

Annual Members' Assembly 1 - 2 December 2020

Session 13 - Paper 5: Institutional Working Group

IATI's Governing Board is committed to carefully and continually monitoring the initiative to ensure it meets its stated objectives. Evaluations have taken place in 2015 and 2017 for different purposes, and the outcome of each has contributed significantly to the furtherance of IATI's growth, refinement of its purpose and strengthening of its governance. The 2015 Independent Evaluation of IATI looked at IATI's performance against the original objectives set at Accra (2008) and its progress in supporting its members to meet the Busan transparency commitments, and secondly reviewed its IATI's institutional arrangements and its strength as a global data standard. The 2017 Institutional Review led to a number of recommendations by the Governing Board that set in place long term institutional arrangements for the initiative.

The Board now wishes to call upon members to help **contribute to the next stage of growth and development of the initiative through a new Institutional Working Group**. Undertaking the work at this time will serve to set the course for the longer term future of IATI and in the medium term recommend course corrections if needed in delivery of the Strategic Plan 2020-25. Areas for potential consideration by this Working Group include the following:

1. Review of external evaluations referencing IATI, to understand where changes might be needed; apply findings to undertake a review of the Theory of Change 2016-23, considering whether assumptions made during the development of that ToC remain valid or should be updated;
2. Institutional arrangements beyond December 2022, the date up to when technical, financial, logistical and advisory services are provided by the current Secretariat Consortium;
3. Developing parameters for a mid-term review of the Strategic Plan (2022);
4. Membership costs and criteria as part of a longer term financial strategy, taking into account potential partnerships with private sector organisations, and addressing questions of inequity of contribution levels and corresponding ownership / agency of different stakeholders.

Contributing to this activity through a formal Working Group offers members opportunities to bring their specific areas of expertise and knowledge, and supports the Governing Board in making progress on some of these challenging questions.

Based on discussion of members during the MA, the Secretariat would work with the Board to develop Terms of Reference for the new Working Group, following the process set out in the Standard Operating Procedures (Section 5) that guides the establishment of IATI Working Groups . Once agreed by the Board, the TORs would be shared with members, inviting expressions of interest to participate.

Discussion for members

During MA 2020, the Board invites members to have an **open discussion on these or other potential areas of focus, and agree broadly on the scope and timeframe of this work.**

General information on Working Groups

During its 2019 Members' Assembly meeting when members endorsed the IATI Strategic Plan 2020-25, they also agreed to establish an inclusive process that would enable members to contribute their expertise to support the Governing Board in leading the initiative forward. This would be achieved through a system of working groups (WGs) that would be time-bound and advisory in nature, and would address specific questions. Enshrined in IATI's Standard Operating Procedures, WGs can be mandated by either Board or members, and secretariat support is provided by the IATI Secretariat. WGs are generally capped at 8-10 members to maintain effective working conditions, and funding may be allocated for one face to face encounter of members (travel restrictions permitting).

Members apply to join Working Groups based on Terms of Reference setting out specific goals, outcomes and timelines. Members are selected following a transparent process, and the Board ensures participation is balanced in terms of gender balance, region, expertise, constituency, etc.

Reference documents

*2015 Independent Evaluation of IATI, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)
2016 Theory of Change [diagram](#), [assumptions](#) and [cover note](#)
[2017 Institutional Review](#) and [Board Recommendations](#)
[Standard Operating Procedures \(v.7; March 2020\)](#)*