
MA Paper 10: IATI Governing Board Elections 2026: Process, Principles and Timeline

Information Note:

IATI Governing Board Elections 2026: Process, Principles and Timeline

Purpose and Context

The IATI Governing Board represents the membership of the International Aid Transparency Initiative, providing **strategic oversight, accountability, and leadership** for the initiative. It sets IATI's strategic direction, approves the annual workplan and budget, and promotes IATI's role as a global public good for transparency and effective international cooperation.

The next Governing Board elections will take place in early 2026 and each of the seven representatives elected during will serve a two-year term starting **1 April 2026**. The election process will conclude by **mid-March 2026**, ensuring sufficient time for induction and handover before the new Board takes office.

Board Composition and Expectations

The IATI Governing Board consists of:

- **Six caucus representation seats:** two elected from each constituency/caucus group:
 - (1) Providers of development cooperation
 - (2) Partner country governments
 - (3) Civil society, private sector, and other members
- **One technical community seat**, elected by the whole membership.
- **Chair and Vice-Chair:** The Governing Board will be responsible for electing its own Chair and Vice-Chair and informing the Members' Assembly through the Secretariat.

Board Eligibility

Consistent with the Annex IV of the Standard Operating Procedures (Rev. 8, April 2024):
Election Process for Governing Board:

- 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.
- A higher standard of conduct is expected of Board members:
 - Board members are expected to vacate their seats if unable to meet good standing criteria within a further exceptional period of 3 months (first quarter, 1 January – 31 March). Alternates identified through the nomination and election period may be offered the vacant seat in the order of the election result.
 - In the event a Board member is found not to be in good standing then the Chair of the Governing Board will be obligated to make decisions on good standing. He/she is expected to apply the same criteria as for all other members, make decisions consistently, document each decision, and publish them transparently. Where the Chair is the member that is not in good standing, this obligation falls to the Vice Chair.
 - Uphold the [Code of Conduct for Board Members](#), ensuring transparency, integrity, and disclosure of conflicts of interest.
- Information on the current board composition is available on the IATI website here: <https://iatistandard.org/en/governance/who-runs-iat/>

Roles and Functions of the Board

Consistent with Section 4.4 of the [Standard Operating Procedures](#) (Rev. 8, April 2024):

- The Governing Board is responsible and accountable for oversight and approval of the annual work plan and budget and is accountable to the Members' Assembly for progress on the strategic plan.
- With the support of the Secretariat, the Board is expected to undertake the following functions:
 - 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.
 - Initiate, oversee and approve minor IATI standard upgrades in accordance with Annex II: IATI Standard upgrade process;
 - Provide guidance on the development of Members' Assembly agendas and papers by the Secretariat.
 - Sign-off on IATI's Annual Report.
 - Commission independent evaluations of IATI every three to five years.

- 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.
- The Board may authorize drawdown of the funds from the contingency reserve outside the approved budget, as detailed in Section 4.6 **4 Management of the contingency reserve fund**.
- Decision making process, including quorum, consensus, majority voting and referral to the Members Assembly is detailed Section 4.8 **Decision-making by the Board** and 3.4 **Decision-making by the Members' Assembly**.
- All Board members and alternates serve in a **voluntary, unpaid capacity** on behalf of their organisations.

Evaluation Recommendations for the IATI Governing Board

- “Shift the Governing Board to a more strategic role. Now that institutional changes to the secretariat have been completed, the Governing Board should consider reconstituting to reduce operational involvement and focus on high-level political engagement. This requires high level representation by members, and robust and transparent selection processes. Consider including external experts to enhance governance capacity and credibility.”

Election Phases

The elections will follow a four-stage process between **February and March 2026**, combining openness, inclusivity, and adequate time for constituency deliberation. They will follow [Annex IV - Election Process for Governing Board](#), of IATI’s [SOPs \(July 2024 Revision 8\)](#)

1. Call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

Duration: 3 weeks (12-31 Jan 2026)

An open **call for expressions of interest** will invite IATI Member organisations to propose candidates.

- The call will describe Board responsibilities, time commitments, and required leadership competencies.
- Nominees must confirm adherence to IATI’s Code of Conduct and conflict-of-interest policy.
- This stage serves as an **informal nomination period** to gauge interest before formal nominations.

Output: Preliminary list of interested candidates per constituency.

2. Informal Constituency Consultations

Duration: 2 weeks (2–13 Feb)

Each constituency will hold discussions to:

- Identify strong and diverse candidates.
- Seek consensus or balanced representation where possible.
- Reflect the evaluation’s call for **strategic representation, seniority, and inclusiveness**.

Secretariat support may be offered for facilitation, but discussions remain **member-led**.

Output: At least two preferred candidates per constituency

3. Formal Nomination Period

Duration: 2 weeks (16–27 Feb)

Constituencies will submit formal nominations using the prescribed form, including:

- Confirmation of membership in good standing.
- Nominee’s professional profile and statement of motivation.
- Signed **Code of Conduct** and **Conflict of Interest declaration**.

The Secretariat will publish all valid nominations on the IATI website.

Output: Official candidate list by constituency.

4. Voting (if required)

Duration: Up to 2 weeks (2–13 Mar)

If a constituency has more than two valid nominations, an **electronic constituency election** will take place.

- Each IATI Member organisation has **one vote within its constituency**.
- The **technical community seat** will be elected by all IATI Members if multiple nominations are received.
- The Secretariat will manage a transparent and anonymised process.
- Nomination statements are made available to the constituency members who then rank the candidates in order of preference.
- The two organisations receiving the highest number of votes within the constituency are confirmed as members of the Board.
- The Secretariat informs all members of the final outcome by email and through the IATI website

Output: Elected Board members confirmed and publicly announced by **18 March 2026**.

Proposed Indicative Timeline

Phase	Activity	Indicative Dates
1	Call for Expressions of Interest	12-31 Jan 2026
2	Constituency Consultations	2–13 Feb
3	Formal Nominations	16–27 Feb
4	Voting & Confirmation (as required)	2–13 Mar
—	Announcement of New Board	by 18 Mar
—	New Board Takes Office	1 April 2026

This schedule ensures the process is completed **at least two weeks before** the new term begins.

Transparency and Support

The Secretariat will maintain an **open elections page** on the IATI website and provide:

- Guidance documents, key dates, and FAQs;
- Facilitation of constituency discussions;

- Neutral support to ensure fair and inclusive processes.

For questions, contact info@iatistandard.org.

[IATI Standard Operating Procedures - July 2024, Revision 8](#)

- [Annex IV - Election Process for Governing Board](#)
- [Annex V - Code of Conduct for IATI Governing Board Members](#)
- [Annex VI - Nomination Statement for Board Election](#)