

# IATI Members' Assembly and Community Exchange 2025

26 - 27 November 2025

Four Points by Sheraton Nairobi Airport, Kenya



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## IATI Community Exchange

Thursday 27th November 2025

### Concept Note: Session 3

## Upgrading the IATI Standard

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Venue: **Second Room**

Simultaneous Interpretation: **English - Spanish - French**

**Time:** 10:45 – 12:15

**Facilitator:** Sylvan Ridderinkhof, (Zimmerman; Member of 2024 IATI Standard Stewardship Working Group)

## 1. Purpose and Context

This session brings together the IATI community to review progress, lessons, and next steps in **upgrading the IATI Standard**, following the launch of the revised Standard Change Process in late 2025.

Over the past year, IATI has initiated a major renewal of how the Standard is governed—moving toward a predictable, transparent, and community-driven system that supports continuous improvement. This work is grounded in the foundational principles developed by the **Standard Stewardship Working Group (SSWG)** and formalised through **Annex II: IATI Standard Change Process**, now being piloted across the Initiative.

The following objectives shape the focus of this session:

- **The pilot Standard Change Process**, including the first set of typographic and clarity-focused proposals;
- **The launch of the IATI Standard Gazette**, which now provides a single public platform for proposals, assessments, and decisions;
- **The formation of a Standard Oversight Committee (SOC)**, which will serve as an advisory body to support technical coherence and transparency as the process scales.

- **A forward-looking discussion on the future of the Standard Change Process**, including how the community can shape its evolution, strengthen participation, and identify priority areas for more substantive upgrades over the coming year.

This session aims to take stock of early experience, deepen community understanding of the new mechanisms, and jointly explore opportunities for future Standard evolution.

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## **2. Session Structure and Flow**

### **A. Presentation 1 – IATI Secretariat / Open Data Services (ODS)**

The Secretariat will open with an overview of how the revised Standard governance system is beginning to operate in practice.

#### **1. Standard Governance: From Principles to Practice**

A brief framing of how the SSWG’s principles have shaped a more transparent and evidence-based governance model, emphasising the Standard as a living asset stewarded collectively.

#### **2. The New Standard Change Process**

A concise walkthrough of the workflow set out in the Standard Change Process, including how issues become proposals, how impact is assessed, how consultations function, and how decisions are finalised.

#### **3. The IATI Standard Gazette**

An overview of how the Gazette operationalises the Standard Change Process,—publishing proposals, enabling feedback, and documenting decisions—accompanied by reflections from the first pilot Gazette release.

#### **4. Establishing the Standard Oversight Committee (SOC)**

A preview of how the SOC will support expert review, technical coherence, and community oversight as Standard changes grow in complexity.

#### **5. Looking Forward / ‘Issues Log’**

A short summary of the next steps: obtaining information to enhance the pipeline, strengthening documentation, and embedding lessons learned into the forthcoming Standard updating process.

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### **B. Presentation 2 – Danida: Insights from the IATI-FTS Mapping Pilot**

Danida will present insights from the IATI–FTS mapping pilot, which resulted in a formal proposal to introduce the **FTS Flow ID** as a new **other-identifier-type** code in the IATI Standard, submitted through the Standard Gazette.

The presentation will highlight:

- **The specifics of the proposal** — adding the *FTS Flow ID* as an **other-identifier-type** code to enable direct referencing of FTS-tracked transactions within IATI datasets.
  - **How this strengthens interoperability**, allowing humanitarian financial flows reported to IATI to be matched with FTS records, improving cross-system traceability, crisis-financing visibility, and alignment with humanitarian reporting practices.
  - **How this pilot illustrates a scalable model for the wider community**—demonstrating the type of evidence-based, user-informed proposals that IATI Members can collectively support the Secretariat to expand, enabling broader interoperability.
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## C. Discussion & Brainstorm

Following the presentations, the session will lead to an **interactive, highly participatory discussion** designed to surface practical insights from across the community. The format will include a mix of **guided plenary dialogue and short breakout conversations**, enabling participants to explore specific themes in smaller groups before reconvening to share reflections.

Participants will be invited to reflect on:

- **Strengthening participation in the Standard revision process**  
How can we make it easier and more intuitive for community members to comment on proposals, share evidence, and engage during consultation windows?
- **Support structures for contributors**  
What documentation, guidance, or onboarding materials would help publishers, analysts, and tool developers engage more confidently in the Standard upgrade process?
- **Future priorities for Standard evolution**  
What types of changes would most benefit the community in the next set of proposals? Are there emerging policy or technical drivers that should shape the pipeline?
- **Balancing agility and stability**  
How do we ensure the Standard can evolve regularly while maintaining predictability and stability for publishers and tool teams?

Breakout groups will record key points, which will be gathered in plenary to help shape the Secretariat’s next steps and inform refinements to the Standard governance workflow.

This segment aims to generate **practical, community-led insights** that will directly influence future Gazette proposals, Standard governance arrangements, and the broader roadmap for Standard evolution.

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### 3. Expected Outcomes

By the end of the session, participants will have:

1. **A clear and shared understanding of the pilot phase**, including how the revised Standard Change Process operates in practice and what early lessons have emerged.
2. **Improved clarity on the role of the Gazette and the SOC** as essential components of IATI's long-term Standard governance system.
3. **Concrete takeaways from the Danida FTS proposal**, illustrating how well-evidenced, low-impact proposals can deliver meaningful interoperability gains.
4. **A set of practical, community-driven insights and recommendations** to help refine workflows, strengthen participation, and inform the next iteration of proposals.
5. **Renewed momentum and confidence** to engage in the upcoming cycle of Standard upgrades throughout 2026, supporting a more collaborative and predictable evolution of the IATI Standard.

Note Takers:

The meeting will be captured by audio recording, auto-transcription and the Secretariat team will work to take note of the discussions.