

Briefing: Championing Aid Transparency at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

Updated: April 2025

As the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) approaches, there is an urgent need to strengthen commitments on development finance transparency. The benefits of enhanced transparency via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) are universal, supporting both developing and developed countries alike in achieving the SDGs.

This updated briefing reflects the most recent negotiations around the FfD4 “first draft” outcome document. The priority remains securing explicit language affirming a commitment to publish development cooperation information to the IATI Standard.

Request for Support

To ensure transparency remains central to global development financing, the following **proposed language for the FfD4 Outcome Document** is respectfully encouraged (highlighted below) to strengthen commitment to transparency and data-enabled development impact:

1. Paragraph 32(a) – Development Effectiveness

*“We will elevate country ownership and leadership by developing countries, policy and system coherence by development partners, with a strong focus on results, transparency, mutual accountability and strengthened partnerships as core tenets of effective development cooperation. **We commit to publishing development cooperation information using the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Data Standard, ensuring its public availability.**”*

2. Paragraph 33 (c)(ii) – Development Cooperation Architecture

*“Monitors the delivery, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation in all its forms, drawing on all relevant existing reporting efforts, including country-owned reporting of data to SDG 17.3.1 as agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, ODA reporting to the OECD, Total Official Support for Sustainable Development, monitoring by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), and better **and timely** evidence of development impact **by tracking development financing and results data published to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Standard.** To this end, we will work towards suitable measures of development impact of all types and modalities of development cooperation, building on ongoing efforts, including by MDBs.*

3. Paragraph 58(d) – Monitoring and Follow-Up

*“To strengthen national follow-up, we will appoint focal points for financing for development in our finance and other relevant ministries and establish cross-departmental platforms for financing for development policy coordination and preparing national presentations, building on INFF experiences, where appropriate. **We recognize the role of open data standards and platforms, including the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), in providing a foundational evidence base for policy coordination and decision-making at the national level.**”*

Key Issue: Inclusion of IATI in the FfD4 Outcome Document

Enhancing Multilateral Trust and Cooperation

- IATI provides **near real-time, comparable data** on development and humanitarian flows. By making financial data openly accessible, both **donor and recipient countries can coordinate more effectively** at the multilateral level—reducing duplication, identifying funding gaps, and fostering trust in global processes.

Supporting Country Ownership and Policy Space

- IATI data does not override national systems; instead, it complements them by supplying **timely and forward-looking information that governments can use for budgeting, prioritization, and alignment with national development strategies**. This is key to ensuring that each country—developed or developing—can decide how best to harness external funding in line with its own policy objectives.

Catalyzing Better Development Outcomes

- Transparent, consistent, and granular data allows all stakeholders (line ministries, parliaments, civil society, private sector, and international organizations) to track whether resources are delivered as promised and to identify what truly works on the ground. In the era of the SDGs, this is **critical for accelerating progress** in areas like health, education, climate adaptation, and infrastructure.

Supporting Climate and Inequality Targets

- Open data helps verify whether commitments on adaptation vs. mitigation are being met, and where inequalities in access to funding persist. For developed countries, it enhances accountability to citizens on climate pledges; for developing countries, it clarifies actual inflows for strategic climate action.

Proven Record of Adoption and Utility

- Over **1,700 organizations worldwide, including major bilateral donors, UN agencies, philanthropies, and NGOs, already publish to IATI**, covering approximately two-thirds of official development assistance. **Nineteen developing countries use IATI data for national budgeting and planning**. IATI’s flexibility and voluntary nature make it feasible for a wide range of actors to adopt at different capacities and speeds.

IATI: A Globally Endorsed Solution

Voluntary and Forward-Looking

- IATI is voluntary and flexible—no single model of implementation is imposed. This standard enables transparent reporting without constraining national policy space or sovereignty.

Efficiency Gains and Minimized Duplication

- Transparent finance data reduces duplication among diverse funding streams (bilateral, multilateral, private, philanthropic), improving coordination and freeing resources for underserved priorities.

Alignment with Existing Commitments

- IATI has been referenced in previous Financing for Development outcomes (including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and is supported by major donors and UN agencies. Reinserting and strengthening it in FfD4 is a logical next step in global transparency efforts.

Universal Application: Global North and South

- IATI benefits both donor and recipient countries: it helps providers demonstrate accountability to their taxpayers, and helps recipients track inflows more accurately for planning and budgeting. It also fosters trust among all partners.

Climate, Inequality, and the SDGs

- Transparency is essential for measuring progress on climate finance commitments, bridging inequality gaps, and ensuring resources truly reach the people and places in greatest need.

For more information, please email us at support@iatistandard.org