Attendees (Virtual):
Theo van de Sande (Chair); Joseph Barnes (UNICEF); Melinda Cuzner (Sida); Dilli Lekhak, Nepal); Henry Asor (Nigeria); Winnie Kamau (AFJ); Leo Stolk (Oxfam Novib); Annelise Parr, Hanayo Nakano (UNDP, Secretariat), Henriette Keijzers (consultant, Secretariat); Carolyn Culey (DI, Secretariat); Argjira Belegu-Shuku, Katrin Lichtenberg (UNOPS, Secretariat).

Notes: Sarah McDuff (UNDP)

1.   Standing Items
The agenda was accepted and no AOB was flagged, and the Board Chair led participants through standing items. Minutes from the 29 April interim Board meeting focusing on the Datastore were accepted and approved for posting. No new risks were added to the Board's register, and the Chair reminded others to review it between meetings for any proposed additions or updates. No new conflicts were flagged.

In terms of staffing, a new IATI Senior Advisor Henriette Keijzers (Consultant, UNDP) was introduced to the Board and joins on a part time basis initially for 6 months to provide support to the Secretariat. A longstanding commitment to establish Communications closer to the Coordination of role was concluded with Ms. Rohini Simbodyal selected through a competitive recruitment process. DI's Technical Lead Wendy Thomas will be taking leave for around one month and technical leadership will be backstopped during this time by Carolyn Culey and Bill Anderson.

1. Secretariat updates

In Q2, the financial position is strong, and income from membership contributions remains on par with the same quarter in previous years. The initiative's expenditure in Q2 is at 69% of revised budget, and the Board was informed of the specific areas of underspend and reasons (some administrative, some capacity and some due to dependencies on other activities). The Secretariat provided an outline of plans for stepping up the rate of expenditure for the remainder of the financial year. The Board encouraged the Secretariat to initiate budget revision discussions during the next 4-6 weeks, as was previously agreed.

2. Workplan implementation Q2

The Board reviewed a paper and presentation on the status of implementation of key activities within each workstream across the past quarter, and where relevant, plans for the next quarter. Discussions focused on one or two items in each workstream. In **Country Support**, the usefulness of the new CDFD guidance / analysis workbook and accompanying bespoke training was noted along with the value in making these resources and training sessions available to

other data users beyond partner countries. In **Data Quality**, reference was made to the timeframe for getting a consultation underway on IATI's new Data Quality Index and its dependencies (specifically updating IATI's dashboard publisher statistics). There was general agreement that this was important and urgent work (given the possible knock-on effect of delays on other planned activities) but nevertheless consultation should not take place during the summer vacation period, as requested by the community. Guidance on traceability and identifiers was concluded and is now available on the website. This reference gave way to a discussion on the delineation between the IATI website and IATI Connect for the sharing of guidance, tools and learning resources. Clarifying these different purposes for users was planned earlier, but will now be taken up as part of a planned review of the website in Q3, and Board Communications focal points will be involved in this work.

In **Community** new groups such as a group for donors mandating publishing and a 'Newbies' Corner were noted, along with a sharp increase in new Connect accounts, up to around 825. In **Data Use** a delayed piece of work is underway analysing and drawing together past research on user needs, that will be used to inform the development and improvement of tools for data access and use. The Data Use Working Group's Request for Proposals (RFP) for CSO training has been concluded and is ready for contracting and for this work to get underway. The DUWG has shifted its focus more towards peer learning and knowledge sharing during its biweekly meetings.

The primary focus of discussion in **Technical** work was on the Datastore, which has experienced unplanned downtime during the process of shifting service from external suppliers into the unified platform, as agreed by the Board following the 2020 Technical Stocktake. The suddenness of the downtime without due notice led to some upset among users, and the Secretariat has worked proactively to provide support to known users to ensure access is restored using the option most appropriate for each specific set of needs from other options such as Datastore Classic, IATI.cloud (for API calls), d-portal and the Country Development Finance Data tool. While there are practical reasons for not putting temporary redirects in place (to Datastore Classic), the Board technical focal point confirmed that this was the approach preferred by the Community and it should be taken forward for API calls. The Board agreed to pursue a proposal of the Data Use Working Group to establish a short contract using Data Use Fund to enhance server capacity to handle the API redirects and maintain Datastore Classic to ensure reliable data use during the period while the integration in the unified platform is concluded. Communications with the IATI Community should be carefully managed and advance notice given wherever possible of any periods of downtime.

The Communications focal point was mindful of the potential negative impact on members, and considered what actions could be taken to avoid such impact ahead of the MA. Publishing the minutes of the dedicated Board meeting on the Datastore decisions (29 April) would be important, and having Datastore II integration work concluded by the time of the MA would both mitigate this concern. The Board agreed to keep this matter under close review.

The Secretariat confirmed that Terms of Reference for planned work on integrating the Datastore had been provided to the Board via Yammer, and reshared the link.

In **Communications** work, the Board was updated on ongoing work implementing IATI's social media strategy since the issue of the 2020 Annual Report, and plans for informative thematic fact sheets to be issued in Q3, as well as an overarching review of the usability of the website alongside IATI's other digital assets. In **Outreach**, the Secretariat informed about ongoing work to draft and implement a **forward-looking strategy for how IATI will advocate for publishers to improve the data they publish**, and agreed to share this work with interested members on the Board as this work advanced.

Actions:
Technical*: Proceed with DUWG proposal for 4-6 months; implement API redirects; ensure tracking who is using the API redirects, and update the language on the holding page with options and clear explanations; Manage communications carefully and keep the matter under close review.*
Country Support: *Secretariat to make sure to make the CDFD tool and resources available to other data users beyond partner countries*
Communications*: Ensure different uses of Connect and website are clear, particularly to users, as part of the review of the website, and engage communications focal points as needed*
Outreach and Data Quality*: Share draft strategy on advocating with publishers to improve data quality at request of technical focal point.*

PWYF request
The Board reviewed a follow up support request from Publish What You Fund and reiterated its position that the fundamental value of its work still lies in its independence and therefore should not be funded by IATI. However, the expertise, passion and knowledge based on its many years of building and undertaking Transparency assessments would be really valuable to help IATI proceed with building its own index. Once further progress has been made with our own consultation for a data quality index, the Board should seek a dialogue in relation to IATI's work towards establishing its Data Quality Index and other ways in which strategic support might be provided.

Action: Secretariat to prepare a response for the PWYF CEO to the request received by the Board.

3. **Proposal for policy clarification on downstream publisher requirements**

A paper was presented by the representative from Nepal supported by the representative from Nigeria to address questions that have arisen recently around whether partner country government entities should publish information on their development cooperation resources. The paper presented a rationale and a proposal for updated SOP language on this matter, pointing to the potential for diluted donor accountability, diminished country ownership, increased reporting burden and failure to respect established country systems and processes. Donor representatives

on the Board as well as Oxfam Novib raised some concerns on the language presented that referred to "all govt entities" and to "resources", and requested further discussion on the approach to be used in any policy update.

Action: Continue discussion on Yammer and tweak draft language proposed for SOP

4. 2021 IATI events

The Board reviewed proposals for IATI events in 2021 and formally confirmed that planning should proceed for a second Virtual Community Exchange (VCE 2) in the annual MA as separate virtual events in 2021, approximately 4-6 weeks apart, and requested the Secretariat to revert with proposals on dates and plans for those events.

The Board further agreed to hold an in-person Board meeting in the lead up to the MA, observing all COVID-related travel protocols and restrictions, and requested the Secretariat to undertake planning for this and revert with options for dates and locations. The meeting should take place between the VCE and the MA. The Secretariat was also encouraged to hold an in-person work planning meeting (back-to-back).

Action: Secretariat to draw up plans and explore dates for virtual VCE 2, MA and in-person Board and Secretariat meetings.

5. Institutional Working Group

The Secretariat excused itself while the Board discussed progress updates from the Institutional Working Group which focuses on long term institutional arrangements for the initiative beyond the 2022 current Secretariat mandate.