use and addressing them through eg improved tools, guidance and publisher behaviour. These would include close analysis working with different countries that have tried to different levels of success to use IATI data. The Board appreciated these important new areas of work and provided concrete feedback, including adding future engagement with constituencies such as CSOs at country level, and working with other networks such as UN agencies to expand reach and impact of IATI's efforts.

## 4. Technical Core

The Board reviewed a proposal for a **stocktake of technical estate** that takes into account progress since the 2018 technical audit and builds upon it to develop a roadmap for technical work over the coming years. The Board agreed to a proposal for hiring an **external system design consultant** for a short assignment, to bring new perspective from an industry viewpoint. The consultant would undertake a detailed review ahead of a face to face stocktake meeting, seeking inputs from current publishers, suppliers, data users and others. The Board requested that draft Terms of Reference for both stocktake and consultancy be sharpened to ensure objectives and deliverables are clear, and agreed that the consultant should inform the setup/approach to the stocktake. Consultancy work to be carried out in early Q2 (April - June) with stocktake no later than June.

Action points:

- Board to provide comments in Yammer on the ToR for the consultancy by 28 February, and on the plan for the stocktake by 17 March.
- Secretariat to revise documents in consideration of Board inputs, and proceed with procurement processes to ensure no unnecessary delay. DI will procure for the consultancy, working closely with UNDP on the evaluation of proposals.

## 5. Outreach and Communications

Board took note of the Secretariat action plan and approved key external messaging, highlighting the importance of ensuring that these messages are incorporated into all communications. Board members proposed the addition of one key message on the core role that IATI plays in supporting the international community to achieve its objectives for 2030. It was agreed that this is a living document that can be adapted as needed with no further review by the Board before activating.

Action point:

- Secretariat to add a further key message on IATI's essential role in the international efforts around transparency.

## 6. Community

The Secretariat provided an update on planning of the **2020 annual event in November** and sought approval for proposed criteria for funding of 55-60 participants. As planning moves ahead, the Board will be requested to approve the working group ToR and the budget, and, review proposed external invitee categories. The Board further took note of the risk planning in relation to the current Coronavirus situation, to ensure that an alternate plan was in place in case global travel for events is affected.

As a further step in **institutionalising WGs and COPs**, the Board took note of proposed policy language and agreed for the Secretariat to publish it for endorsement by the membership, per written procedure. The Board also took note of progress on planning for a **new digital platform** and emphasized the importance of getting it developed and launched as soon as possible.

Action points:

- Secretariat to circulate SOP for endorsement by membership.
- Secretariat to accelerate process for developing/launching digital platform.
- Secretariat to expedite hiring of Community Manager at UNDP who will also support transition to new digital platform.

## 7. Institutional Arrangements

The Secretariat presented a paper outlining some of the current questions around **membership structure**, including contribution levels, CSO and individual membership and maintaining balance among constituencies. The Board appreciated efforts of the Secretariat to address some long standing challenges, and requested further work by the Secretariat to collect feedback from current and potential members, particularly around CSO membership questions. This additional work would assist the new Board in understanding and making recommendations around membership questions.

Board took note of the dates and process led by the Secretariat in the **upcoming election** process and agreed to actively encourage participation in their constituencies. The Secretariat clarified that the **technical seat** would be elected by all members, regardless of constituency.

The Board had reviewed the draft **Results Framework** and appreciated the work done to incorporate feedback from members. The RF was endorsed and will be shared with members for final approval on a non-objection basis, following written procedure.

### Action point:

- Secretariat to further develop position paper on membership, for consideration by the next Board.

## Closing

As this would be its last meeting, #Board2 was keen to ensure that #Board3 get off to a strong start, assisted by a management consultant experienced in Board management, taking into consideration the result of the elections. The Chair and members expressed their willingness to ensure continuity and offered to share their experiences and knowledge to help with the onboarding of a new group. The Secretariat will explore ways to gather and share that input.

### Action point:

- In accordance with the 2020 work plan, Secretariat to engage a consultant to support Board transition.