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

Paper 7: Proposal for an Evaluation Working group

INTRODUCTION

As proposed in the IATI Annual Workplan September 2014 – August 2015 and also foreseen in the original consortium proposal for the IATI hosting arrangement, the Secretariat plans to commission an external evaluation of IATI in early-2015. The outcomes of this evaluation will be helpful in informing the discussion on IATI's future within the context of the wider post-2015 debate. It is expected that the evaluation will be carried out by an independent consultant/s on the basis of an open procurement process. The budget for this evaluation is $23,333 according to the original proposal.

As IATI is a member-driven initiative, it is proposed that a working group of 4-5 people drawn from membership would be called upon to develop terms of reference (ToR) for the evaluation. The working group should reflect all IATI constituencies, e.g. partner countries, donor countries, multilateral organisations, civil society organisations (CSOs) and philanthropic foundations, and appoint its own chair. Secretariat members will be available as ex-officio members of the working group to assist with procurement issues and other secretarial duties.

Steering Committee members are invited to discuss and agree upon the broad elements to be included in the evaluation and guiding principles for the working group.

Suggested elements in an evaluation

An evaluation of IATI may contain a variety of elements and angles. The following bullets should not be seen as a complete scope of work, but rather examples of aspects to inspire further discussion.

- Results, e.g. assess IATI's progress and impact to date from 2008 with regard to its mandate, role and responsibility, with special emphasis on data quantity, quality and usage;
- Organisation, e.g. assess the strengths and weaknesses of IATI's institutional arrangements including an indication on how the current or future alternative institutional arrangements might increase the impact and effectiveness of IATI's future work;

- Operational work, e.g. assess how and where members and other stakeholders feel that IATI's approach, technical support and outreach could have greater relevance to their work and to the international transparency agenda, including actionable, forward-looking recommendations for strengthening its performance in future.

Suggested guiding principles for the working group

The Steering Committee is invited to comment on the following guiding principles for the evaluation working group.

- Development of ToR which should include objectives, scope of work, methodology, timeline, reporting issues and clarity on the skills and experience required by the consultant/s. As IATI is global in scope, the evaluation is expected to seek the views of all key stakeholder groups. Both quantitative and qualitative methods can be used and field visits may be considered.
- Once the ToR has been agreed, it is proposed that the working group through its chair continues to oversee the delivery of the evaluation by the consultant/s.
- As proposed in IATI Annual Workplan (above), the calculated budget for the evaluation is $23,333 at present, which is supposed to include consultant fees, travel costs, and per diems. However, the working group might wish to consider whether a larger budget is required, and in that case, take the necessary measures together with the Standing Sub-group on Budget and Finance.
- The evaluation should be timed so that tentative conclusions and recommendations can be presented at the next SC meeting in spring 2015. A detailed work plan and timeline should be presented by the working group to IATI Chair and Vice-Chair no later than November 15th 2014.
- The Secretariat will support the working group and the evaluation process in terms of accessibility to all relevant information.

Action requested

Steering Committee members are invited to consider options for the broad elements to be included in the evaluation and to agree upon the best direction, including guiding principles. Steering Committee members are also invited to appoint members of an evaluation working group to prepare ToR and guide the evaluation. This group should include representatives of each stakeholder group, with volunteers sought at the Steering Committee meeting.