



Meeting of the IATI Governing Board

Date: August 23rd, 2017

Minutes

Attending: PWYF (Cathy, Rupert Simons), Canada (Stephen Potter, Yohanna Loucheur), Secretariat (Carolyn Culey, Joni Hillman, Argjira Belegu-Shuku, Katrin Lichtenberg, Annelise Parr, Bill Anderson), Bond (Sarah Johns), Bangladesh (Aftab Ahmed), Madagascar (Zefania Romalahy), TAG (John Adams)

1 – Board members accepted the agenda and previous minutes: [June 21st 2017](#) (Updated and approved via Yammer). No other items of AOB.

2 - Information and updates

Update on [financial status](#);

Financial Status:

- Membership fees received: USD 1,966,836; voluntary contributions received USD 568,411, **exceeding** our approved Y4 budget of USD 2,464,448.
- Still unpaid: Catalpa, CPDE, CIFF and UNIDO, Belgium, and Canada, plus new members IOM, France, Italy for whom an initial delay is not unexpected; plus 23 partner countries. Canada confirmed during the call that it now has green light to make payment for two years.

MA preparations

- Registrations have now closed and more than 80 people have registered. Formal invitations will go out on Friday for those needing them to apply for visas. The Secretariat is working with IFAD on logistics and preparations including for a separate brownbag session for UN agencies based there.
- Open Ag (Reid Porter) is organising a miniTAG on Oct 6th to be hosted at FAO.
- The Board requests more detailed information on implementation of the workplan which is for the first time fully funded. This detailed information including on technical infrastructure work will be shared in the workplan implementation paper being prepared for the MA.
 - *Actions: Ensure MA paper on workplan implementation is detailed and links to rationale provided for fee increase in Y4. Share link to list of members' payments so it's clear who has not yet paid. Board to advise on a convenient time/day for a board meeting (with alternates) during the MA.*

Progress of the work on the website refresh and poll on the IATI brand.

Poll is underway seeking member views on names and “straplines” for IATI, following the proposals set out on Yammer. The Poll will close no later than 15th September. This will give just enough time for the agency to develop some sample pages in time for the MA.

3 - MA agenda

MA agenda (draft available [here](#) for reference).

- Members discussed the order of sessions and requested the Secretariat to reorganise the agenda to have operational/reporting on day one, institutional review sessions on day two, and standards sessions on day 3. Caucus rapporteurs will have a session to briefly share priorities in plenary.
- Question raised on data use strategy; clarification provided that Board will be asked to approve it before the MA, and that the session at the MA will be for members' information and contribution in group work.

Actions: Secretariat to update agenda; Secretariat to prepare a letter from the Chair to invite the Chair of the DAC (inputs to be provided by Canada). Canada to explore hosting (not funding) a reception, to coincide with DAC Chair availability if attending. Board to hold a board meeting during the MA, and alternates should attend. Day/time initially Monday, but subsequently under discussion on Yammer. Board members will prepare and chair caucus meetings and Sec reps will attend only if requested.

4 - IATI Standard upgrade

The Secretariat updated the board on progress around the upgrade to 2.03 which had slowed; good progress has now been made on most items such as results, but delays still remain around humanitarian inclusions. The Secretariat believes that elements proposed for the upgrade are compatible with our agreed strategy and based around IATI's commitment to support FTS and to use IATI to make the Grand Bargain work. Board members are asked to promote the 2.03 upgrade and contribute via the Discuss forum to help steer the discussion towards consensus.

The TAG Chair pointed out that all proposed changes in 2.03 are consistent with IATI's existing commitments and that the upgrade is clearly aligned with IATI's agreed strategic direction. Secretariat reiterates the importance of holding discussions in the open so that all members can see what is proposed, what is countered and ultimately how the changes are therefore determined.

Secretariat reiterates the importance of working with humanitarian actors to include proposals in the current 2.03 upgrade (even if these were not ready in time for the TAG in February) as there won't be another upgrade opportunity again for some time.

In response to a separate question (PWYF) on proposed changes to the upgrade procedure, the Secretariat advises that a draft paper on this will be out on Discuss by the end of next week for open discussion ahead of the MA. The paper will also include proposals for adjustments to the SOP where these deal with governance of the TAG and upgrades.

The Chair took the view that IATI should engage more with an impartial view of how implementation of the Grand Bargain will have real-world implications on gathering data on different types of local organisations etc. TAG has a good understanding of different financial systems that would be useful to GB discussions.

Action: Secretariat to produce a summary of key non-technical policy issues around humanitarian publishing to assist IATI members to engage more in discussions related to the Grand Bargain; Secretariat to share its paper on proposals around changes to the upgrade process.

5 - Institutional Review of IATI

A working group of Board members has grouped the consultants' recommendations into 2 categories, those not implicated in hosting and those connected with the proposed change in hosting arrangements. A Chair message will go out this week inviting members to review the report and discuss it through various means, with a view to helping the Board to refine these recommendations before the MA.

The Board agreed with the proposed approach (handling the recommendations in 2 groups) and endorsed the initial assessment put forward by the working group for the first group of recommendations (not related to hosting). There was consensus that more time is required to develop Board positions for those recommendations related to hosting. The priority is to get the report out quickly to enable member consultations so that the Board can develop recommendations for the MA.

Concern was raised that the approach put forward focuses too much on the consultants' recommendations, rather than encouraging people to process them in the context of the full report and the rationale behind the recommendations. The Board thought it was important to encourage open collaborative discussion and build consensus in the open, discouraging back channel discussions, by using IATI Discuss and general (not constituency-based) webinars as the preferred methods, complemented by constituency discussions as needed.

The Chair's message to members should be adjusted accordingly, sent out by the end of the week as a Chair's bulletin with links to French and English report, and consultations should start in early September to inform Board's reflexion (keeping in mind that the Board paper must be distributed ahead of the MA). In addition to the general webinars, CSO group suggests holding its consultation on CSO space on IATI Discuss. Partner Country Board representatives will meet African and Asian colleagues in the coming weeks and can consult during these physical meetings, and set up an additional call if necessary with others. Canada will consult with UNICEF on the best approach for the donor constituency.

Questions were raised around how the Board will deal with questions around content of report beyond simply focusing on recommendations; this is important and should be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Actions: Board agrees to endorse the summary of recommendations that includes 1, 2, 3, 8 and 12, and taking 5 and 6 to the MA. Yohanna and Rupert will develop a paper outlining the actions the Board has taken and rationale for accepting/rejecting. Draft Chair's message to go out ASAP this week making open consultation the primary approach. Secretariat to set up a Board meeting in 2-3 weeks for Board to review feedback received on recommendations and content generally. Invitations

to calls should go from constituency representatives on the Board who will be hosting the calls, and include doodle polls to participate (Secretariat to provide technical support to set up the calls).

6 - MDB fee issue

With no further contact from MDBs since the promised joint paper (reminder sent 8/8/17), the Board considered possible actions ahead of the MA. Board agreed as far as possible to move forward with this discussion through direct bilateral contacts (PWYF, UNICEF) and avoid a confrontation at the MA itself which could risk unravelling the progress made with other (particularly smaller) donor members who are for the main part paying the agreed fees.

Action: *PWYF will find out status of MDB fee issue and update the Board.*

7. Adjourn

Action: Request to schedule next Board meeting via Doodle poll 2-3 weeks from now.

Board meeting will focus on the review of the Institutional Review draft report and the list of papers for the MA.