

IATI Members Advisory Group Meeting Minutes - 16 October 2015

Attendees: Jamie Attard, Gates Foundation and Sarah Johns, Bond (Co-chairs); Samuel Blazyk, Sohir Debbiche, AfDB; Carolyn Culey, Development Initiatives - IATI Secretariat; Annelise Parr, UNDP - IATI Secretariat Coordinator; Anna Whitson, UNDP - IATI Secretariat (minutes). **Apologies:** Robin Uyterlinde, SC Chair; Alasdair Wardhaugh, DFID; Rafique Siddique, Bangladesh.

Discussion on Governance

Executive Board: Scope of powers

- The MAG is in agreement on the need for a smaller, more agile governance arrangement (i.e. the creation of a governing / executive board), however there is not yet concurrence around the scope of the board's responsibilities and which of these should be devolved from the General Assembly.
- Seeking the views of the members ahead of the December meeting will be essential to ensure members feel ownership of the process and decisions eventually made. MAG members agreed to undertake informal consultations within their constituencies (online, through phone calls or other appropriate means) as a useful exercise to ensure that the MAG's recommendations are in line with the general views of the members and that work undertaken between now and December reflect these views. Core questions will be developed for these consultations.

Governance matrix and draft SC paper

- MAG members agreed that the draft paper on governance arrangements is a good format, but content should be adjusted to present two proposed options on devolved powers for the December SCM. The two options are as follows:
 1. The General Assembly devolves all power other than in relation to the governance structure, voting of board members and ratifying annual reports; or
 2. The General Assembly retains approval authority over the strategy and budget, in addition to approving the governance structure, voting board members and ratifying annual reports.
- **Action point:** The paper will be revised in line with today's discussions. Input is invited by email from other MAG members before it is recirculated for next week's call.

Executive Director

- The Secretariat noted that the issue of sustainable funding has implications on other discussions of this group and must be considered in taking forward any recommendations such as the creation of an Executive Director position (this is not in the 2016 budget approved by the SC). As the MAG is unable to take up the question of sustainable funding within the short timeframe of the group, this will still need to be addressed.
- The group agreed that a meeting between the MAG and the Budget Subgroup to have their perspective on the proposed governance arrangements would be useful.
- **Action point:** Secretariat will request a joint meeting of the MAG and Budget Subgroup to share some of the issues arising in the MAG discussions, and seek their input on the points around sustainable funding. Secretariat will first confirm with those unable to join today's call on this suggested approach.
- It was also noted by MAG members that the plan to create an Executive Director position is long term (subject to solution on questions of sustainable funding and single hosting entity) and the immediate need is to establish a smaller decision-making body empowered to look further into this proposal.

December SC meeting agenda

- The first day will focus on the Evaluation. Vision, governance and hosting will be organized as plenary / presentation of MAG work and proposals, followed by group discussions on proposals. The concluding session of the day would be a decision-making session in plenary.
- Whilst the decision on constituting a board rests ultimately with members, this approach is the strong recommendation of the Evaluation, and has therefore been the basis of the work of the MAG. The group agreed that if the approach is accepted by members in December they should also be prepared to hold elections for Board members as soon as possible, and a process for seeking nominations and holding elections should be considered on next week's call.

- Members should be prepared to respond to a call for nominations during the meeting as part of an election process, if the recommendation for a Board and its powers is accepted as part of new governance arrangements.

Agenda items for next week's MAG call

- Deciding on process for Executive Board elections at the December SCM;
- Discussion around revisions to governance paper in line with today's discussions;
- Review of MAG timeline (papers will be circulated for the SCM in 4 weeks); and
- Vision workstream.