



IATI / UNDP REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DATA USAGE

MARCH 19 – 20, 2015

ACCRA, GHANA

WORKSHOP REPORT

**PREPARED FOR THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GHANA,
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP), AND
INTERNATIONAL AID TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (IATI)**

MARCH, 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT PREPARED FOR IATI / UNDP / MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GHANA

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A two-day International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Workshop was held at the MPLAZA Hotel, Accra, Ghana, 19-20 March 2015. The workshop assembled participants from various countries to share country experiences and models of aid transparency.

Hosted by the Government of Ghana, the IATI Workshop provided a forum for actors and stakeholders in the field of development finance to discuss ways to exploit the wealth of available information to meet financial and budgetary planning needs at the national level, and to challenge those providing information to do so with greater emphasis on the needs of the end user. Senior officials involved with global policy discussions, including those related to Financing for Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, shared their views on efforts to promote transparency, what has been achieved so far, and which additional support is required to ensure that global efforts continue to reflect changing country needs.

In addition to the broader policy considerations on tracking all forms of development finance, the workshop offered an opportunity for participants to examine country systems, frameworks and mechanisms through which information is expected to flow, and to share examples of good practices. System providers were on hand to address practical areas for improvement, including an automated data exchange of IATI data with existing country systems.

Over two days of plenary and syndicate sessions featuring country and thematic presentations, the workshop produced the following key messages, which can be broadly divided into four issue areas: (1) access to data and knowledge of support; (2) Country ownership, frameworks and systems; (3) Political Will and Challenges; (4) Recommendations on the Integration and Utilization of IATI.

1.1 Access to Data:

- Access to data is key in issues of governance, and experience has shown the importance of applying norms and standards such as IATI when it comes to financial data.
- Development partners need to provide information on projects going on within recipient countries as well as at the global level.

- Stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels must be involved in generating reliable data.
- NGOs should be included in data partner forums, as a way to attract non-traditional actors.
- Demand for data goes beyond aid coordination to include the needs of academics and journalists. As an openly available dataset, IATI can meet this need.
- National and sub-national processes could be improved with, for example, user-friendly templates for data collection.
- Data quality and commitment to openness at national level also need to be improved
- Governments must engage in frequent dialogue with development partners to ensure that efforts are aligned with countries priorities

1.2 Country Ownership, Frameworks, and Systems:

- There can be no capacity development without ownership (systems-focused AIMS discussion).
- AIMS service providers must ensure that there is a complete transfer of knowledge to the countries they serve.
- The sense of ownership and commitment to IATI at the government level and within the donor community needs to be enhanced.
- Sustainability of systems can be ensured through alignment, coordination, donor support and inclusion in a legal framework.
- Capacity at national and regional levels needs to be strengthened for the benefits of IATI be fully realised.
- It is helpful to identify the incentives that motivate different government units to promote broader ownership across government.
- Challenges to ownership include lack of continuity, lack of capacity and clarity, late reporting, and inadequate leadership and political will.
- Homegrown and other non-traditional systems of aid management indicate that what works is strong leadership, strong legal and regulatory frameworks, and strong relationships between donors.
- Country leadership is essential in building strong aid coordination including Aid Information Management Systems.
- Kenya, Rwanda, and Iraq were identified as good examples where aid and budget are linked.

1.3 Political Will and Challenges:

- Discussions should expand beyond the technical to include the political environment, issues of data input, knowledge, dialogue, awareness and accountability.
- Mention was made of the challenges of integration as purely political. The Ministry of Finance should be involved at different levels of aid coordination, planning and budgeting.
- A strong political framework can reinforce high-level ownership and reduce risk of misinformation.
- Political will, with particular adherence to integration, will help defeat many of the technical challenges.

- Global political will for IATI can be reinforced at the national level by improving integration and functional national systems.

1.4 Recommendations on the Implementation and Utilization of IATI:

- IATI needs to capture data from non-traditional actors to support effective aid management.
- There is a need to increase awareness of IATI, which will promote demand for better IATI data, and in turn more use of the data.
- IATI needs to be integrated into different databases at country level to be most effective.

2.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- To gather consensus within the partner country constituency around the use of IATI as a tool for tracking all resources available for development, and to bring that message forward into global policy discussions.
- To promote awareness of IATI within the region and greater use of development data from all sources among IATI members and non-members.
- To identify and address specific needs for improved data quality, resource or capacity constraints to promoting greater use of data at country level.
- To exchange experiences on ways in which country-level information management systems can be established/strengthened to increase the use of all available data on development finance resources.

3.0 OPENING

In his welcome remarks, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Cassiel Ato Baah Forson (MP), pointed out that Accra has seen a series of consultations and stakeholder engagements at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2008 and is committed to work towards improving aid transparency in the global development agenda. He underscored that improvement in the usability of the data is important to the quality needs of the end-user. There is the need for concerted effort towards engaging and building the capacity of end-users of development data, particularly civil society organisations, media and academia for effective outcomes, and urged the workshop to continue to advance the transparency discourse. He noted that good progress has already been made with well over 300 organisations publishing regularly to IATI, and called for continuous improvements in the way data was presented for optimal usability and transparency. He expressed gratitude to all development partners and countries that have supported the initiative since its inception. In particular, he conveyed Ghana's appreciation to IATI and UNDP and several others for the collaborative support provided to the government of Ghana.

Mr. Dominic Sam, UNDP Country Director, said that discussions and information on data gaps should be tracked appropriately in order to help improve transparency in various partner countries, noting that UNDP as a member of IATI considers the initiative as an extremely important means to support national development planning. All development partners were urged to assist in efforts to achieve transparency at all

levels, noting that Ghana has committed both human and financial capital towards the promotion of transparency and development.

4.0 PLENARY SESSION ONE: INCREASING DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH GREATER TRANSPARENCY WITHIN THE CHANGING ARCHITECTURE OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

Patrick Tiefenbacher, UNDP Senior Advisor, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, co-chaired the session with Mr. George Osei-Bimpeh of SEND-GHANA, a Ghanaian NGO. Panel members included Mr. Oladimeji Tajudeen Shogbuiyi, Director of International Cooperation, National Planning Commission (NPC) Abuja, Nigeria and Ms. Angela Kageni, Senior Programme Officer, Aidspan – Nairobi, Kenya. Panellists from Nigeria and Kenya shared their countries' experiences.

4.1 Panel Discussion on Session One

The panel discussions considered the following questions:

- How can the promotion of transparent data support the implementation of the SDGs at both the national and global level?
- What kind of data regime is needed for the most effective and robust system for the implementation of the MDGs and subsequent SDGs?
- To what extent would data availability contribute to delivery of national goals?
- How does data availability help in transparency and development?
- What role do countries have to play to get others to subscribe and sign onto IATI?
- What is the role of donors in getting their peers to join the IATI?
- How can IATI work with national level platforms to improve data?

The Nigerian delegate informed the session that the country had recently joined IATI as a way to help track data in respect of donor support. In order to have a complete picture of resources for use by the National Planning Commission, the government had installed a Development Database in 2010, and that joining IATI would be a way to capture donor inflows not captured by the DAD to improve quality and direct data usage. The NPC in Nigeria has a parastatal agency called National Bureau of Statistics that authenticates data and therefore serves as the clearing-house on all national data.

The Aidspan delegate described the experience of the Global Fund in Kenya. She indicated that donor partners like Global Fund should not shy away from telling their partners to adhere to the IATI standards. There should be the element of using data as much as is required, noting that governments should show commitment and the political will as many are not aware of the IATI standard. This, she noted, is because governments are allergic to scrutiny. She therefore urged governments to commit to the standard.

Using the example of the Global Fund, Aidspan described the enormous value in the data available through IATI, which includes data from non-state actors, but emphasised that the power in data is how it is used.

4.2 General Discussions on Session One

A delegate from the Ministry of Finance of Ghana suggested the need to include new instruments of financing, such as private individual financing towards development cooperation. He noted that some countries have benefited from development partners, citing Ghana's experience on the project on the eradication of guinea worm with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Participants agreed on the importance of capturing all sources of funding through IATI, including private donor funding.

The Somali delegate asked how IATI can support countries emerging from civil war and what assistance is available for fragile economies, such as Somalia, explaining that though development programmes are expected to be government owned and driven, INGOs are taking over government functions in this respect in Somalia. Thus exacerbating the potential for conflict between INGOs and government.

The delegate from the national I.T Agency (NITA, Ghana) encouraged civil society organisations, development partners, NGOs, public and civil service, and others to come together to promote IATI, adding that at the national and regional level, there is the need to develop a superior interactive portal, one that can give trained officers in each region the opportunity to also upload data.

The delegate from Young Innovations, Nepal, reminded participants of the context of the IATI approach, given that it is a voluntary initiative. From the Nepali experience he added that infrastructure changes at country level are necessary, as well as the means to gather accurate data to ensure development effectiveness and help in planning and budgeting. Countries must use their resources to gather data for development effectiveness, relying not only on governments but also on stakeholders such as CSOs and NGOs. Investing in quality, reliable data is also important.

The following key points arose from the panel and general discussions:

- Access to data at country level is key in issues of governance and experience has shown the need to apply agreed norms and standards such as IATI when it comes to financial data.
- So far, data from development partners in IATI only captures what is at the global level and does not reflect what is going on at the country level; IATI complements does not replace the need for regular engagement with development partners at country level.
- There is a problem of quality of data at the national level and lack of commitment to openness.

- The role of private individual financing has grown over the last decade, but data about their interventions is scant. There is the need to find ways to capture data on this stream of financing in IATI.
- To ensure reliable data, all stakeholders need to be involved both at the national and sub-national level.

5.0 PLENARY - SESSION TWO: TAKING STOCK OF THE STATUS OF DATA AVAILABILITY AND USAGE

Yvon Mombong of the Ministry of Planning, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), chaired this session. Participants made brief presentations from Young Innovations (Nepal), Madagascar, and Malawi.

5.1 Presentation One: Experience and Overview from Nepal

Presenter: Bibhusan Bista, Young Innovations, Nepal.

The presenter listed several sources where data is available, the groups that use the data, and their various purposes.

With respect to the IATI experience in Nepal, it was noted that:

- Data on results and achievements enhances forward-looking data from the source
- Tracking of expenditures makes for credible cross-verification
- IATI offers an easy way of ranking and comparing donors

The presenter reflected on the following opportunities to make IATI work better at the country level:

- Cross-sectoral linkages
- Sub-national and geo coded data
- Mapping of results against resources
- Integration with national systems
- Linking commitments and disbursements to national plans

The major challenges identified in Nepal are education and awareness on IATI, how to contextualize IATI data, issues of ownership and commitment by governments. IATI could become even more valuable at country level by adding a stronger emphasis on results and performance.

5.2 Presentation Two: Experience and Overview from Madagascar

Presenter: Isaora Zefania ROMALAHY, Office of the Prime Minister, Madagascar – Permanent Secretary for Aid Co-ordination

The presenter indicated that previously data covered both bilateral and multilateral cooperation but that IATI added information about INGO activities in his country. Having

data available at the national level has made the execution of government programmes, projects, and policies effective and efficient. Strategic data had been aligned with national programmes and the follow up of budgetary activities had been covered. Through IATI, budgetary provisions and disbursements have also been improved.

Within this country context, frequent data validation workshops are held with stakeholders and IATI in order to ensure conformity. These workshops have always seen representation from the ministerial level, which helped to deal with challenges such as data collection.

Regular communication between the IATI Secretariat and the various countries in order to improve coordination was recommended.

Madagascar usually holds round table discussions with development partners on financing at the national level. The Global Fund has also assisted Madagascar in developing a harmonized database.

5.3 Presentation Three: Experience and Overview from Malawi

Presenter: Chimvano Thawani, Debt and Aid Officer, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Malawi

Mrs. Thawani stated that IATI registry is one of the major open data sources capturing other donor flows not reported at the national level. Although not much had been done on sensitizing other users to IATI, plans are far advanced to engage them, indicating in Malawi's adoption of the IATI standards in implementing its aid management platform. With respect to IATI country experience in Madagascar, the following challenges were identified in regards to open data:

- Connectivity problems, as most data are online and many users lack internet access
- Data quality
- Capacity to manage and use the open data
- Failure to recognise the importance of open data sources

In relation to these challenges, Malawi has put in place the following plans:

- Upgrading the AMP and linking it to IATI
- Integrating AMP with other government systems
- Finalizing rollout to line ministries and local governments
- Sensitizing stakeholders and the public on AMP and IATI
- Creating linkages with other open data initiatives with support from the Open Aid Partnership of the World Bank

5.4 Open Discussion on Session Two Presentations

In response to a query, delegates were informed that international NGOs provide the needed data by way of questionnaires, often through the identified focal person. Given that organizational integrity is at stake, these focal points are trusted to provide such information.

The delegate from Madagascar stated that there exists a need for cooperation and configuration of country data. In addition, there exists a need for harmonization of terminologies. Programmes, projects, and policies should be differentiated from each other at the country-level.

6.0 PLENARY - SESSION THREE: RAISING AWARENESS OF IATI AND WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY USING THE DATA

6.1 PRESENTATION ONE: d-Portal

Presenter: Bibhusan Bista, Young Innovations.

www.d-portal.org is a powerful visualisation tool that uses IATI data to show where money for development cooperation is coming from and where it is going, as well as the sectors and projects being funded. Using Nepal as an example, the demonstration revealed how d-portal can be customized to suit country needs. In the Nepal case, d-portal was able to indicate the top donors of development assistance over the years.

6.2 Group Discussions

In group breakout discussions, delegates reflected on the following list of questions and provided key responses to their increased knowledge of IATI as well as identified information gaps.

6.3 What did you learn about IATI?

- D-portal is a tool that can be customized to meet various needs for information on aid flows reported through IATI.
- The responsibility to publish quality data lies with both donors and implementing partners.
- IATI is not a database, but a data standard for the publication of data on aid and other financial flows.

6.4 Other questions?

- How will IATI help programmes that already capture a lot more data through their national AIMS?
- How can the issue of double counting be tackled in the IATI Registry?
- How will IATI address some optional fields that are not reported but are important to partner countries?
- How secure is the tool considering it is web-based, and how flexible is it?

6.5 What will be done differently?

- Promote IATI in a way that removes the perception of competition with national data systems.
- Make clear how existing national data systems may be aligned to IATI.
- Avoid the misconception that IATI is a database.
- More use of the IATI Registry to get data on aid to countries.

7.0 PLENARY - SESSION FOUR: ADDRESSING QUESTIONS ON USE OF DATA, DATA QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Danila Boneva, UNDP Rwanda Aid Effectiveness and Resource Mobilization Coordinator, chaired the session with presentations by Marie Angie Ingabire of Rwanda, Yvon Mombong of DRC, and Andambike Mololo of Tanzania.

7.1 PRESENTATION ONE: DAD-RWANDA IATI INTEGRATION

Presenter: Marie Angie Ingabire, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

Rwanda's experience integrating its DAD systems with IATI was articulated. The following reasons were presented for the DAD-Rwanda IATI Integration:

- Reduced data duplication and burden of manual entry at the country level;
- Improved comparability between global and country level data; and
- Integration of the local system with the global aid transparency standard and being ahead of developments in this field.

Since the pilot work of importing IATI data into the IFMIS through the DAD was still ongoing, the presentation highlighted some of the process constraints identified:

- Sometimes, the IATI donor publishers do not provide required fields in DAD-Rwanda.
- Some required values in the DAD were missing in IATI.
- Many IATI attributes allowed flexibility in specifying values which are sometimes ignored by publishers
- From the IATI conversion log, only a very small activities were successfully imported at first attempt.

The following solutions were proposed:

- Publishers should implement version 2.01 of IATI and improve data quality and timeliness

- Lower conversion to mapping requirements, such as changing some errors to warnings, should be adopted.
- Continuous work on the improvement of data mapping rules is necessary.

7.2 PRESENTATION TWO: L'utilisation Des Donnes IATI En RDC: Principles Contraintes.

Presenter: Yvon Mombong, Ministry of Planning.

As a result of its post-conflict context, DRC has difficulties in planning the budgeting, which makes IATI especially valuable. Certain challenges with IATI were outlined in the DRC context, including an emphasis on the lack of sensitization among stakeholders, weak leadership on the part of government, and lack of capacity of stakeholders to take full advantage of IATI.

The following solutions were proposed:

- Further UNDP assistance in the promotion of IATI.
- Promotion of sustainable development options as an alternative to prolonged dependency of external donor funding.
- The integration of IATI into different country level databases.
- The expansion of IATI publishing at the regional and international levels.

7.3 PRESENTATION THREE: AMP and Data Quality IATI Regional Workshop

Presenter: Adambike Mololo, Ministry of Finance, Tanzania.

The presentation highlighted Tanzania's struggle with ODA management before adopting AMP. Since adopting AMP some of the key achievements for Tanzania include:

- AMP playing a key role in the preparation of the annual budget
- The use of AMP to provide information on different projects, and for monitoring and evaluating them
- The use of the AMP data by the media, students and civil societies
- The customizing of public workspaces to AMP

The following challenges of using AMP were outlined:

- Data quality and coverage, as not all aid information is captured
- The capturing of data on donor funds, particularly for project modality
- Internet accessibility for users
- Trained MDAs tend not to enter their expenditures in the AMP

Tanzania articulated the continuation of upgrading its AMP exercise, engage broad participation of stakeholders, link AMP with other databases, and manage various AMP knowledge sharing opportunities and experiences to promote South - South co-operation as the best way forward.

7.4. Open Discussion on Session 4 presentations

Discussions focused on some of the challenges of using available data systems. The tendency of data systems, including IATI, to capture disbursements and commitments without much emphasis on expenditure was a main issue addressed. In addition, delegates also examined the need to stimulate demand for the use of data.

Delegates generally agreed upon the importance of simplifying data templates to make systems more mobile-friendly. In addressing the role of non-traditional actors in the flow of aid, the case of Côte d'Ivoire was cited, in which NGOs were required to report sources of funding and projects, as an example of quality information accessibility.

8.0 PLENARY - SESSION FIVE: IMPROVING SYSTEMS

Delegates were divided into four groups to discuss implementation challenges and drivers for success, with the intention of drawing on country experience. Delegates also considered the relationship of AIMS with other systems at country level as well as the processes and frameworks that underpin the effective functioning of those systems.

8.1 Group A: Learning from home-grown and other non-traditional systems of aid information management

The group of delegates emphasized that the effective utilization of homegrown systems requires the presence of strong legal and regulatory framework. In addition, homegrown systems should have a single entry point for donors to improve oversight and compliance.

To improve upon homegrown and other non-traditional systems of aid information management the delegates identified the following measures:

- Bringing IATI global political will to the national level by bringing improved integration and functioning national systems
- Strong country leadership
- Building infrastructure for managing the frameworks
- Local capacity building to operate data systems effectively

8.2 Group B: Lessons learned on integration with national planning / budgeting process

The group of delegates identified two goals of integration: planning and transparency. Citing Kenya, Rwanda and Iraq as good examples of aid and budget-linked scenarios, the need for integration of aid and public investment automating with budget planning was emphasized.

Political will was identified as one major challenge to integration, with the reluctance of national ministries to share information widely noted. In light of this, the delegates called for a political framework with controls of each system and for resources to be contributed from each side.

Using Ghana as a country example, the delegates focused on processes of integration, highlighting that in Ghana, the aid system captures aid and debt figures together. In addition, the Ghanaian debt management system successfully materializes into budget management. However, despite national efforts, Ghana has not yet linked the systems. As a result, information is extracted, put into Excel, and fed into budget management. The major challenges of such a system include linking payments to sectors and debt repayment at the aggregate level. However, Ghana's aid flow has drastically reduced, creating the need to reduce expectations during the budget process.

Linking Ghana's experience to South Africa, the delegates noted that technical assistance and grants are inputted into Excel manually in South Africa, and thus automation will require political motivation. Automation was identified as a key challenge of integration, given its implementation dependency on political agreements, good data, timing and classification mechanisms.

In Moldova, serious political and technical challenges remain in integration. However, delegates advised that the formulation of political will, or even a champion for integration, can facilitate the country in overcoming technical challenges. Champions of integration were identified as critical in country-contexts, especially at the start of integration; however, these practices need to be institutionalised by using the data and demanding the data across country systems.

The question was raised as to why challenges to institutionalise aid systems exist, when budget and public investment systems are readily available was posed. The delegates noted that challenges were largely the result of development partners' reluctance to adopt new systems, especially if payments or decisions are made offshore.

It was observed that direct integration is taking place with multi-donor direct budget support.

8.3 Group C: Lessons learned on Capturing Forward-Spending Information / Enhancing Predictability

The group discussed the partnerships of Rwanda, Ghana and Somalia with UNDP and the Netherlands with respect to forward- spending information. In these countries, the key indicators were predicted on how much donor funds were in coming. However, gaps in predictability were still identified. For example, in Rwanda, development assistance to the budget was 10 percent, but the national budget did not capture this information.

To enhance information and predictability, DAC donors should be proactive in relaying data from OECD for planning purposes. This can be achieved through IATI which

captures forward-looking data. Discussions emphasized the need to build dialogue with development partners, citing the Rwanda example, in which the government and development partners have forged a coalition where all data is shared.

Constraints to accessing forward-looking data were identified, including varying fiscal years of donors and partner countries and the frequency of publishing data. Donors may not be able to publish data as frequently as the partner countries may require. The group of delegates acknowledged that where country data management mechanisms were working well, donors are more willing to support systems.

8.4 Group D: Ensuring Ownership / Sustainability of systems

The group presented a report on how to ensure sustainability.

The following mechanisms and conditions were identified to develop support systems:

- Alignment of resources
- Coordination mechanisms led by government
- Getting donor and other private financing support
- Developing legal/policy frameworks
- Developing teams/ecosystems approaches, with effective orientation and handover to ensure continuity
- Timely reporting
- Awareness of the right to the information
- Understanding the value and institutionalizing the values of accountability and transparency at country level
- Enhancing civil service capacity to use and maintain the system
- Ownership within appropriate ministries and departments
- Identifying incentives to motivate appropriate government units and stakeholders

The following key challenges of sustainability were identified:

- Underestimating technical requirements
- Securing adequate involvement of local partners
- Insufficient political will
- Lack of clarity on the technical requirements to integrate into existing work, systems or political agenda
- Attrition of trained staff without adequate handover procedures
- Inconsistent application of policy and legal framework
- Unrealistic expectations on what the platform could deliver
- Lack of timely reporting and turnover strategy
- Limited capacity and awareness

9.0 PLENARY - SESSION SIX: NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION EFFECTIVELY

Mme Zongo Kabore Alimatou, Ministry of Finance, Burkina Faso chaired the session with panellists including Eugene Sawyerr, Ministry of Finance, Sierra Leone and Lamine Camara, Ministry of Finance, Guinea.

An overview of Sierra Leone's experience in managing development cooperation was presented, with an emphasis on accountability mechanisms between government and donors. Sierra Leone has worked on the mutual accountability framework within the country for the past two years, and collaborates closely with development cooperation partners, evident in the working groups focused on aid coordination that exists at every district and national level. The Ministry of Finance has the DAD developed by Synergy. The key issue for many donors in Sierra Leone is that data is often released on past disbursements and commitments, rather than current or forward-looking data. Information is obtained from the district and sectorial working groups, with reports collected from the district level. However, the reports are not solely focused on aid coordination.

An overview of the Guinean experience was also presented, which emphasized the major challenges involving the legal and regulatory framework.

The Ministry of Finance of Guinea manages the overall budget, but planning is more complex, involving a multi-year process. In relation to aid coordination, constant interfacing with the technical and financial partners had been achieved, with Guinea receiving both technical and financial support from donors during the recent Ebola outbreak. Despite such relations, the Ministry of Finance is highly concerned about the level of aid coordination. Guinea expressed interest in becoming a member of IATI as a way to better facilitate aid coordination processes.

Regarding the content of policy governing aid and the role of sectorial groups, Guinea intends to organise a forum on a National Aid Policy, which will be preceded by a draft policy document. A diverse range of stakeholders will be invited to participate including district level leaders, donors and development partners, CSOs, academia, media and the general public. The policy is expected to define the role of each stakeholder with regards to aid coordination. The government is currently deliberating on which software of aid coordination to use.

In the case of Somalia, delegates were informed that donors have trust in the Central Bank. Donor partners and UNDP develop their own guidelines, and while there is no policy framework on aid coordination, a code of conduct that guides operations exists within the country.

10.0 CLOSING

On behalf of the Ghanaian Government, Mr. Michael Ayesu, Director External Resource, Mobilisation and Multilaterals, Ministry Of Finance thanked delegates for their thoughtful participation. He also thanked the presenters, chairs, rapporteurs, interpreters and all who contributed to the success of the workshop.

Mr. Ayensu recalled that Ghana is in the preparatory phase of the deployment of its development assistance platform, and therefore, is keen to learn from the experiences of other countries and actors, especially in regards to the challenges encountered and how such challenges were addressed as well as how integration within existing systems can be achieved.

Mr. Ayensu also stressed that the workshop recognises:

- Data gathering, storage, and usage cannot be overemphasized within the evolving context of development cooperation;
- Leadership at both the political and technical levels is imperative to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the systems deployed;
- And, for data published to IATI and captured by various systems to be useful, country actors need to stimulate the demand from the citizens in whose interest they act.

Appendix 1

INTERNATIONAL AID TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (IATI) REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT DATA AND USAGE

ACCRA - GHANA, 19-20 MARCH, 2015
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**FOR FACILITATION OF THE WORKSHOP AND
PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT**