iati International Aid Transparency Initiative



Strategic Plan 2026-2030

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I. Executive Summary

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Strategic Plan 2026–2030 sets out a bold agenda to transform IATI from a data publishing platform into a driver of transparency, mutual accountability, and impact in international cooperation. Adopted in a context of urgent global challenges, from off-track Sustainable Development Goals and a strained multilateral system, to widening financing gaps and a climate emergency, this strategy responds with renewed ambition and focus. World leaders at the 2025 Financing for Development conference in Sevilla formally **recognised IATI's role in fostering transparency of development cooperation,** underscoring the initiative's growing political importance. Building on that momentum, this plan aligns IATI's work with global frameworks and the priorities of partner countries and stakeholders. It reflects extensive consultations across IATI's multi-stakeholder community and affirms IATI's unique value proposition in a changing finance and accountability landscape.

Two Core Outcomes by 2030

IATI will contribute to achieving the following key outcomes:

1) **Enhanced Data Use, and**
2) **More Accountable and Effective International Cooperation.**

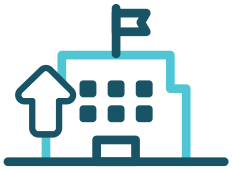
Enhanced Data Use means that **all stakeholders systematically use development cooperation data,** leading to greater transparency, mutual accountability and better decisions at local, national and global levels.

More *Accountable and Effective Cooperation* means an **open**, **trusted** and **comprehensive evidence base** informing international cooperation, so that resources are better aligned with needs and results. Together, these outcomes embody IATI's vision of a world where transparent data empowers stakeholders to deliver better outcomes for the people and the planet.



Action Areas

Four integrated Action Areas will drive progress toward these outcomes.



Action Area A:
Strengthening Country Data-Use Systems with IATI Data

Embedding IATI data in country-level systems and processes to support mutual accountability and better coordination at the national level.



Action Area B:
Enhancing IATI Infrastructure for Data Quality and Usability

Transforming and expanding IATI's technical infrastructure and Standard to ensure data is easy to publish, of high quality, and interoperable across the development data ecosystem.



Action Area C:
Championing Transparency and Accountability for Effective Cooperation

Re-energising the global commitment to transparent, accountable development cooperation through advocacy, partnerships, and expanded membership, positioning IATI as a central pillar of the international cooperation architecture.



Action Area D:
Promoting the Use of IATI Data to Inform Policy Dialogues

Bridging the gap between data and policy by actively curating and translating IATI data into insights, products, and engagements that inform decision-making at global, regional, and national levels.



These priority areas reinforce one another, collectively turning open data into actionable evidence and greater development effectiveness.

To deliver on its action areas and outcomes, IATI will strengthen its institutional foundations. Four contributing action areas will ensure robust governance, sustainable financing, agile operations, and strategic direction, enabling the Secretariat as well as its governing bodies to deliver effectively and maintain legitimacy, inclusiveness, and responsiveness:

1) **Strengthening Governance and Management**
2) **Financial Sustainability**
3) **Effective Operational Systems**
4) **Strategic and Institutional Direction**

The IATI Strategic Plan 2026–2030 positions the initiative to meet the urgency of the moment: **transformative ambition with clear, achievable and prioritised actions.** It builds on IATI's great progress and achievements while directly addressing gaps in data use and impact.

Endorsed by IATI's diverse membership, the strategy signals a new phase where IATI will not only enable more and better data to be published, but better support stakeholders in using that data to **drive more effective, accountable international cooperation.** As a recognised pillar of the global transparency and financing architecture, IATI will work with governments, civil society, multilateral agencies, and others to rebuild trust and deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda in an open, inclusive way. Together with the attached results framework and forthcoming implementation plans, this Strategic Plan charts a clear course for IATI to make transparency work for people and the planet over the next five years.



II. Context and Rationale

A Changing Global Development Landscape and the Imperative of Transparency

The period leading into 2026 finds the international community at a crossroads. Despite commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, **the world is off-track to achieve the 2030 Agenda,** with rising poverty, widening inequalities and a $4 trillion annual SDG financing gap. Multiple, intersecting crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts to climate change, have strained resources and eroded public trust in international cooperation.

Development finance is becoming more complex: traditional aid is stagnating or declining, while climate finance, South–South and Triangular Cooperation, philanthropy and private investment flows are growing but often poorly coordinated and opaque.

New technologies and data sources (including big data and AI) are emerging, and yet data inequalities to use data persist with and many developing countries strugglinge to access usable

information for decision-making. In this context, transparency is more than anot a mere principle, it is a prerequisite for effective development co-operation. Adoption for AI agentic tools for structured-data and analytics will continue to increase exponentially, and as such the basic understanding of what "data access" and "data use" mean will evolve significantly.

Global frameworks have repeatedly affirmed this: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognised the **essential role of transparency in financing sustainable development,** and the *2025 Compromiso de Sevilla* outcome recommitted the international community to open and interoperable data as a means to **build trust and improve development cooperation,** specifically recognising IATI's work to foster transparency of development cooperation. Simply put, better transparency and data sharing are urgently needed to direct resources where they are most needed, to track results, and to hold all partners accountable for their commitments.

IATI's Evolution and Unique Role

IATI was created in 2008 as a collective response to global transparency challenges, and it has achieved much over the past 17 years. Today, **IATI's open data Standard and platform make trillions of dollars in development finance from thousands of projects transparent and accessible to all.** Over two-thirds of official development assistance (ODA) is now published through IATI, helping developing country governments manage the aid flows supporting their national development plans. Humanitarian responders and civil society groups are also using IATI data for coordination and advocacy. IATI's multi-stakeholder membership – including donor and partner governments, multilateral agencies, NGOs, and private sector organisations – is a unique asset, positioning it as a **neutral global infrastructure for development and humanitarian finance data** that no single agency or donor could provide. Supporting countries to close the global data



divide, by bridging inequalities in both access and digital capacity, will be a key element of IATI's mission. Importantly, IATI is not just a technical standard; it **embodies a political commitment** to open, accountable development cooperation. This was reinforced most recently when the international community recognised IATI's work in the Compromiso de Sevilla, the Outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, effectively elevating IATI's profile in the international financing architecture.

Yet despite this progress, IATI and its stakeholders recognise that simply publishing data is not enough. Independent evaluations and community feedback have highlighted a persistent "usability gap" in data quality and accessibility. There is a growing, but still unmet, demand from governments at country level and missed opportunities to inform decision-making. Stakeholders consistently call for **better, more relevant and integrated data** that can be easily combined with other sources. Partner country governments have asked for support to incorporate IATI data into their own systems for budgeting, aid management, and monitoring. Donors and civil society want to see IATI data informing policy dialogue and public accountability: not just stored in a registry but embedded in global accountability systems with data at the centre. IATI should also enhance its engagement as a global initiative with key platforms including the UN Development Cooperation Forum and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. This strategy responds directly to commitments made in the 2025 Compromiso de Sevilla, reinforcing IATI's recognition within the Financing for Development framework.

Meanwhile, IATI's membership model and financing approach need renewal to ensure sustainability and broader engagement. In short, IATI's current model must adapt to remain impactful amid fast-changing demands. IATI must move from a narrow focus on publishing to a stronger emphasis on enabling data use for accountability, coordination and smarter policy. This calls for changes in how IATI operates, prioritises, and delivers value. **The Strategic Plan 2026–2030 sets out how IATI will navigate this changing landscape and respond to evolving stakeholder needs.**





Development of the Strategic Plan: An Inclusive and Evidence-Based Process

The Strategic Plan 2026–2030 has been formulated through an extensive, inclusive process to ensure it meets these challenges and stakeholder expectations. Over late 2024 and 2025, IATI conducted a **multi-phase global consultation** to co-create the strategy foundations. In-person **strategic planning workshops** were held in **Brussels, Nairobi** and **Abidjan,** bringing together partner country officials, donors and civil society to chart IATI's future vision. An **online consultation series** enabled broad input across thematic areas (data use, technical improvements, governance, etc.), and **bilateral meetings** and **deep-dive interviews** captured insights from key experts and partners worldwide. These efforts were complemented by an **independent evaluation** of IATI's 2020–2025 strategic period. A Strategic Directions paper was used for further structured constituency consultations and inputs to this Strategic Plan.

Common messages emerged clearly: IATI's stakeholders want the initiative to be **more focused, more user-centric, and more aligned with broader development effectiveness efforts.** They see IATI as uniquely positioned to convene the global community around transparency, provided that it strengthens its governance and articulates a clearer value proposition.

1. **Responding to the changing global landscape**
   Stakeholders highlighted the urgent need for IATI to stay relevant in a fast-changing financing and geopolitical environment. The decline

in ODA, growth of climate and private finance, new digital technologies, and calls for greater accountability all require IATI to adapt. Stakeholders from governments, CSOs and donors stressed that IATI must serve as a trusted, comprehensive and open source of data in a fragmented aid landscape, and demonstrate its value in shaping future financing reforms.

2. **Evolving IATI's model and mission**
   Consultations underscored that publishing data alone is insufficient. IATI must shift from being a passive repository to an active driver of **data use** and **accountability.** Stakeholders, including civil society and partner country officials, called for simpler data use tools, more usable data, and stronger integration with national systems. The mission therefore needs to be sharpened to emphasise enabling use, building accountability, and demonstrating impact.

3. **Meeting country needs across governments, CSOs and other stakeholders**
   Country-level actors emphasised that IATI's greatest added value will come when its data is embedded in national budgeting, planning and monitoring systems, and when civil society can access and use the information for accountability. Participants from Africa, the Asia and Pacific and other regions highlighted the importance of tailored support, regional balance and building capacity. Stakeholders want IATI to enable **"data as dialogue":** helping countries convene inclusive accountability processes using open data.

4. **Leveraging IATI's unique comparative advantages**
   Stakeholders consistently recognised IATI's role as a **global digital public good:** IATI Data is registered as a Verified Digital Public Good





with the DPG Alliance; as well as a multi-stakeholder platform that no single donor or institution could replicate, particularly its real-time data and comprehensive standard. Members stressed that IATI's neutrality, openness, and ability to convene diverse actors are its core assets. Donors highlighted IATI's alignment with reporting requirements, while CSOs noted its role in levelling the playing field by making information accessible to all. Strengthening these comparative advantages, particularly interoperability, openness, and inclusivity, was identified as essential to IATI's continued legitimacy and credibility.

5. Aligning with global agendas and cooperation frameworks

Partners across the consultations urged IATI to position itself more strongly in global policy spaces, from the UN Development Cooperation Forum and Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) to climate COPs and the Financing for Development process. Linking IATI's outcomes to the 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and Sevilla Commitment will ensure IATI is not only **technically relevant but also politically resonant.** This alignment also helps demonstrate IATI's contribution to international commitments on transparency, accountability and effective cooperation.

Taken together, these drivers point to a simple but profound shift: **IATI must evolve from being primarily a data repository to becoming a driver of data use and accountability.**

This plan is the product of collective thinking and evidence. It is **grounded in the realities and needs of IATI's diverse members and users,** as voiced through the consultations, and it incorporates lessons from past implementation. It is also forward-looking, ambitious and practical, aiming to ensure IATI not only keeps pace with change but helps lead a global transparency movement into a new era. The following sections outline IATI's renewed vision and mission, the outcomes it commits to achieving by 2030, and the achievable, concrete areas of action and contributing work that will make it happen.



III. Renewed Vision, Mission and 2030 Outcomes

Vision: A World of Transparent Cooperation

IATI's Vision is to build a world where transparent data on international cooperation is used by governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to deliver better outcomes.

This renewed vision reflects IATI's core belief that when information on development and humanitarian resources is open and accessible it can be transformative: it empowers stakeholders, from government policymakers to citizens, to engage in informed dialogue, coordinate efforts, and demand results. Transparency is not an end in itself, but a catalyst for trust and collective action. By 2030, IATI envisions transparency expanding on its normative foundation to be recognised as an integral enabler of effective international cooperation, leading to more effective and people-centred results. This vision aligns directly with global aspirations under the 2030 Agenda and the effective development cooperation principles of country ownership, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability. It also resonates with the call in the *Pact for the Future* to reinvigorate multilateral cooperation and rebuild trust through openness and data-sharing. In essence, IATI sees a future where all development stakeholders can **"follow the money"**, tracking every dollar, every activity,



every result, and use that information to improve development effectiveness. Looking beyond 2030, IATI will remain a cornerstone of open data and accountability for the next generation of global cooperation frameworks.

Mission: Championing Transparency for Accountability and Impact

IATI's mission statement can be distilled as: **"IATI strengthens transparency and accountability in international cooperation by making data open, useful, and accessible to governments, donors, academia and civil society."**

In practical terms, this means IATI will **improve the publication of timely, accurate and comprehensive data** (so that the information is more accessible), while equally focusing on **enhancing the use of that data** (so that information drives decisions and accountability). IATI will serve as a global steward of the common standard for development cooperation and humanitarian action data, continually updating it to meet emerging needs. At the same time, IATI will work closely with governments, civil society, multilateral agencies and others to support their capacities to access and apply the data for planning, budgeting, monitoring and advocacy. In doing so, IATI acts as both standard setter and enabler: turning the principle of transparency into practical tools and evidence for better cooperation.

This clear focus on both quality data *and* its use signals an important evolution in IATI's role. It complements other international efforts, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), which stresses the use of data for mutual accountability. By executing this mission, IATI will help ensure transparency is translated into **tangible improvements in development effectiveness,** more coordinated investments, reduced duplication, and greater stakeholder trust.



Outcomes by 2030: Better Data Driving Better Results

To realise its vision and mission, IATI has defined two reinforcing **Outcome Areas for 2030.** Together, they capture the high-level impact that IATI and its community commit to delivering by the end of the strategic period.

Outcome 1: Enhanced Data Use

Systematic use of IATI data by all stakeholders fosters transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.

By 2030, IATI data will be routinely embedded in the workflows of international cooperation. Governments will draw on IATI data in national budgets, planning, and public finance and aid information management systems. Civil society will use it to monitor projects, scrutinise budgets and advocate for accountability. Donors and regional organisations will consult it when coordinating investments or responding to crises. In this way, transparency shifts from being a passive condition to an active driver of change. Evidence-based planning reduces duplication, narrows information gaps, and empowers oversight at every level. This outcome contributes directly to SDG 16 on accountable institutions and to commitments to strengthen the international financial architecture. It also supports national priorities by enabling country stakeholders to manage resources more effectively, track progress, and ensure accountability to their development agendas.

Outcome 2: More Accountable and Effective International Cooperation

An open, trusted and comprehensive evidence base informs more transparent, accountable, and effective international cooperation.

By 2030, IATI will provide a comprehensive global public data platform on development and humanitarian resources, trusted for its quality, completeness, and regular updates. By promoting transparency, IATI supports mutual accountability between all stakeholders: from donors and partner governments to citizens. The repository will cover the breadth of international cooperation flows, from ODA and humanitarian aid to climate finance, South–South and Triangular Cooperation and philanthropy, as well as qualitative information in linked reports, evaluations and planning documents. It will be more dynamic, with near real-time updates and greater scope to capture results, and more user-friendly for diverse audiences. This powerful and common evidence base will allow donors and governments to see clearly who is funding what and where, identify gaps and overlaps, collaborate around shared analytics and goals, and hold each other accountable. It will enable development cooperation that is visibly more effective and impactful because it is underpinned by transparency. This outcome responds to international calls, from the *Compromiso de Sevilla* to climate agreements, for greater alignment, reduced fragmentation, and trusted tracking of resources. Investing in transparency yields measurable returns: every dollar invested in data can generate multiple benefits through efficiency, trust and improved coordination.



Reinforcing Outcomes

These two outcomes are mutually reinforcing. Greater data use (Outcome 1) generates stronger demand for accountability, which in turn drives more effective cooperation (Outcome 2). A more transparent and accountable cooperation ecosystem creates new incentives for stakeholders to use data, closing feedback loops and accelerating progress in both areas.

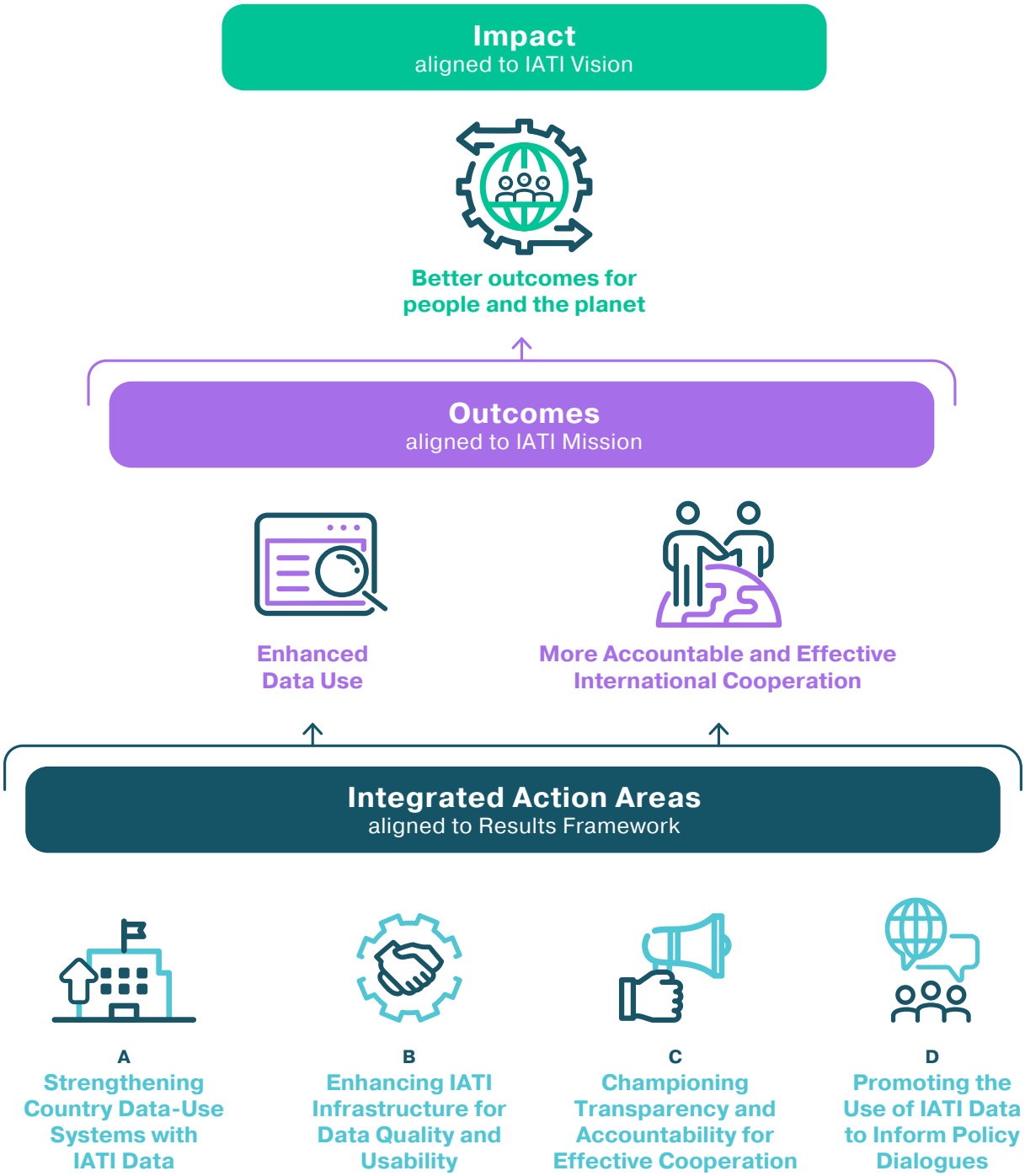
Both outcomes are anchored in global frameworks: the 2030 Agenda's call for data-driven follow-up and review; the Paris, Accra and Busan principles on transparency and accountability; and the Pact for the Future's call for renewed global solidarity. Collectively, they represent IATI's lodestar for 2026–2030, guiding how the initiative will turn transparency into impact.



IV. Strategic Framework and Integrated Action Areas

From Data to Impact

IATI's underlying assumptions to this Strategic Plan can be summarised as follows: *If* there is political will to champion transparency and the capacity to support stakeholders in using development cooperation data, *then* more data will be open, high-quality and relevant for policy- and decision-making, *so* data use will be enhanced and international cooperation becomes more accountable and effective, contributing to better outcomes for people and planet.



Four Integrated Action Areas

IATI's strategy will be executed through **four interlinked Action Areas,** labeled A through D. These represent the major pillars of work where IATI will concentrate its efforts and resources over 2026–2030. Each Action Area is aligned to the strategic framework, together addressing both data supply and data demand, with each contributing to one or both of the core outcomes. The Action Areas were identified based on stakeholder consultations and analysis of IATI's strengths and gaps.

Below, each Action Area is described with its strategic objective, key priorities, other exploratory and emerging activities, and how it contributes to the Outcomes:



Action Area A: Strengthening Country Data-Use Systems with IATI Data

Objective: *Embed IATI data in country-level systems and processes to support mutual accountability and better coordination at the national level.*

IATI will work closely with in-country partners to **integrate IATI data** into planning, financial management, budgeting, monitoring systems, AI, automation and machine-assisted analytics, and **build capacities** to use IATI data across government, civil society, parliaments, media, research and other key stakeholders.

Key Priorities

IATI will guide and support countries to ensure their **aid information and financial management systems** to draw more directly and effectively from IATI's databases, so that up-to-date information on who is funding what is readily available to finance ministries, sector ministries, parliaments, media and civil society organisations. By doing so, development activities reported to IATI can be aligned with national budgets, **policy dialogues and advocacy,** international commitments and partner reporting, and so duplication or gaps in support can be better identified. This Action Area also involves capacity building and **peer-learning** for government officials, civil society and other local stakeholders to effectively **access and use IATI data.** Such engagements will also facilitate dialogues and **feedback between data users and publishers,** which supports the strengthening of data quality feedback loops, focused on in Action Area B. Key to this will be a more proactive role of the IATI Secretariat in facilitating coordination within and between IATI constituency groups.

IATI's approach places renewed attention on stakeholders in partner countries, to support country ownership of transparency and data-use systems. The focus for 2026-2030 is on a select number of priority partner countries, based on need, particular circumstances (such as fragile and conflict-affected situations, small island developing states, and least developed countries) and the relative importance of international flows to development public finance. While targeting this critical high-intensity support in these priority countries, where enhanced transparency of international flows can have the greatest impact, IATI will also continue to serve all members and the global community with open tools and data resources.

Outcome Contribution

Action Area A directly drives Outcome 1 (enhanced data use) and contributes to Outcome 2 by strengthening country ownership and accountability.



Action Area B: Enhancing IATI Infrastructure for Data Quality and Usability

Objective: *Transform and expand IATI's technical infrastructure and Standard to ensure data is easy to publish and use, of high quality and relevance, and interoperable across the development data ecosystem.*

IATI will continue to invest in the **next generation of its open data Standard and tools** through their continuous renewal and improved usability. The aim is to make reporting data to IATI simpler and more intuitive by lowering barriers, especially for new and smaller publishers, and creating a reinforcing cycle of higher quality and accessibility, and more trust and incentives to use and publish data that can provide the foundation for a new generation of data- and AI-enabled tools for sustainable development.

Key Priorities

IATI will proactively steward the **IATI Standard** with regular improvements, consulting widely to include emerging data needs (for example, data on climate finance, South–South and Triangular Cooperation, and the localisation of aid) and to improve how interoperability across key standards, including the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS), could be leveraged to generate a more coherent picture of development and humanitarian financing and the basis for better coordination.

IATI will make major investments towards making more **user-centric and accessible data infrastructure and tool integrations,** through a unified backend and frontend architecture and consolidation of services access tools, support services, and data use and analytics tools for diverse audiences (e.g. a donor chatbot to explore aid trends, a recipient country financial management system to track inflows, sectoral or thematic interactive dashboards, etc.). This will also make it easier to connect IATI data to other datasets in international cooperation, including on human and economic development, making IATI more interoperable with a wide range of related data types, minimising duplication and reporting efforts, and supporting wider, deeper and more systematic analysis and insight generation. AI technologies will increasingly underpin data validation, translation and insight generation across IATI systems.

This will also make it easier to connect IATI data to other datasets in international cooperation, including on human and economic development, making IATI more interoperable with a wide range of related data types that can support deeper and more systematic analysis and insight generation.

Key to this will be **closing feedback loops between data publishers and users, and proactively engaging high-value and high-volume publishers through open data and open code.** These priorities can ensure continuous improvement, usability and relevance of the tools and the data to evolving data needs for development effectiveness and international cooperation.

The flagship **"State of the Data" report** will be published regularly, analysing the quality and usability of IATI data across publishers. This will create positive incentives (recognition of high-quality data publishers) and highlight areas for improvement and emerging financial flows and categories of data that are valuable for data users, supporting IATI in continuously improving the Standard and dataset to meet evolving demand and added value of IATI data. With momentum and partnerships supporting this initiative, IATI can complement the report with a 'real-time' Diagnostic Use and Decision Support dashboard.



Exploratory and Emerging Activities

IATI will continue exploring and piloting tools with partners to make its infrastructure **"AI-ready",** meaning that the growing body of qualitative information, documents, and project results in IATI can be leveraged with artificial intelligence tools for insight generation. By the end of the period, IATI's technical architecture will be more modular, scalable, and embedded in a wider network of data platforms. While IATI tools are not ready in 2026 to immediately scale ingestion of private flows and ESG-aligned investment data, by strengthening publishing tools to be easier to use for across more diverse flows, and engaging strategically with stakeholders, IATI will be in a stronger position to facilitate the supply and demand of wider international cooperation across these growing and impactful financial flows.

A stronger IATI infrastructure can also support stakeholders in reducing their publishing burden, allowing providers to publish once, and use the same data in many places. Exploration of other publishing support tools, such as AI-assisted data extraction, a data quality dashboard, auto-fill and pre-population to streamline and simplify IATI data entry. Similarly, IATI will also explore how data can be more easily embedded in and supported by other related data platforms, so IATI data can be compared to and presented alongside other key metrics around international cooperation, such as progress on economic and human development, resilience, and humanitarian effectiveness.

Outcome Contribution

This Action Area supports both outcomes: it improves data quality (making the evidence base more trusted and comprehensive for Outcome 2) and ease-of-use (facilitating greater uptake for Outcome 1). Advancing this Action Area will promote higher data quality, faster data publication cycles, and growth in the number of active data users accessing and utilising data.

Action Area C: Championing Transparency and Accountability for Effective Cooperation

Objective: *Re-energise the global commitment to transparent, accountable development cooperation through advocacy, partnerships, and expanded membership, positioning IATI as a central pillar of the international cooperation architecture.*

In this area, IATI steps into a more assertive **leadership and convening role** on transparency, with critical roles for IATI members, not just its Secretariat. IATI members will proactively make the case, in global forums and partnerships, that **transparency is a driver of more effective development and humanitarian outcomes.**

Key Priorities

Engaging with political and policy processes such as the **UN Development Cooperation Forum (DCF),** the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, environmental COPs, and others will inject evidence and highlight the value of open data. Notably, IATI's inclusion in the FfD4 *Sevilla Commitment* is a springboard to deepen its collaboration with the UN and member states on Financing for Development follow-up. IATI will strengthen **interoperability and alignment** across international standards to enable 'publish once, use everywhere'.

IATI will forge **strategic partnerships** to amplify the impact of transparency impact, for example, working with initiatives like the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS) to demonstrate how open data improves crisis response, or with accountability networks to jointly advocate for greater disclosure and use of aid data. IATI's strength lies in its ability to be concrete and useful, and strong examples of IATI data uses (such as GAFS, as well as from Liberia and the African Development Bank's Map Africa) help us reach more stakeholders and promote effective data use. IATI will also continue to work closely with Publish What You Fund and other civil society organisations, on critical areas of advocacy, including progressively expanding engagement on climate financing, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and leveraging private finance toward sustainable impact.



The IATI Secretariat and members will together pursue **targeted resource mobilisation** for transparency as a global public good: creating opportunities for partners to co-fund IATI initiatives or invest in data-use projects, especially to benefit developing countries.

Exploratory and Emerging Activities

A key part of this action area is **expanding and diversifying IATI's membership and community.** IATI functions as a coordinated global community, by connecting data producers, users and policymakers through shared standards and learning. IATI will reach out to new priority actors and providers of international cooperation investments, including emerging donor governments, philanthropic foundations, South–South Cooperation providers, climate finance funds, and the private sector, inviting them to join and publish data. This prioritisation will not only strengthen IATI's data coverage but also its political support and funding base. IATI will also **celebrate and "showcase" transparency champions,** highlighting members who excel in open data publishing and use, and championing global best practice on metadata and data quality as integral to trustworthy, AI-ready development data. IATI will continue close cooperation with the UN Development System, OECD-DAC, and UNCTAD to advance coherent data ecosystems.

By **strengthening its convening power,** IATI will host and participate in more community exchanges, peer learning events, and thematic dialogues to build a vibrant network of practice around data transparency. All these efforts aim to embed transparency as a norm, such that investing in open data becomes an integral part of development cooperation (e.g. donors funding data capacity in-country as part of aid, or multilateral institutions treating IATI as a required reporting channel).

Outcome Contribution

Action Area C is crucial for sustainability: it generates the political will, partnerships and resources that underpin all other areas. It squarely contributes to Outcome 2 by making the international cooperation system itself more transparency-friendly and mutually accountable, and indirectly boosts Outcome 1 by increasing demand for data use. IATI's success by 2030 will be marked not just by technical outputs, but by **a stronger global transparency movement** that IATI helped lead, with more strategic coordination, political commitments and actions across IATI members to advocate for the publication and use of IATI data.





Action Area D: Promoting the Use of IATI Data to Inform Policy Dialogues

Objective: *Bridge the gap between data and policy by actively curating and translating IATI data into insights, tools, and engagements that inform decision-making at global, regional, and national levels.*

Action Area D serves as a connector, ensuring that IATI's uniquely open, up-to-date and comprehensive dataset is proactively leveraged by stakeholders to connect **information and financial management systems, decision-making bodies and discussion fora across diverse organisations, sectors and countries.**

Key Priorities

IATI will promote the use of its data in **national and international policy dialogues and processes,** working with partners and researchers to **develop and showcase research and analysis from IATI data.** IATI will position its data to be valued inputs to development cooperation strategies, results, debates and documents (e.g., being referenced in the Development Cooperation Forum's communiqués or UN Secretary-General's reports, and presented at the World Data Forum and Global Data Festival), and that in several countries, policy decisions (like allocating funds or choosing partners) have been directly informed by insights from IATI data.

Like Action Area C, this promotion of international data for policy dialogues and actions requires



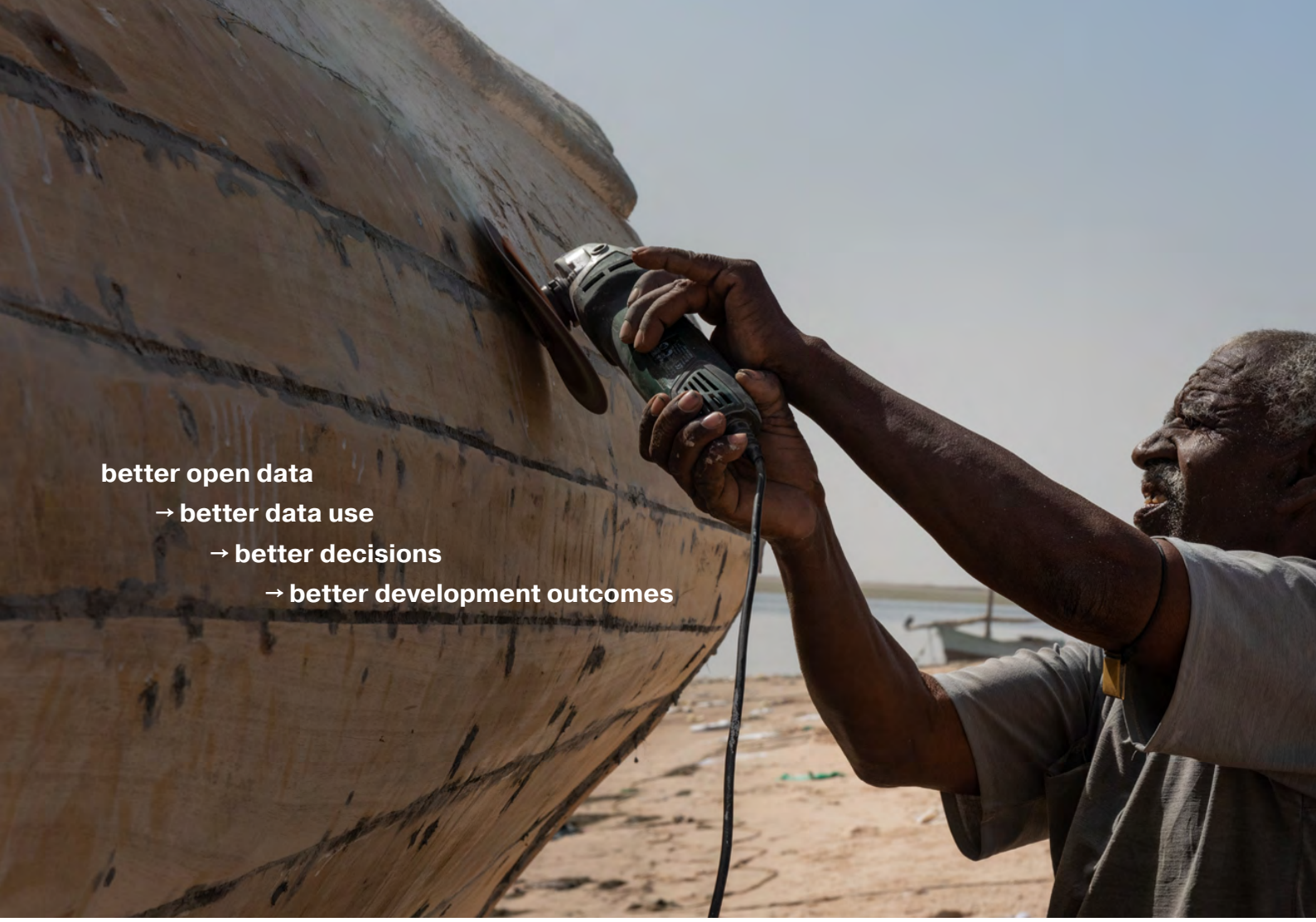
clear roles for IATI members, supported by the Secretariat, to take proactive leadership roles in building these dialogues and partnerships, investing political capital, technical capacities, and resources towards driving the uptake of IATI data across international systems and processes. Key to this will be developing data interoperability frameworks to promote harmonisation with other data standards, including the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS), Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD), Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and UNCTAD's tracking of South-South Cooperation.

Exploratory and Emerging Activities

At national level, IATI will support **"data-driven dialogues",** such as providing IATI data to support Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), and GPEDC's Action Dialogues. Essentially, it should be simple and fast for IATI data to be plugged-in to such country dialogue **platforms, helping shift policy spaces** towards systematic evidence-based discussions. This Action Area also recognises that simply having data isn't enough, stakeholders' capacity to interpret and applying data also remains a key enabler, so IATI plans to better curate data insights for global policy audiences, including potentially with AI-enabled systems for analysis and decision-making. These dialogues are also vital to advancing national data use for Action Area A.

Outcome Contribution

This area thus drives Outcome 1 (data use) strongly, and also feeds into Outcome 2 by improving the common evidence base for cooperative action. It reflects IATI's commitment not only to publish data, but to ensure data *finds its way to the tables where decisions are made.*



Synergies Across Outcome Areas

These four action areas are interdependent and self-reinforcing. Improvements in data infrastructure and country systems drive greater data use. Greater use and advocacy demonstrate impact, attracting more political and financial support for transparency, creating a virtuous cycle. Together, these actions IATI prioritise realistic goals that can advance its mission and enable Members to maximise their contributions to the broader goals of the transparency movement.

IATI's success depends on the collective and coordinated actions of its Members, its Secretariat, and many wider actors in the transparency ecosystem. IATI's unique role is to catalyse and support this ecosystem change by providing the data, standards, tools, and advocacy needed to make it happen.

IATI's work during 2026–2030 will help turn the principle of transparency into a practical instrument of change: driving a self-sustaining cycle in which **better open data → better data use → better decisions → better development outcomes.** This self-reinforcing flow is at the heart of IATI's Theory of Change, ensuring that transparency contributes to impact in meaningful ways by 2030 and beyond.

Evolution of IATI's Value Proposition (1.0 → 2.0 → 3.0)

Over the years, IATI's mission and approach have evolved in phases, reflecting a growing ambition for what transparency can achieve. **Transparency 1.0** centered on making data openly available and high-quality, and this has been our main focus of previous strategic planning periods. This has laid the foundation with standardised, timely, granular data that anyone could access. As the initiative matured, we are shifting our focus to **Transparency 2.0:** ensuring data is actually usable and used, improving interoperability, relevance, and user-friendliness of IATI data to encourage uptake by stakeholders.

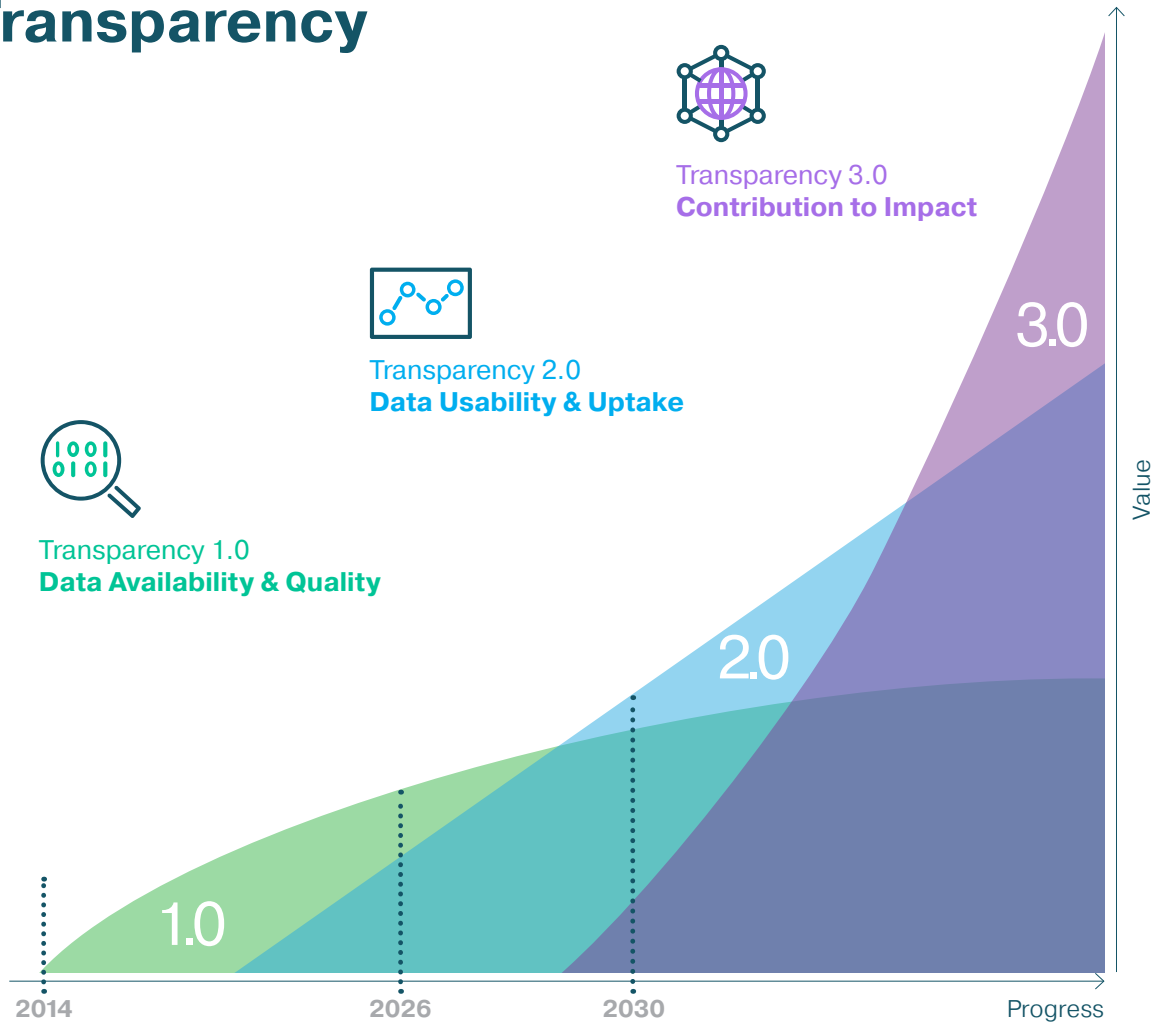
Looking ahead, by 2030 we are aiming to be advancing towards greater emphasis on **Transparency 3.0.** This aspires to clearly link transparency to real-world impact, by demonstrating how open data use leads to better coordination, decision-making, accountability, and development results, and offers the opportunity to discern economic, sector-level, or even political capital "returns" on investments in data-driven decision-making.

This phased evolution mirrors the wider ecosystem's trajectory: a transparency movement increasingly moving beyond publishing data toward actively using data and measuring its contribution to development outcomes. As this path is explored there will inevitably be tentative milestones and testing of various methodologies, metrics and approaches. The 'point-zero' framing, while often trite, is intended as a reminder of the iterative and non-linear progress we should expect in advancing through these phases towards attributing impact to transparency.

IATI Members will be at the forefront of this movement, shaping and investing in the infrastructure that will underpin the next generation of development cooperation, and defining the underlying public data architecture with IATI's unique data pipeline and data set at its heart. By building on these network effects of an expanding IATI Membership, the value of increasingly comprehensive, high-quality data and synergies across the ecosystem, IATI enables effective development cooperation. New Members will be accompanied on this journey across data publishing, data utilisation, and contributing to the stewardship of the IATI Standard and governance of the initiative.



The Future of Transparency



1. **Transparency 1.0 – Data Availability & Quality:**
   Emphasis on publishing comprehensive, standardised, timely, and granular development data in open, machine-readable formats. This phase established the availability of information through IATI's open data standard and publisher support.

2. **Transparency 2.0 – Data Usability & Uptake:**
   Emphasis on making IATI data more interoperable, relevant, and user-friendly so that it is routinely integrated and used by stakeholders. This involves improving data relevance, advocacy, and usability of tools (e.g. more integrations, AI-ready data, user-centric interfaces) to drive deeper and broader use of the information.

3. **Transparency 3.0 – Contribution to Impact:**
   An anticipated future phase where tangible development impact can be more rigorously attributed to transparency. It sets an ambition to better understand and enhance how data use improves coordination, planning, budgeting, accountability, and learning in development cooperation. Ultimately, this means demonstrating a clear line from publishing data to achieving better outcomes on the ground.

A full articulation of the Value Proposition is presented in Annex II.



V. Contributing Action Areas for Success

To deliver on its action areas and outcomes, IATI will strengthen its institutional foundations. Four **contributing action areas** will ensure robust governance, sustainable financing, agile operations, and strategic direction, enabling the Secretariat as well as its governing bodies to deliver effectively and maintain legitimacy, inclusiveness, and responsiveness.

1. Strengthening Governance and Management

Effective governance safeguards transparency, inclusive participation, and compliance.

IATI's governance bodies (Members' Assembly, Governing Board, and Secretariat) will be periodically reviewed and adapted to remain representative and effective. Lessons from peer initiatives and evaluation findings will guide reforms. IATI will also leverage the diverse expertise, networks and capacities across the Board and Secretariat, from technical data standards to diplomacy and policy engagement. These steps will sustain vibrant multi-stakeholder leadership, strategic direction and enhanced relevance and responsiveness of the initiative.

2. Financial Sustainability

Diversified financing underpins resilience and long-term planning.

IATI will modernise its funding model to broaden its donor base and adapt to opportunities and shifting supply and demand for IATI data, while maintaining its core membership model. New sources will include voluntary contributions for specific projects, pooled trust funds, and exploration of opportunities with philanthropic foundations and private actors. By 2030, IATI aims for a broader donor base, multi-year commitments, and replenished reserves, reducing reliance on any single source and ensuring continuity even in volatile funding environments. IATI's data and standard will remain open and free to all as a global public good.

3. Effective Operational Systems

Efficient, innovative operations ensure timely delivery and trust.

IATI will modernise its technology by adopting agile approaches, including the use of AI and machine learning for data validation and analysis, and upgrading APIs and cloud services to improve performance. Greater interoperability will build progress towards the possibility of "publish once, use everywhere", linking IATI data directly into other platforms such as national systems or humanitarian tracking tools. Cybersecurity and data protection will be strengthened. Internally, the Secretariat will embed project management, risk frameworks, and monitoring and evaluation systems, including an Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF), to track delivery. For example, a regular "State of the Data" report will measure data quality and uptake. Operational excellence will reinforce trust by showing that IATI is efficient, accountable, and outcome-focused.

4. Strategic and Institutional Direction

Clear strategies and advocacy anchor IATI in the global agenda.

Building on evaluation recommendations, IATI will update key strategies and procedures covering engagements, technology, and governance. It will intensify engagement in political and policy spaces, leveraging recognition in the FfD4 Sevilla Commitment to strengthen its role in Financing for Development follow-up and SDG monitoring. For instance, IATI will brief UN member states in New York, engage with the G77 and OECD-DAC, and advocate for open data language in key global agreements. By aligning with champions and showcasing results, IATI – both its members and its Secretariat together – will help ensure transparency is prioritised in international agreements and investments.



VI. Implementation and Monitoring

With the strategic framework now in place, IATI will focus on translating this strategy into action through careful implementation planning, resourcing, and monitoring. The Strategic Plan 2026–2030 is accompanied by an **Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF)** (see Annex I) that details how each Outcome and Action Area will be tracked. The IRRF defines specific indicators, baselines, annual targets, and means of verification for all major results. It also outlines the human and financial resources required and allocated to each Action Area, providing a clear linkage between investments and expected results (hence "integrated results *and resources* framework"). This will enable IATI's Governing Board and Members to **monitor progress annually,**

make evidence-based adjustments, and ensure accountability for delivering the strategy. Annual work plans and budgets will be derived from the IRRF, starting with the 2026 annual work plan which operationalises year one of the strategy.

Annual work plans and budgets will be derived from the IRRF, adaptable to emerging global and regional priorities, starting with the 2026 annual work plan which operationalises year one of the strategy. Going forward the development of each annual work plan and budget will be used to identify strategic opportunities and priorities aligned to the Strategic Plan objectives.

The IATI Governing Board, representing the membership, will oversee the implementation of this plan. Regular progress reports will be prepared by the Secretariat (at least annually, aligned with the Annual Report cycle). A mid-term review is expected around 2028 to formally assess achievements, challenges, and any course corrections required. The Board will also ensure that IATI's delivery stays aligned with external developments, for example, if new international commitments or crises emerge, the strategy can be adjusted to remain relevant. As part of operational transformation, IATI may formalise advisory groups or partner committees (including technical experts, partner country representatives, etc.) to guide specific Action Areas, ensuring broad input and buy-in throughout implementation.

Risks and mitigation: Implementing a strategy of this scope is not without risks. Potential risks identified include: insufficient funding or loss of key donors (mitigated by the revenue diversification plan and proactive outreach under Enabler 3); political changes or reduced support for transparency in some members (mitigated by continuous advocacy and demonstrating the benefits of transparency under Action Area C); technical setbacks or slower-than-planned development of new tools (mitigated by agile project management, phasing of tech deliverables, and contingency in budgets); and limited capacity uptake on the user side (mitigated by focusing capacity-building efforts and partnering with in-country champions under Action Area A). By anticipating these risks, IATI will maintain flexibility, prioritising the most critical activities and being ready to adapt if assumptions in the Theory of Change (Annex II) do not hold fully. Annual reviews and member consultations will provide feedback to inform iterative planning. The strategy is considered a living document: the core directions remain firm, but the means of getting there can evolve with learning and context.

Synergies and partnerships: Success will also hinge on deepening partnerships. IATI will actively coordinate with complementary initiatives to avoid duplication and amplify impact. For example, working with the OECD-DAC to ensure IATI and CRS data efforts are harmonised; with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) on linking IATI data to the Development Cooperation Forum, climate and SDG monitoring; with Multilateral Development Banks on their transparency efforts (so that IATI can serve as a backbone for those); and with civil society networks that can help drive data use on the ground. Private sector tech partnerships (for instance, companies that can provide analytics support or innovation challenges around IATI data) may also be pursued to inject creativity and resources. By aligning implementation with global milestones and summits, IATI stays relevant and demonstrates its value proposition on the world stage.

Conclusion and outlook: As IATI embarks on implementing the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, it does so with a strong mandate from its members and a clear recognition from the international community that **transparency is indispensable for development progress.** The plan is ambitious – it calls for IATI to stretch beyond its comfort zone as a data publisher and take on new roles as an enabler of accountability, a convener and an innovator. Yet it is also practical and focused, zeroing in on the two outcomes that will matter most by 2030. With improved data use and more accountable cooperation, development resources can be better managed to **leave no one behind,** and scarce funds can achieve greater impact.



International development cooperation must deliver results in an open, transparent way if we hope to secure a better future for our planet and its people. This strategy is IATI's commitment to that principle.

By 2030, if this plan succeeds, IATI will have significantly grown the global community of transparency practice: from an initiative known for publishing aid data into a driving force for **trust and effectiveness** in the international system. Governments and citizens alike will be able to see **the full picture of financing for sustainable development,** and hold each other to account for the commitments made in platforms like the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the *Compromiso de Sevilla.* New frontiers, such as leveraging AI to turn data into actionable intelligence, will be part of IATI's toolkit. And the concept of *"making transparency work for people and the planet"* will have moved from aspiration to reality, with visible improvements in how aid and resources are delivered to those who need them most.

While the IATI Secretariat will steward and coordinate this Strategic Plan, IATI's Board and members will continue to be central to this journey, championing the cause and playing critical active roles at every level. The Strategic Plan 2026–2030, together with its **Integrated Results and Resources Framework (Annex 1)** and **Theory of Change, Assumptions and Value Proposition (Annex II),** provide the roadmap. The task now is to implement it with resolve, innovation and partnership. In doing so, IATI will fulfil its renewed mission and contribute to a more open, accountable and effective era of international cooperation, one that meets the urgent challenges of our time, strengthened by the power of data and transparency.



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