

Members Advisory Group Meeting Minutes - 9 October 2015

Attendees

- Jamie Attard (Gates Foundation); Samuel Blazyk (African Development Bank); Carolyn Culey (IATI Secretariat); Sarah Johns (Bond); Annelise Parr (IATI Secretariat Coordinator); Robin Uytterlinde (IATI Steering Committee Chair); and Anna Whitson (UNDP) – (minutes).

The group accepted the minutes from 2 October call, which will now be posted to the IATI website. Minutes from the closed discussion on hosting will be circulated to the MAG by the chair.

Discussion on Governance

Principles to guide discussions on future governance

- Inclusivity, efficiency, cost effectiveness, empowerment, and agility were seen as the key principles to guide discussions on governance. It's also important to be clear on what membership really means, i.e. who is a member and what do they receive.
- The current governance structure is not meeting IATI's needs, and should be changed completely rather than just adding a further layer to the existing structure.
- A new Executive Board must be empowered by members to take decisions in order to be effective. There must be clear definition of the decisions that are in the remit of the Board.
- MAG felt that this group is mandated to put forward recommendations to be decided in December. Options should be clear and few in number.
- Agreement that it would be best to have an interim Board elected in December to avoid delaying actions of the Board by another 6 months (to a subsequent SC meeting).
- Arrangements set in place in December need not be perfect and can be refined over time. They should be considered as interim arrangements (term not decided).
- MAG members are encouraged to hold discussions within their constituencies ahead of the December SC meeting.

Executive Board - Composition and functioning

- The Board should be quite small to be nimble (4-6 permanent members, each with alternates, accountable to the General Assembly, and with expertise on certain matters invited as necessary), meeting virtually every 4-6 weeks to work with the Secretariat in driving the work forward between the GA meetings. This frequency may not be sustainable in the long term but is important in the short term.
- IATI constituencies (partner countries, donors, civil society) should each have a place on the Board along with the possibility of seats for accountability networks, foundations, and the private sector. There should also be a technical seat on the board which could potentially be filled by the TAG Chair.
- Each constituency / seat will have a primary and a deputy for voting purposes, and shall have one vote.
- A General Assembly of all members will meet annually; GA will have responsibility for approving the governance structure, electing members of the board, ratifying the annual report. The question of other powers to be devolved to the board is still in discussion by the MAG including responsibility for final approval over the budget and programme of work developed by the Executive Board. Board members are expected to lead consultations within their constituencies in preparing any recommendations for the GA.

Effective / operating date

- Desirable to define a short term governance model as well as a longer term model, engaging with operations heavily at first and transitioning to a less intensive / strategy-focused model after the appointment of an Executive Director.

Next Steps

- Continuation of discussion on the governance model at next week's dedicated meeting (1.5 hours).
- Governance matrix / document will be further refined after today's conversation, with potential dates / actions added.
- MAG focal points will further consider how a paper for the December Steering Committee should look, with a view to making it public ahead of other SC papers to allow for consultation that will enable decisions to be taken in December.