



## Meeting of IATI Steering Committee Members and Observers UN City, Copenhagen, Denmark 2014

### Paper 9: The GPEDC Transparency Indicator

---

#### INTRODUCTION

In the lead up to the First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) held in Mexico in April 2014, the technical teams of the Global Partnership Joint Support Team, OECD DCD-DAC and IATI had insufficient time to fully test the draft methodology of the transparency indicator and engage in a more comprehensive consultation with those being assessed and those who wished to make use of the indicator. There was an online consultation in Autumn 2013 and as many views as possible were taken into account in that short period. Nevertheless, the resulting indicator had limited buy-in from many of its stakeholders, a situation compounded by unsatisfactory review procedures once scoring was shared.

The IATI Secretariat believes it is essential for the future of the indicator to resolve these procedural shortcomings by ensuring that such issues are comprehensively addressed at this point. As a contribution to this process, the IATI Secretariat published its [proposals](#) for improvements to the indicator methodology for public consultation on 5th September. Comments were invited by 25th September, with the intention of updating these proposals on the basis of comments received for approval by the Steering Committee.

Shortly afterwards, the DAC Secretariat also shared its thoughts on the future of the indicator in a paper circulated for discussion at the WP-STAT meeting on 17th September, to which IATI was invited. There was consensus in that meeting on the proposal for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder technical reference group comprised of the various constituencies of the GPEDC Global Partnership, including IATI, WP-STAT, non-DAC donors, multilaterals, developing countries and south-south providers, with a remit to address both the definition of the Common Standard, and modifications to the transparency indicator.

In addition, the Joint Support Team is in discussion with the co-chairs of the GPEDC with regard to strengthening the overall monitoring framework and finalising the four pilot indicators, including transparency. A draft proposal is likely to be considered at the forthcoming annual GP workshop in



Seoul in November, and a final proposal presented to the next GPEDC Steering Committee in January 2015.

Taking into account both the GPEDC process and the DAC Secretariat proposal, the IATI Secretariat now proposes to revise its original proposals for improving the indicator methodology on the basis of comments received on the forum and at the IATI Steering Committee on 14/15 October as well as the proposed work on the IATI dashboard set out below.

### **Proposed approach**

**In light of these recent developments, the Steering Committee is now invited to approve a twin-track approach, which mandates the IATI Secretariat to participate in the anticipated multi-stakeholder technical reference group established under the auspices of the GPEDC, whilst at the same time advancing IATI's own efforts to support its members in improving the quality of their data in line with their Busan commitments and December 2015 deadline.**

Subject to the approval of the Steering Committee, the Secretariat proposes to participate in any technical reference group that is established under the GPEDC on the basis of the proposals outlined in its consultation paper, which takes as its starting point the importance of measuring performance against the Busan 23c commitment on the electronic publication of timely, comprehensive, forward-looking information that meets the needs of partner country stakeholders. Consistent with the proposals in the consultation paper, the Secretariat advocates amending the methodology in order to make it more consistent and robust for the next iteration, and securing political buy-in from all stakeholders through adequate consultation and engagement, rather than going back to first principles.

Improving data quality and assisting members to meet their December 2015 Busan commitments is a central part of the IATI Technical Team's work. To this end a range of statistics on IATI data are published nightly on the IATI Dashboard. In March 2014, the Secretariat informed the Steering Committee that the statistics published in the Annual Report would also be included on the dashboard. While the preparatory work for this has been done the statistics have not yet been made public as the Technical Team believes it is important that a consistent methodology should be applied to both the Annual Report and statistics underpinning the Indicator.

The Technical Team believes that the dashboard is a useful platform on which to test out this single, improved methodology – and to consult with all publishers by demonstrating the



methodology in practice. This methodology involves the logic in producing accurate statistics and NOT a scoring system that the indicator adds as a layer on top of the statistics.

### **Action required**

Steering Committee members are invited to confirm the following:

- 1) The Secretariat is mandated to take part in the proposed multi-stakeholder technical reference group that will refine the transparency indicator, using the existing consultation paper, updated on the basis of feedback from members as the basis of its initial contribution to this group.
- 2) The Secretariat is also authorised to advance IATI's own work in enhancing data quality, supporting IATI members to meet their Busan commitments and deadline, including through the publication of nightly data quality statistics on the IATI dashboard, aligned to the IATI Annual Report and the evolving transparency indicator methodology.
- 3) The IATI dashboard statistics will also be used to “road-test” any proposed changes to the transparency indicator methodology, and – after consultation with all IATI stakeholders - this in turn will inform IATI's subsequent input into the multi-stakeholder technical reference group.