



Standard Operating Procedures Revision 8, July 2024

Revised July 2024
(Replaces Version 7, March 2020)

This document sets out Standard Operating Procedures for the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Version 8 remains in force until further revisions by members.

Standard Operating Procedures Change Record Rev. 8

Revision 8, July 2024

Extensive text edits throughout the document to reflect the transition of hosting arrangements agreed during the March 2023 Members’ Assembly and available through the IATI website as IATI Members’ Assembly 2023 Minutes here:

https://iatistandard.org/documents/10745/IATI_Members_Assembly_2023_Minutes.pdf.

In addition, several amendments to the Membership section were made to clarify the text and reflect the outcomes of research and consultation undertaken by the SOP Working Group in 2023/24. This includes the addition of new sections on waivers of membership contributions (and corresponding addition to 4.5 regarding the Board responsibilities related to budget and finance), and good financial standing (2.4).

A change record for Revisions 1-8 can be seen at Annex VIII

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## 1. Purpose of the document

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document is to draw together and codify all decisions taken by IATI members in relation to governance of the initiative. It is intended as a living document which may be updated periodically at the request of the Members’ Assembly to reflect new priorities or operating realities. The SOP and all subsequent updates are available publicly at [iatistandard.org/en/](http://iatistandard.org/en/).

## 2. Membership of IATI

All organisations that commit to the IATI vision and mission (as outlined in Annex I) can join IATI.

Members demonstrate visionary international leadership and commitment to the principles of transparency and to furthering the growth of the initiative as a public good. They may attend IATI Members' Assembly meetings and vote on IATI's direction, strategic priorities and changes to the Standard; contribute to the governance of the initiative through participation in governance working groups; and participate in elections for Governing Board membership.

## **2.1. Commitments of member constituencies**

Membership of IATI is open to the following constituencies, all of which commit to share and promote the vision of IATI, contribute expertise to relevant working groups, and pay an annual membership contribution as described in 2.3 - Annual membership contributions, subject to the exception at 2.4 - Waivers of membership contribution:

2.1.1. Providers of development cooperation. Traditional donors, multilateral institutions, philanthropic foundations and providers of South-South Cooperation are included within this constituency.

2.1.1.1. Providers of Development Cooperation also commit to implement the Standard or begin implementation within one year of joining as members.

2.1.2. Partner countries.

2.1.2.1. Partner Countries also commit to using IATI data to the greatest extent possible.

2.1.3. Civil society organisations (CSOs) and other organisations.

2.1.3.1. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other organisations also advocate for the use of the IATI Standard, leading by example and publishing themselves wherever possible.

2.1.3.2. When more than three organisations are publishing in one country and are part of a broader platform, the platform (whether national, regional or global) will be invited as the proxy representative for members;

2.1.4. Private sector organisations<sup>1</sup>.

2.1.4.1. Private sector organisations also advocate for the use of the IATI Standard, leading by example and publishing themselves where they are also providers of development cooperation or providers of commercial services.

## **2.2. Registration Process for New Members**

An organisation formally becomes a member of IATI through an exchange of letters triggered by a request to the IATI Secretariat, through which it agrees to honour IATI's values and principles. The IATI Secretariat undertakes a process of due diligence with new member organisations and prepares, negotiates and signs a contribution

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<sup>1</sup> For governance purposes, private sector organisations are counted as 'other organisations' together with CSOs. Constituency structure was out of scope for this round of SOP revisions.

agreement with the organisation. Membership requests should be sent to [support@iatistandard.org](mailto:support@iatistandard.org).

### 2.3. Annual Membership Contributions

- 2.3.1. Members are required to pay an annual membership contribution to provide predictable funding to IATI. Membership contributions are expected to cover 100 % of the approved budget. Efforts are made to keep the contribution as stable as possible.
- 2.3.2. The amount is reviewed by the Governing Board as part of the annual work plan and budgeting process.
- 2.3.3. The annual contribution amount is approved by the Members' Assembly based on the recommendation of the Governing Board.
- 2.3.4. Membership contributions are collected annually by the Fund Manager as described at 6.5 and in accordance with standards of service set out in the IATI Service Catalogue described at 6.3.1.
- 2.3.5. Secretariat organisations are not required to make a financial contribution since their membership is through the support provided to the IATI Secretariat.
- 2.3.6. The membership contribution schedule is shown below<sup>2</sup>:

| Membership Category | Description                                                              | Membership Contribution (annual) |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tier PDC1           | Provider of development cooperation                                      | \$ 85,000                        |
| Tier PS1            | Private sector organisations with annual turnover exceeding \$10m        | Upon request                     |
| Tier PS2            | Private sector organisations with annual turnover between \$1m and \$10m | \$2,200                          |
| Tier PS3            | Private sector organisations with annual turnover below \$1m             | \$1,100                          |
| Tier PC1            | Partner countries                                                        | \$2,200                          |
| Tier CS1            | CSO and other organisations with annual expenditure exceeding \$10m      | \$2,200                          |
| Tier CS2            | CSO and other organisations with annual expenditure below \$10m          | \$1,100                          |

- 2.3.7. An adjusted scale has been agreed for UN entities to promote an increase in membership within that constituency. Annual membership contributions for UN entities are shown below<sup>3</sup>:

<sup>2</sup> Applicable from 2019

<sup>3</sup> Agency expenditure figures are taken from 2014 reporting by UN agencies to the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination: <http://www.unsceb.org/content/FS-F00-03>.

|      |                                                      |          |
|------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| UN 1 | UN entities with annual expenditure over \$1b        | \$85,000 |
| UN 2 | UN entities with annual expenditure of \$500m-\$1b   | \$46,500 |
| UN 3 | UN entities with annual expenditure of \$100m-\$500m | \$33,000 |
| UN 4 | UN entities with annual expenditure below \$100m     | \$10,000 |

## 2.4. *Waivers of membership contributions*

The IATI Members' Assembly has delegated to the IATI Governing Board the authority to consider and approve certain exceptions in relation to membership contributions.

In situations where an eligible member (as defined at 2.4.1) is experiencing political, social, economic or other justifiable challenges that impact upon its ability to pay its annual membership contribution, the member may submit a request to the Governing Board to have its annual membership contribution waived. The possibility of receiving a waiver is included in order to allow a greater number of CSOs, providers of South-South Cooperation and other smaller members to engage in IATI at a very low cost to the initiative.

- 2.4.1. For the purpose of determining the availability of a waiver, eligibility is further defined as follows:
  - 2.4.1.1. Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility of the member country or the country where a member's Headquarters is located;
  - 2.4.1.2. For non-governmental members, the member's limited financial capacity, defined as having annual expenditures below \$1 million.<sup>45</sup> This will be determined based on the member's most recent financial statement or annual report.
- 2.4.2. Individual members should address an official request for deviation from the normal membership contribution amount or payment schedule by email to the IATI Governing Board at [chair@iatistandard.org](mailto:chair@iatistandard.org), with detailed justification for the requested deviation. The request must be accompanied by a clear explanation of the exceptional circumstances.
- 2.4.3. The Governing Board will consider each request received and inform the member of its decision as early as possible.

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<sup>4</sup> The USD \$1 million threshold in annual expenditures aligns with the membership category threshold for PS3 (the smallest private sector organisations). It is important to note while the current CSO membership category has a USD \$10 million threshold, the USD \$1 million threshold shall duly apply when considering a CSO's waiver eligibility.

<sup>5</sup> The \$1 million threshold in annual expenditures aligns with the membership category threshold for PS3 (the smallest private sector organisations). The current CSO membership category has a \$10 million threshold, which the WG considers too high for waivers. If or when membership categories are revised, the threshold for waivers should be reviewed and, ideally, aligned on the new categories.

- 2.4.4. The Governing Board shall retain the ability to approve a special waiver in cases not covered by published criteria, where it is determined to be in the best interest of IATI to do so, but must make decisions consistently, document each decision, and publish them in the public domain.
- 2.4.5. All waivers shall be granted for a duration of 2 years.
- 2.4.6. Annual reports on waivers granted (including name of member country or organisation, value and rationale for the waiver) must be documented and published on the IATI website.
- 2.4.7. Upon payment of the full amount of any outstanding membership contributions due, membership status is regained.

## **2.5. *Good financial standing***

- 2.5.1. All members are required to pay their membership contributions or otherwise obtain a waiver if appropriate, no later than Q4 (October – December) for the current calendar year of active membership.
- 2.5.2. An additional 3 months for payment may be extended to any member (i.e., during Q1, January – March) of the following year in exceptional circumstances upon a member's request to the Secretariat. Requests for additional time must be documented and published on the IATI website.
- 2.5.3. New members have the right to take part in governance processes including elections and members-only votes, from the time payment has been received.
- 2.5.4. In the case of non-payment and lack of waiver, members would drop to Observer status until good financial standing is resumed. Observers cannot speak or participate in any governance activities or election votes.
- 2.5.5. Members remaining in breach of their financial standing commitments for more than 12 months after the due date of payment are removed from the listed members in the IATI website, having first been informed by the Secretariat of this circumstance and course of action. Once removed, they can apply as a new member at any point (as defined at 2.2) participating in governance processes once payment has been received (as defined at 2.4.1).
- 2.5.6. In respect of Board members for whom a higher standard of conduct is expected, the following clause applies:
  - 2.5.6.1. Board members unable to remain in good financial standing as defined above are expected to vacate their seats. Alternates identified through the nomination and election period may be offered the vacant seat in the order of the election result.

2.5.6.2. In the event a Board member is found not to be in good financial standing, where it is determined to be in the best interest of IATI to do so, the Governing Board will make decisions on an appropriate course of action. In the event of failure to reach consensus, the Chair has a casting vote (or the Vice-Chair if the Chair is the member that is not in good standing). The Board is expected to make decisions consistently, document each decision, and publish them.

### **3. Members' Assembly**

The term 'Members' Assembly' refers to the body of members that have formally joined IATI. A complete list of IATI members is updated regularly and available on the IATI website: <https://iatistandard.org/en/about/join-iat/members-assembly/>. The term 'MA' refers to the formal physical or virtual meeting of members for governance purposes, as described in the Terms of Reference for the Members' Assembly.

#### **3.1 Terms of Reference for the Members' Assembly**

Members work towards establishing IATI as a streamlined component of the aid effectiveness agenda and development cooperation architecture; expand its membership to cover not only all providers of official development finance but as many actors as possible within the changing aid architecture and throughout the entire aid delivery chain; and continuously work to improve the quality, credibility, accessibility and usability of IATI data.

To achieve these aims the Members' Assembly comes together as a governing body in formal meetings to fulfil the following roles:

- 3.1.1 To discuss and approve recommendations by the Governing Board on strategic direction and oversight of the Strategic Plan<sup>6</sup> thereby ensuring that IATI continues to support its members in meeting their global transparency commitments.
- 3.1.2 To support a wide range of stakeholders within the development cooperation architecture and ensure that the IATI Standard continues to evolve to meet the requirements of all stakeholders including the humanitarian community.
- 3.1.3 To ensure that IATI meets the needs of key users of information, in particular partner countries and civil society.
- 3.1.4 To ensure that IATI builds on and adds value to existing national and global systems and standards that seek to improve the transparency of resources available for development.

#### **3.2 Responsibilities of Members' Assembly**

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<sup>6</sup> IATI Strategic Plan 2020 – 25 approved by members in September 2019, available here in English, French and Spanish <https://iatistandard.org/en/about/governance/iat-strategic-plan-2020-2025/>

The Members' Assembly has the following responsibilities:

- 3.2.1 To receive and decide upon recommendations from the Board in a timely manner when called upon to do so, either in physical meetings or through virtual means.
- 3.2.2 To provide expertise in support of the work of the Board as needed, including through participation in working groups set up by the Board.
- 3.2.3 To initiate and approve **major** upgrades to the IATI Standard, in accordance with the detailed process set out in the IATI website reference pages <http://reference.iatistandard.org/203/upgrades/> and Annex II: IATI Standard upgrade process.

### **3.3 Meeting arrangements and logistics**

- 3.3.1 IATI Members' Assembly meetings are held annually and are open to all members, with provision for interested non-members to attend as experts and/or observers, but without the right to vote.
- 3.3.2 Representatives of the IATI Secretariat are ex-officio members, and may attend and speak, but may not vote.
- 3.3.3 Where appropriate, Members' Assembly meetings take place alongside other meetings, to reduce travel time and costs for participants.
- 3.3.4 Members are expected to cover their own costs of participation.
- 3.3.5 All agendas, papers, minutes and outputs from Members' Assembly meetings are made publicly available, unless otherwise agreed by the Members' Assembly.
- 3.3.6 Agendas and papers for meetings are published on the IATI website and shared with IATI members by email at least two weeks in advance of meetings, with French and other language versions provided where appropriate based on the location of the meeting.
- 3.3.7 In case urgent matters arise which require a decision from the Members' Assembly, the Governing Board has the authority to call for an ad-hoc virtual meeting of all members. In such cases documentation is distributed virtually to all members and a deadline for response is set to approve decisions virtually.
- 3.3.8 Minutes are taken by the IATI Secretariat and made publicly available once final.

### **3.4 Decision-making by the Members' Assembly**

- 3.4.1 Decisions at physical meetings are made by consensus, with provision for those unable to attend in person to register their views ahead of a meeting. In exceptional circumstances where consensus cannot be achieved, decisions are taken using a triple-lock system, requiring a simple majority in each of the member constituencies outlined at Paragraph 2.1, with the vote taken after the meeting, online, and on the



basis of one vote per member organisation. If the proposal fails to achieve a simple majority in one of the three constituencies, it is not passed.

- 3.4.2 A process of written procedure may be applied for decisions required outside of physical meetings. Relevant documentation is circulated via email by the Secretariat to all members together with a clear deadline of no less than ten working days, and an explanation of the process for submitting feedback. If additional information is requested during the ten-day period this shall be supplied to all members. Any objections raised are shared with all members with attribution to the submitting organisation, and an amended text is circulated. If no further objection is received within five working days the decision is considered to be accepted and members are informed by email.

## **4 IATI Governing Board**

The role of the Board is to present options and make recommendations on overall strategic direction to the Members' Assembly, oversee the institutional performance of the initiative and ensure that IATI operates effectively according to its mission, vision, and values as determined by its members. The Board is accountable to the Members' Assembly for progress on the strategic plan and oversight and approval of the annual work plans and budget, and for oversight of the Secretariat through the Executive Director, but has no operational role in the day-to-day management of the Secretariat. The working language of the Board is English.

### **4.1 IATI Governing Board – Composition and chairmanship**

- 4.1.1 The Board is comprised of two members from each of the three constituencies recognized in Paragraph 2.1 above (providers of development co-operation, partner countries, and civil society organisations / private sector organisations / other members) as well as a focused technical seat, totalling seven seats. There is no provision for separate representation on the Board from the private sector constituency at this time<sup>7</sup>, and private sector representatives may be elected within the civil society organisations/other members constituency.
- 4.1.2 The Governing Board is responsible for electing its own Chair and Vice-Chair/s during its first meeting and informing the Members' Assembly through the Secretariat.
- 4.1.3 The term for all Board members including the Chair and Vice-Chair is two years. At the end of the first year the Board will reconfirm the Chairpersonship and Vice-Chairpersonship.
- 4.1.4 Board members may continue to serve for as many two-year terms as they are elected for, with no cap.

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<sup>7</sup> [https://iatistandard.org/documents/230/IATI\\_Members\\_Assembly\\_2017\\_minutes\\_.pdf](https://iatistandard.org/documents/230/IATI_Members_Assembly_2017_minutes_.pdf) Page 12 listing recommendations on institutional review that were **not** accepted

- 4.1.5 In the event that a Board member chooses to take a leave of absence or is unable to complete his/her full term, the Chair may call for a by-election to replace that Board member if more than six months of his/her term remains until subsequent Board elections.

## **4.2 Governing Board election process**

Board elections take place in time for the formation of a full Board by 1 April every two years. Any member is eligible to self-nominate, or be nominated by another organisation within their own constituency. The full election process and criteria are outlined in detail in Annex IV: Election Process for Governing Board.

## **4.3 Responsibilities of the Chair of the Board**

Working with the IATI Secretariat, the Chair of the Board is expected to:

- 4.3.1 Chair meetings of the Governing Board and establish processes to enable a smooth transition following the election of new Board members.
- 4.3.2 Ensure that Governing Board members adhere to the letter and spirit of IATI's Annexes V: Code of Conduct and VII: Board Policy to Report and Mitigate Conflicts of Interest.
- 4.3.3 Chair the annual Members' Assembly meeting and ensure it gives adequate strategic guidance to the Board.
- 4.3.4 Provide political leadership for IATI inter alia through representation at high-level meetings and in other discussion forums relevant to the broader transparency agenda as necessary, acting as an advocate and as an exemplar for the initiative.
- 4.3.5 Encourage attendance plus the full and equal participation of all stakeholders in Members' Assembly meetings, ensuring in particular that the views of all member constituencies are fully represented in all discussions.
- 4.3.6 Report the views of absent members at the Members' Assembly meetings, on the basis of prior consultation.
- 4.3.7 Guide Members' Assembly and Board members to take decisions by consensus wherever possible.
- 4.3.8 Respond to issues raised by IATI members as they occur, referring them to the IATI Secretariat as appropriate.
- 4.3.9 Provide timely guidance to the Secretariat on matters of strategic importance.
- 4.3.10 Determine and agree upon the division of labour among Board members.
- 4.3.11 The Vice-Chair/s deputise for the Chair as necessary and may be called upon to chair discussions of specific agenda items as appropriate.

## **4.4 Functions of the Board**

In addition to the Governance and Oversight responsibilities set out in section 9, and with the support of the Secretariat, the Board is expected to undertake the following functions:

- 4.4.1 Guide the development of a clear vision, mission, and strategic direction for IATI, to be approved by the Members' Assembly, and to oversee implementation, periodic review thereafter.
- 4.4.2 Initiate, oversee and approve minor IATI standard upgrades in accordance with Annex II: IATI Standard upgrade process.
- 4.4.3 Provide guidance on the development of Members' Assembly agendas and papers by the Secretariat.
- 4.4.4 Sign-off on IATI's Annual Report.
- 4.4.5 Commission independent evaluations of IATI every three to five years.
- 4.4.6 For a decision that requires the Assembly's approval, wherever possible and appropriate the Board will present options to the Assembly for consideration, in addition to providing its recommended course of action.

#### ***4.5 Responsibilities of the Board related to budget and finance***

The Board undertakes the following functions related to the work plan and budget:

- 4.5.1 Sign off periodic work plans and budgets prepared by the Secretariat that support strategic priorities approved by the Members' Assembly.
- 4.5.2 Oversee implementation of the work plan and budget thereafter, providing progress reports to the Members' Assembly and recommendations for action.
- 4.5.3 Approve revisions to the agreed budget and work plan within the limits of delegated authority described at 4.6 below. The Chair should seek authority from the Members' Assembly for larger variations.
- 4.5.4 Review work plans, budgets, substantive and financial reports submitted by the Secretariat and take required action to ensure the effective implementation of the approved IATI work plan and budget;
- 4.5.5 Make decisions on members' requests for membership contribution waivers;
- 4.5.6 Advise the Members' Assembly on the overall financial situation of IATI and recommend action when required;
- 4.5.7 Actively support fundraising activities of IATI.

#### ***4.6 Management of the contingency reserve fund.***

- 4.6.1 The Board may authorise the drawdown of funds from the contingency reserve fund to cover costs that fall outside of the approved budget envelope. The fund is set at an annual figure amounting to the greater of

either 15% of the preceding year's budget or USD \$1million and shall be replenished during the following financial year if drawn down. The Board considers all circumstances upon receiving a request from the Secretariat to draw down reserve funds, and shall apply the following criteria in authorising such drawdown:

- 4.6.1.1 Does the unforeseen cost fall outside of the approved budget for the year in question;
  - 4.6.1.2 Is the cost related to an urgent activity;
  - 4.6.1.3 Can the cost be managed through a regular budget revision;
  - 4.6.1.4 Has the Secretariat provided detailed financial estimates and clear explanation for the request for additional funds;
  - 4.6.1.5 Does the amount requested fall within the amount of funds available.
- 4.6.2 If the Board is satisfied that these criteria have been met, it approves the amount to be drawn down.
  - 4.6.3 If the contingency reserve fund is drawn down to zero in any given year, funds from an underutilised line item can be used to replenish it upon the decision of the Governing Board.
  - 4.6.4 Funds remaining in the contingency reserve fund are rolled over to serve as contingency in the following year;
  - 4.6.5 Members will be updated on any decisions by the Board in relation to the contingency reserve fund at the subsequent Members' Assembly.

#### ***4.7 Authority of the Governing Board***

The Governing Board is responsible and accountable to the Members' Assembly for oversight of the Secretariat through the Executive Director, approval of the annual work plan and budget, and progress on the strategic plan.

#### ***4.8 Decision-making by the Board***

- 4.8.1 Quorum for the board is at least one member from each constituency represented, plus the Chair or Vice Chair, totalling four seats.
- 4.8.2 The Chair guides the Board to make decisions by consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved, decisions are taken by a simple majority.
- 4.8.3 When an issue is considered important or urgent and cannot be resolved by the Board, the Chair may decide to refer the issue to the Members' Assembly for decision as set out in 3.4 above, Decision-Making by the Members' Assembly.
- 4.8.4 Decisions on recommendations to the Members' Assembly should be taken during Board meetings.

- 4.8.5 If decisions need to be taken outside of Board meetings, the Chair will lead a process for decision-making using virtual platforms, facilitated by the Secretariat.

#### **4.9 Secretariat Support to the Board**

In addition to its general role in support of IATI listed at Sections 6-9 of this document, the Secretariat supports the Board in the following ways:

- 4.9.1 Establish meeting schedules and circulate agendas under the guidance of the Chair of the Board.
- 4.9.2 Provide regular updates to the Board on implementation of the work plan.
- 4.9.3 Develop materials for consideration and guidance by the Board, as and when required.
- 4.9.4 Handle logistical arrangements for all scheduled meetings of the Board and the Members' Assembly.
- 4.9.5 Facilitate contact with Board members at the request of IATI members or external bodies or individuals.
- 4.9.6 Prepare and publish minutes of Board meetings.
- 4.9.7 The IATI Executive Director along with selected members of the Secretariat attend Board meetings but do not have voting rights.

#### **4.10 Administration and Transparency of the Board**

- 4.10.1 The Board ensures efficient and transparent administration of the initiative.
- 4.10.2 Board members should carry out their work in a consultative manner.
- 4.10.3 The Board may invite members to attend meetings should their expertise be relevant to a particular topic on the agenda. In all other cases meetings are limited to Board Members.
- 4.10.4 Within the approved budget the Board may commission additional external expertise as well as delegate tasks to Working Groups of members as required.
- 4.10.5 Minutes are taken by the IATI Secretariat during Board meetings and made publicly available online. The minutes for each meeting include a list of attendees, decisions taken and any proposals made.
- 4.10.6 Board meetings take place virtually on a quarterly basis and in-person immediately before IATI Members' Assembly meetings.
- 4.10.7 The annual schedule of meetings is prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with Board members and published in advance.
- 4.10.8 The Secretariat is responsible for making preparations for Board meetings under the guidance of the Chair. Notifications to all Board

members include the provisional meeting agenda, proposals to be discussed, decisions to be made, and any working documents. This information should be made available to Board members no less than 7 business days before the meeting date.

4.10.9 If a Board member is not able to attend a meeting, they must provide notice to the Chair as soon as possible. Board members are expected to make best efforts to attend every meeting.

4.10.10 The Chair and Vice-Chair/s, in common with other IATI members, are expected to self-fund their attendance at the IATI Members' Assembly meetings and are not reimbursed for their time.

4.10.11 Reasonable expenses calculated on the basis of United Nations Rules and Regulations on Travel can be claimed by the Chair and Vice-Chair if they are invited to represent IATI at high-level external meetings, subject to availability of funds.

## **5 IATI Working Groups and Communities of Practice**

### **5.1 Working Groups**

Working Groups (WGs) are specific and time-bound groups established to provide expert advice to the Members' Assembly or Governing Board. A WG could be established for example to advise on specific areas of development within the Standard.

#### **5.1.1 Establishment and composition**

5.1.1.1 Working Groups are mandated by either the Members' Assembly or the Governing Board in response to needs outlined in the Strategic Plan and / or operationalization of the annual work plan.

5.1.1.2 In the majority of cases, once a Working Group has been mandated, the IATI Secretariat will draft terms of reference under the direction of the Board, based on the template included here as Annex VI, ensuring there is a balance of expertise with diverse representation from different constituencies and regions.

5.1.1.3 Terms of reference should set out a specific goal, outcome and timeline for the WG and distinguish whether the WG is of a technical nature (e.g. to inform updates to the Standard) or governance-related nature (e.g. to inform an institutional review, etc.) to determine composition.

#### **5.1.2 Selection and Participation**

5.1.2.1 Any IATI member may participate in a governance-related WG. Technical WGs are open to members and technical practitioners to ensure a balance of appropriate expertise. Governing Board members may participate in WGs as long as no conflicts of interest exist and must step down if a conflict subsequently arises.

5.1.2.2 Selection of WG members follows a transparent process in which the following are recorded: expressions of interest, criteria for selection (region, expertise, constituency, gender balance, etc.).

- 5.1.2.3 WGs should generally be capped at 8-10 members to maintain effective working conditions. To the extent possible, WG members should not participate in more than one WG at a time.
- 5.1.2.4 Terms of reference and membership for each WG are approved by the Board.
- 5.1.3 Chairing and accountability
  - 5.1.3.1 The WG should elect a Chair during its first meeting, who is responsible for proposing meeting agendas, keeping a digital working log of the WG's activities and monitoring any risks / conflicts of interest, and communicating the progress of the group to the Governing Board, with the support of the Secretariat. The WG Chair may be invited to share the WG's findings or outcomes at governance meetings (Board or Members' Assembly).
  - 5.1.3.2 Any changes to the scope and duties of the WG require the approval of the Governing Board.
  - 5.1.3.3 Upon completion of the WG's initial term, the WG should make an assessment as to whether mandated work has concluded, or whether the scope or timeframe for its work should be extended. An official closing report outlining findings, lessons learned and conclusions and as appropriate, recommendations should be submitted to the Board as part of this process and made public on the IATI website.

#### 5.1.4 Engagement of the IATI Secretariat and Governing Board

WGs are advisory in nature and they report to the Governing Board, with appropriate budget and light Secretariat support provided to assist them in carrying out their work.

#### 5.1.5 Working Arrangements

WGs are expected to conduct their business virtually. In cases where a face-to-face meeting is considered essential to the effectiveness of the WG, the Governing Board may approve a budget to support a maximum of one in-person meeting of the WG per year.

### **5.2 Continuing Working Groups**

Notwithstanding the description of Working Groups at 5.1, the Governing Board has established Continuing Working Groups in the following three thematic areas: Publishing, Technical, and Data Use. These are self-organising and can be accessed through IATI Connect.

### **5.3 Communities of Practice (COPs)**

COPs offer a structured way to share knowledge and experience, and in the context of IATI allow data users and publishers to come together via meetings, webinars, and online spaces to discuss areas of mutual interest and to promote peer learning. COPs are ongoing communities around standing areas of thematic interest to the IATI community, with access maintained via IATI's digital channels.

### 5.3.1 Establishment and composition

- 5.3.1.1 COPs are largely self-organising and virtual, and are established to address the specific needs of development or humanitarian actors, developers, or other interested groups sharing their experiences on publishing or using IATI data.
- 5.3.1.2 All COPs are housed within an IATI digital platform available to any practitioner free of charge and regardless of their IATI membership status.
- 5.3.1.3 The focus and substantive nature of each COP is determined by its members.
- 5.3.1.4 Though the actual establishment of COPs will be driven by the demands of the IATI community, a facilitator drawn from COP membership is required.
- 5.3.1.5 The facilitator has a distinct role in encouraging engagement, driving or maintaining membership, and liaising with the IATI Governing Board and Secretariat, as necessary.
- 5.3.1.6 Facilitators who are unable to continue their duties should give the IATI Secretariat a minimum of one-month notice, in order to find a suitable replacement.

### 5.3.2 Engagement of the IATI Secretariat and Governing Board

Light-touch coordination by the Secretariat will help to avoid a proliferation of overlapping COPs, however the day-to-day functioning of each COP is the responsibility of its membership. A member of the Secretariat provides support across all COPs, encouraging the sharing of learning and experience in each COP with the wider IATI community.

## 6 Secretariat

Under UNDP's lead and directed by the IATI Executive Director, the Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day running of IATI and implementation of the decisions agreed by the IATI Members' Assembly and Governing Board. The Secretariat implements the annual work plan and budget approved by the Governing Board and reports on programme performance and the conditions of service delivery.

### 6.1 Division of Labour

- 6.1.1 UNDP is responsible for the effective provision of the services as outlined in the IATI Service Catalogue. This includes hosting the IATI Secretariat.
- 6.1.2 UNOPS is responsible for the effective provision of the services to IATI as outlined in the Service Catalogue. This includes fund management services as well as administrative and logistical support to the programme.

### 6.2 Services



The Secretariat provides the following services:

- 6.2.1 Developing programme-level budgets and annual work plans that draw from the approved Service Catalogue and submitting them to the Board for review and approval.
- 6.2.2 Delivering the annual work plan under the guidance of the Board and providing regular reviews of progress against delivery.
- 6.2.3 Reviewing performance against the intended results based on the agreed performance monitoring framework.
- 6.2.4 Initiating periodic reviews of the programme upon request of the Board.

### **6.3 Accountability, performance, and monitoring**

The IATI Executive Director is accountable to the Governing Board for operational and technical performance. UNDP and UNOPS commit to the ongoing monitoring of the services being provided, with the aim of ensuring accountability and performance of such services.

6.3.1 A detailed Service Catalogue defines the scope of work of the Secretariat and forms the basis for monitoring of performance. The catalogue is published on the IATI website here:

[https://iatistandard.org/documents/10769/IATI\\_Secretariat\\_Support\\_Services\\_April\\_2024.pdf](https://iatistandard.org/documents/10769/IATI_Secretariat_Support_Services_April_2024.pdf)

6.3.2 The IATI Service Catalogue is reviewed by the IATI Governing Board and IATI Executive Director on an annual basis to ensure that services are being delivered by UNDP and UNOPS as agreed and that they are having the intended impact. Any changes to the IATI Service Catalogue are made in agreement with UNDP and UNOPS.

6.3.3 UNDP, UNOPS and third-party contractors implement their respective services and support for IATI in accordance with UNDP and UNOPS respective financial regulations and rules, procedures and policies (including their respective procedures for accounting, auditing, asset disposal, auditing, compliance, evaluation, procurement, reporting, sanctions; and policies against fraud and other corrupt practices and to prevent and address sexual harassment (SH) and sexual exploitation (SEAH)

6.3.4 The Board must be informed in advance and consulted on any proposed changes by UNDP and UNOPS to such third-party service providers throughout the period of validity of the 15 September 2023 letter of agreement signed between the Governing Board and the hosting entity (UNDP).

6.3.5 Notwithstanding the above, UNDP and UNOPS shall remain the ultimate procurement authorities for the selection of third-party service providers in procurement conducted by UNDP and UNOPS (as applicable) in accordance with their respective regulations and rules, policies and procedures.

### **6.4 Secretariat Leadership and Management**

#### **6.4.1 IATI Executive Director**

The IATI Executive Director provides overall direction and representation, leadership of work planning, and accountability to the Board for results of the entire Secretariat. He/she is accountable for delivery by the Secretariat against the IATI Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plans, ensuring the entire Secretariat is acting and delivering as one. The IATI Executive Director is responsible for:

- 6.4.2 Strategic leadership of the Secretariat.
- 6.4.3 Secretariat management.
- 6.4.4 Strategic engagement of the IATI Secretariat with the Governing Board.
- 6.4.5 Strategic outreach to IATI stakeholders.
- 6.4.6 Performance management of the IATI Secretariat.

#### **6.5 Fund Manager (UNOPS)**

UNOPS has full fiduciary responsibility and accountability for the receipt, custody and disbursement of all contributions provided by members under any contribution agreements entered into between UNOPS and any member.

- 6.5.1 Member contributions are allocated to a pool of resources that can be used for any activity falling within the work programme approved by the Governing Board.
- 6.5.2 All contributions received by UNOPS shall be recorded in a separate ledger account established by UNOPS for IATI and pooled along with other contributions received by UNOPS from members for the same purpose.
- 6.5.3 Member contribution agreements are prepared and administered by UNOPS in accordance with the applicable regulations, rules, directives and procedures pertaining to the receipt and administration of funds.
- 6.5.4 UNOPS does not absorb gains or losses on currency exchanges, which will increase or decrease the funds available for IATI activities.
- 6.5.5 Subject to the availability of funds, disbursement of funds to implementing partners and recipients for the implementation of programme activities in a timely manner and in line with the terms of the respective agreement;
- 6.5.6 Receipt and review of project reports, including financial reports and narrative reports from implementing partners and funding recipients;
- 6.5.7 Closing project accounts upon completion and ensuring reconciliation of bank transactions.
- 6.5.8 UNOPS submits to the members the following reports in accordance with the contribution agreements:

6.5.8.1 Annual certified financial statements as of 31 December by 30 June of the following calendar year;

6.5.8.2 Certified final financial statements no later than 31 July of the calendar year following the year during which activities funded by the member contributions are operationally completed.

## **7 IATI governance and oversight**

- 7.1 Governance and oversight of IATI is the responsibility of the IATI Governing Board and Members' Assembly. The Members' Assembly has final approval of strategic decisions proposed by IATI's Governing Board. The IATI Governing Board approves IATI's annual work programme and associated budget. It also has responsibility for overseeing the IATI Executive Director and Secretariat in their task of implementing and delivering work plan priorities.
- 7.2 The IATI Executive Director reports to the IATI Governing Board and provides overall direction and representation, leadership of work planning and accountability to the Board for results of the entire Secretariat.
- 7.3 Given that the IATI Secretariat is hosted by UNDP, the IATI Executive Director is accountable to UNDP for the effective functioning of the Secretariat in line with the ambitions of the IATI members and the IATI Governing Board.

## **8 Privileges and immunities**

Nothing in or relating to the SOPs shall be deemed as a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including UNOPS. The full text of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations can be seen here: <http://www.un.org/en/ethics/pdf/convention.pdf>.

## Annex I - Commitments of IATI Members

As members of IATI we agree to work towards achieving the following vision and mission:

### **Vision**

Transparent, good quality information on development resources and results is available and used by all stakeholder groups to help achieve sustainable development outcomes.

### **Mission**

The IATI community works together to 1) ensure transparency of data on development resources and results; 2) ensure the quality of IATI data is continually improved and responds to the needs of all stakeholders and 3) facilitate access to effective tools and support so that IATI data contributes to the achievement of sustainable development outcomes.

This builds upon the original Framework for Implementation for IATI (no longer applicable but available as an archived document on the IATI website) which spelled out the key elements, processes and timetable through which to respond to the strong commitments to aid transparency expressed in the September 2008 [Accra Agenda for Action](#), the IATI “[Accra Statement](#)”, and the [Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#).

## Annex II - IATI Standard upgrade process

The approved process for major or minor upgrades to the IATI Standard is reflected on the IATI website reference pages: <http://reference.iatistandard.org/203/upgrades/>

## Annex III - Working Groups and Communities of Practice Template for IATI Working Group Terms of Reference

*This template is designed to provide a general outline for Terms of Reference (ToRs) to be developed for IATI Working Groups as agreed in the IATI Standard Operating Procedure sections 5. The suggested questions should be carefully assessed in developing ToRs for individual Working Groups. In the majority of cases, once a Working Group has been mandated by the IATI Board or Members’ Assembly, the IATI Secretariat uses the below template to develop ToRs for approval by the Board, in line with the agreed Standard Operating Procedures.*

### **Introduction: [STANDARD TEXT]**

IATI Working Groups (WGs) are advisory in nature and report to the Governing Board and as such, any changes to the scope and duties of the WG laid out below require the approval of the Board. Upon completion of the WG’s initial term, a review should take place to assess whether mandated work has concluded, or if the WG’s term should be extended. An official closing report outlining findings, lessons learned, and as

appropriate, recommendations, should be submitted to the Board and made public on the IATI website as part of this process.

The WG should elect a Chair during its first meeting, who is responsible for proposing meeting agendas, keeping a digital working log of the WG's activities and monitoring any potential risks / conflicts of interest, and communicating the progress of the group to the Governing Board, with the support of the Secretariat. Additional information on the agreed procedures for WGs can be found in the IATI SOP, section 5.

**Name of Working Group:**

**Background / Context:**

**Purpose / role of the Working Group:**

- *What is the specific purpose / role of the group?*
- *What challenge does this group address?*
- *What are the deliverables / advisory services expected from the Working Group?*
- *Is there a specific timeframe for the work to be completed or dependency on other processes or Working Groups?*

**Membership:**

- *Is this group a technical or non-technical Working Group?*
- *Outline of selection criteria and process.*
- *Expected number of participants and desired constituency balance, skillset, etc.*

**Time frame and level of commitment:**

- *How long is the WG expected to be active?*
- *What is the expected level of commitment in terms of hours per week / month?*

**Working methods / ways of working:**

- *How many virtual meetings will be held each month / year?*
- *Is a face-to-face meeting of the Working Group expected? If so, when and where?*

**Conflict of Interest Policy: [STANDARD TEXT]**

A member of the WG believing they may have an actual, potential or apparent conflict of interest concerning a proposal to be discussed by the group shall recuse themselves from that discussion and inform the Chair accordingly. They must abstain from communicating with other WG members regarding the subject. The Working Group must make a strong collective commitment to upholding recusal practices.

## **Annex IV - Election Process for Governing Board**

### **1. Composition and chairmanship**

1.1 The Governing Board is comprised of two members from each of the three constituencies recognised in the Standard Operating Procedures at Section 2.1

1.1.2 Members are encouraged to consider the importance of diversity in the composition of the Board, including but not limited to gender, regional and linguistic diversity.

1.2 A seventh seat on the Board is reserved as a focused technical seat representing all constituencies. Voting for the focused technical seat is open to all members and shall take place within the regular electoral cycle starting from 2020.

1.3 The Governing Board is responsible for electing its own Chair and Vice-Chair and informing the Members' Assembly through the Secretariat.

1.4 To provide continuity, incumbent Board members are encouraged to consider serving for a further one or two-year period.

### **1. Eligibility**

2.1 All IATI members in good financial standing, having paid or committed to pay their membership contributions due at the start of the nomination period, are eligible for Board membership.

### **2. Nomination process**

3.1 The Secretariat provides contact information within each constituency at the start of a two-week nomination period to facilitate internal discussions.

3.2 Within a two-week nomination period, all interested organisations must register their interest by email to the IATI Secretariat by submitting a Nomination Statement (below).

3.3 Incumbent Board members wishing to serve for a further one or two-year period are required to register their interest along with other nominees.

3.4 At the end of the nomination period, the IATI Secretariat shares the results to each constituency and confirms whether consensus has been reached on candidates for all available seats. If consensus has been reached no further election process is required in that constituency and all members are informed of the outcome.

### **4. Process for online voting**

4.1 In absence of consensus in a constituency, an online election takes place within that constituency.

4.2 Nomination statements are made available to the constituency members who then rank the candidates in order of preference.

4.3 The two organisations receiving the highest number of votes within the constituency are confirmed as members of the Board.

4.4 The Secretariat informs all members of the final outcome by email and through the IATI website.

### **5. Transparency of process**

5.1 The Secretariat is responsible for communicating to members in relation to the call for nominations and voting periods throughout the election cycle. The outcome of the process is published on the IATI website.

5.2 Elected Board members are expected to hold their first meeting virtually within two weeks from the conclusion of the process, with secretariat support provided by the IATI Secretariat.

**Nomination Statement:**

The Nomination Statement should provide the following confirmation and should be 1-2 pages in length at maximum, using the template provided by the Secretariat:

- Commitment of the organisation to serve as a Board member for a full two-year term if selected
- Name of the nominated official and his/her alternate
- If the organisation is an incumbent Board member, the date of first membership of the Board, the role served and whether the nomination is for one or two years.
- Outline of the relevant skills and expertise of the nominee and alternate, and interest to be nominated to the focused technical seat.
- Brief outline of the organisation's active engagement with IATI and familiarity with the global transparency agenda
- Intent to attend or designate an alternate to attend all Board meetings
- Confirmation that the designated staff member can allocate a minimum of four working weeks per year to carry out Board duties.
- Confirmation that if selected as Board Chair or Vice-Chair, the designated staff member will be permitted to travel to represent IATI in global meetings.
- Commitment to maintain good financial standing within IATI throughout the period of Board membership
- Commitment to fulfil responsibilities as detailed in the SOP
- Adherence to the Code of Conduct

## **Annex V - Code of Conduct for IATI Governing Board Members**

### Applicability:

- This Code of Conduct applies to all members of the IATI Governing Board including the Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and to all Alternates.
- Board members are required to re-sign this Code of Conduct annually.

### General Provisions:

- Board Members shall carry out their duties with honesty, integrity, respect, transparency, and confidentiality.
- Board Members must follow all IATI Standard Operating Procedures and abide by IATI's governing documents.
- Board Members agree to promote the mission, vision, and purpose of IATI and contribute to its strategic direction.
- Board Members shall not disclose confidential information acquired by them in the course of their Board Member duties nor use such information to further their personal interests.
- Board Members shall be under an ongoing obligation to disclose any actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest to the board and shall take appropriate steps to avoid any such conflict.
- A member of the Board believing they may have an actual, potential or apparent conflict of interest concerning a proposal to be discussed by the board shall recuse themselves from that Board discussion and inform the Chair accordingly, in accordance with the full Board Policy to Report and Mitigate Conflicts of Interest, Annex VII. They must abstain from communicating with other Board Members regarding the subject. The Governing Board must make a strong collective commitment to upholding recusal practices.
- Any Board Member aware of any credible information that suggests that any of IATI's Standard Operating Procedures or governing documents are being violated by any member of the Board has an obligation to bring the concern to the Board Chair. If the Chair is the subject of concern, it should be brought to the Secretariat.
- Board Members shall decline all gifts and other benefits offered to them in the course of carrying out their duties as Board Members.
- Board members are expected to remain in good financial standing throughout the period of their tenure, in accordance with the provisions at 2.5.6.
- Board Members found to have violated this Code of Conduct are subject to censure or removal from the Board.

[Signature by nominee Organisation signals acceptance of this Code of Conduct]

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## Annex VI - Nomination Statement for Board Elections

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Name of Organisation and nature of its work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| 2. | <p>Constituency (choose from the following existing IATI definitions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers of development co-operation, including traditional donors, multilateral institutions, philanthropic foundations and providers of South-South Cooperation;</li> <li>• Partner countries; and</li> <li>• Civil Society Organisations and other organisations.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| 3. | Brief description of why the nominee organisation wishes to become a member of the IATI Governing Board and what it feels it can offer in this position.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| 4. | If the organisation is an incumbent Board member, the date of first membership of the Board, the role served and whether the nomination is for one or two years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| 5. | <p>Brief outline of the organisation's active engagement with IATI and the global transparency agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominee organisations should provide examples of activities undertaken to publish or use IATI data, advocate for IATI and contribute expertise through Steering Committee sub-groups, working groups or in other ways.</li> <li>• Nominee organisations may refer to their engagement with, and the level of their contribution to, relevant global processes and events.</li> <li>• Links to websites or relevant online information to show this engagement should be provided here.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 6. | <p>Staff member and alternate representing the organisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While Board membership is institutional, it is important to ensure that the designated staff member is familiar with IATI's policy and processes. Please indicate the name and position of the designated staff member and any alternate arrangements proposed within the organisation, and describe briefly their experience with IATI.</li> <li>• The time the organisation should set aside for IATI Governing Board activities will vary throughout the year and will increase during the period leading up to MA meetings. Nominees should anticipate spending a minimum of four working weeks per year on regular Board business including travel to attend two face to face meetings annually in addition to the MA.</li> <li>• Organisations are asked to confirm their agreement to release the staff member or alternate and support them in this work, including authorising them to attend all virtual meetings (4-6 per year) and face-to-face Board meetings (2 per year), as well as the MA meeting (1 per year).</li> </ul> |  |
| 7. | <p>Interest in becoming Board Chair or Vice-Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please indicate whether the organisation would accept to become the Board Chair or Vice-Chair, if elected by other Board members.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                   |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, the organisation should confirm that the designated staff member will be permitted to travel to represent IATI in global meetings.</li> <li>• Please describe briefly the relevant experience and professional area of expertise of the designated staff member to represent IATI (presentations and interventions in a variety of discussions and negotiations). Proficiency in languages other than English should also be mentioned.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                   |
| 8.  | <p>Interest in occupying the focused technical seat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The occupant of the focused technical seat is expected to engage with the Community and receive technical input from the IATI Community through relevant Working Groups, in relation to the IATI Standard.</li> <li>• Please describe the qualifications of the nominee to provide perspective to the Board in relation to matters relating to the IATI Standard.</li> <li>• Nominees are required to disclose any potential conflict of interest foreseen in the conduct of Board business</li> </ul>                                                                                                                |                                                   |
| 9.  | <p>Commitment to fulfil responsibilities as detailed in the SOP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nominee organisation should confirm commitment to meet all requirements outlined in the IATI Standard Operating Procedures, including sections 3, 4 and 5, the additional Terms of Reference for Board members and specific tasks outlined by members in relation to vision, mission, strategic direction, budget and finance.</li> <li>• As representatives of the wider Members' Assembly, Board members are expected to consult within their constituencies on certain issues and should confirm willingness to carry out such consultations to canvass opinions and views as required.</li> </ul> |                                                   |
| 10. | <p>Commitment to maintain good financial standing within IATI throughout the period of Board membership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important that institutions representing IATI have shown their commitment to the initiative. Nominee organisations that have not yet concluded membership arrangements including payment of dues should indicate the stage reached in that process.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                   |
| 11. | <p>Adherence to the Code of Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The designated staff member of the nominee organisation should sign this document and return it together with a signed copy of the Code of Conduct indicating understanding and acceptance of its terms.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Name (PRINT):</p> <p>Authorised signature:</p> |

## **Annex VII - Board Policy to Report & Mitigate Conflicts of Interest**

### **Purpose**

This policy has been established by the IATI Governing Board to improve its own accountability and working relations.

### **Policy**

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) expects its Governing Board members, Secretariat staff and consultants, as well as all of its members engaging with IATI through participation in different working groups to adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity.

Due to the nature of IATI as a multi-stakeholder initiative, bringing together providers of development assistance, partner country governments, civil society organisations, foundations and private sector entities, conflicts may arise between the interests of IATI and the interests of the IATI members' organisations. This policy is designed to outline mitigation and prevention measures and applies to active Governing Board members as well as to members with a potential for commercial gain through their participation in working groups of IATI.

Conflicts of interest can occur in the following ways:

#### **1. Personal Conflicts of Interest**

A personal conflict of interest occurs whenever an individual's private interests may limit his or her ability to act in the best interests of IATI. Some of the many ways in which a personal conflict of interest could arise are:

- Acceptance of gifts, payment or services from those seeking to do business with IATI;
- Placement of business with a company owned or controlled by a Governing Board or Secretariat staff member or his or her family;
- Having a personal interest or potential for gain in any IATI decision or transaction.

#### **2. Organisational Conflicts of Interest**

Organisational conflicts of interest arise when the interests or benefits of an IATI member organisation conflict with the interests or benefits of IATI. Such conflicts of interest need to be avoided so that IATI can perform its work objectively and not seek unfair competitive advantage. Some ways in which organisational conflicts of interest can take place are:

- When a member organisation wishes to be eligible for the competition to implement an IATI-funded activity (for instance related to the Data Use Fund or IATI's technical infrastructure).

In order to maintain the integrity of, and public confidence in IATI, including in its products and processes, it is essential that the work of IATI is not compromised by such conflicts of interest (CoI) and that identified potential conflicts are dealt with in an open and transparent manner. Therefore, this policy, as well as a "conflict register" have been

developed to assist with Board discussion. Identifying a potential conflict of interest does not automatically mean that a conflict of interest exists. The policy and conflict register are instead intended to enable individuals to provide the information necessary for the evaluation of a given situation.

The overall purpose of this policy is to protect the legitimacy, integrity and credibility of IATI and its governing bodies and to maintain confidence in its activities. The policy guides the reporting of any possible conflict of interests by IATI members, so that the Governing Board is aware of the potential issue and is able to agree on mitigating matters in a transparent and open manner that is in line with IATI's high integrity standard.

IATI recognizes the commitment and dedication of those who participate in its governing and administrative bodies as well as its working groups, and seeks to maintain a balance between minimising the reporting burden and ensuring the integrity of the IATI, while continuing to build and maintain public trust.

The policy is based on principles of openness and voluntary provision of information and does not provide an exhaustive list of criteria for the identification of conflicts of interest, but give the individuals or organisations in question the opportunity to flag a potential Col and provide the necessary information so that the Governing Board members, supported by the IATI Secretariat can review the case and decide if an actual conflict of interest exists and determine the appropriate action.

All IATI members, including members of the Governing Board and the IATI Secretariat are therefore encouraged to report a conflict or perceived conflict of interest as soon as they become aware of one. Governing Board members are requested to register any potential conflicts formally in the conflict register which is reviewed at the start of every Governing Board meeting and decisions taken accordingly. Others in working groups should report the potential or actual conflict to the chair of the group in question. In case the Col concerns a Governing Board member, they are requested to recuse themselves from the discussions on a particular item, based on the agenda. The register shall remain internal between IATI Governing Board and IATI Secretariat for governance purposes only, and IATI will periodically publish Conflict of Interests on its website for transparency purposes.

## Annex VIII - Change Record for IATI Standard Operating Procedures

### Revision 8, July 2024

- Extensive text edits throughout the text to reflect the transition of hosting arrangements agreed during the March 2023 Members' Assembly and available through the IATI website as IATI Members' Assembly 2023 Minutes  
[https://iatistandard.org/documents/10745/IATI\\_Members\\_Assembly\\_2023\\_Minutes.pdf](https://iatistandard.org/documents/10745/IATI_Members_Assembly_2023_Minutes.pdf).
- Amendments to section 2.3 Membership Contributions and Criteria for Good Financial Standing (now 2.4 and 2.5) reflecting the outcomes of research and consultation undertaken by the SOP Working Group in 2023.
- Amendments to section 2.3.6 Criteria for waivers of membership contributions (now 2.5) defines clear eligibility criteria for extending access to waivers of membership contributions, reflecting the outcomes of research and consultation undertaken by the SOP Working Group in 2023.

### Revision 7, March 2020

- Paragraph 5 is added to define the establishment, operation and guidelines for new Working Groups and Communities for IATI to replace the former Technical Advisory Group structure.
- Annex II provides a template for developing Terms of Reference for Working Groups.
- These texts were approved by members through formal written procedure between 29 February and 13 March, 2020.

### Revision 6, January 2020

*Minor word edits have been made to improve consistency across the document, and these have not been reflected here as substantive changes.*

- 2.3.3 reflects agreement at 2019 MA to remove private sector organisations with turnover over \$10m and amend footnote to clarify that there are currently no such members, and that the Board will submit a proposal to Members on this membership level. Reference to 'expenditure' is changed to 'turnover' as a more widely recognized metric for the size of a business.
- 3.1.1 adds a footnote signpost to the approved IATI Strategic Plan 2020 – 25 available in English, French and Spanish on the IATI website
- 3.2.3 is added to confirm the procedure agreed for managing **major** upgrades to the IATI Standard.
- 3.4.1 distinguishes the decision-making process as applicable to physical meetings; and is added to introduce a decision-making process of written procedure for use between physical meetings.
- 4.3.2 adds reference to new Annex VII Board Policy to Report and Mitigate Conflicts of Interest

- 4.4.2 is added to confirm the procedure agreed for managing **minor** upgrades to the IATI Standard.
- 4.6 is added to outline the process of managing the 15% Contingency Reserve Fund approved by members to be established from January 2020, and criteria for its use and conditions for replenishment.
- – Text relating to the Technical Advisory Group is deleted, pending agreement on revised text to reflect the decision of members to establish Working Groups and Communities of Practice as a new means of engaging with the Community and receive technical input in relation to the IATI Standard. Annex II also refers.
- Annex II – text referring to the Technical Advisory Group is deleted to implement decisions taken at the 2019 Members’ Assembly meeting, and the annex remains as a placeholder pending agreement of members on the process of establishing Working Groups and Communities of Practice (related to section 5).
- Annex III – is updated at 1.2 to reflect decisions at the 2019 Members’ Assembly meeting on election of a focused technical seat on the Governing Board.
- Annex V Nomination Statement for Governing Board Elections Paragraph 8 is updated to implement the decision of members to maintain a focused technical seat on the Board to carry out activities formerly undertaken by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Chair.
- Annex VII – adds new Board Policy to Report and Mitigate Conflicts of Interest

#### **Revision 5, 25 March 2019**

Revision 5 incorporates decisions taken at the July 2018 Members’ Assembly meeting and implements [recommendations](#) by the Institutional Review Working Group approved by members at that meeting. Recommendations on significant adjustments to responsibilities between Members Assembly and Governing Board came into force from the 2018 Members’ Assembly. The recommendations can be seen in full here <https://iatistandard.org/documents/223/F2.-Recommendations-on-IATIs-Institutional-Arrangements.pdf>

- 2.1.5 is added to introduce a new private sector category of membership, previously included in 2.1.4.
- 2.1.6 is added for other organisations not falling into those explicitly listed.
- 2.1.1 is updated to reflect the definition of members as those that regularly pay the approved membership contribution.
- 2.3.1 sets out the process of setting the level of annual membership contributions.
- 2.3.3 adds private sector organisations into the membership contribution schedule.
- 3.2.2 on approval of budget revisions is removed to implement recommendation 3 of the working group on institutional review and clarify

division of labour between Governing Board and Members' Assembly. Distinction added at 3.3.8.

- updates accountabilities and division of labour between Board, Members' Assembly and Secretariat, implementing recommendations of the Institutional Review Working Group.
- The section is replaced in full by the updated text on the TAG developed ahead of the TAG Chair election in 2018.
- 6 incorporates recommendations of the working group on institutional review around roles, responsibilities and accountability of the Secretariat.

#### **Revision 4, 31 January 2018**

- Revision 4 incorporates decisions taken at the October 2017 Members' Assembly meeting. Sections affected are as follows:
- 2.3.1 is revised to outline a process for requests by members for deviations of membership contributions. 2.3.3 provisionally adds Tier 1b for Private Sector organisations although membership contribution and effective date are yet to be determined.
- 2.3.6 is revised following an MA decision to include an option for the Governing Board to consider and approve 1) exceptions for payment of a partner country's participation/travel cost in lieu of its annual membership contribution, and 2) Waiving of a partner country's membership contribution on the basis of a justifiable request (2017 Institutional Review Recommendations 5 and 6)
- 2.4.2 adds reference and link to IATI's value proposition statement (2017 Institutional Review Recommendation 2)
- includes reference to the working language of the Board (English) and (with 4.5) removes historical references to the Standing Sub-Group on Budget and Finance.
- 4.3.1 adds responsibility of the Chair to establish processes to promote a smooth transition process for new Board members.
- 6.3.4 replaces 6.3.4 and 6.3.5 and clarifies responsibilities within the Secretariat as guided by the Board.
- Annex III - 1.1.2 adds specific reference to gender diversity in the Board
- Annex III - 1.4 and 3.3 add a measure of continuity for incumbent Board Members to stand in an election process for a further term or partial term
- Annex III - Nomination Statement description adds minor clarifications for prospective nominees including incumbent Board members
- Annex IV adds the Code of Conduct for Members of the Board with strengthened clauses to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Annex V adds the full Nomination Statement for prospective Board members.

#### **Revision 3, 7 October 2016**

Substantive changes in this version are the inclusion of new sections 3 and 4 and Annex IV dealing with changes in the governance structure implemented following recommendations from the 2015 Independent Evaluation of IATI. Membership contributions from September 2016 have been revised for all constituencies and details are included at 2.3. Annex I has been updated to reflect decisions made on the Vision and Mission for IATI.

Sections affected by the current revision are as follows:

- Membership contributions from September 2016, including an adjusted scale for UN entities
- Members' Assembly
- Governing Board
  - Annex I Commitments of Members (formerly Framework for Implementation)
  - Annex III Election Process for Governing Board