



Meeting of IATI Steering Committee Members and Observers – 1-2 June 2015
The Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Paper 7: Update on outreach activities and guidance on future opportunities

Re-cap on strategy and agreed priorities

The IATI outreach strategy was developed by the IATI subgroup on outreach, with support from the IATI Secretariat. Outreach is regarded as the responsibility of all members, with the Secretariat supporting their efforts through the provision of relevant materials, such as the Speakers' Kit. The purpose of the outreach strategy is to maximise IATI's impact by:

- Encouraging more organisations to publish to the IATI Standard, including by ensuring that the Standard works for different types of development cooperation providers;
- Increasing the visibility of IATI, especially at country level, to promote and support greater use of IATI data.

Given limited resources, priorities for outreach were previously identified as being:

- Remaining G8 countries (Japan and France have published some data, Italy and Russia have attended previous Steering Committee meetings as observers but not published yet);
- South-South Cooperation (SSC) providers, including BRICS and Arab donors;
- Partner countries – seen as vital in increasing demand for data and supporting data use.

At the October 2014 Steering Committee meeting, there was strong support in the outreach session for IATI to seize forthcoming opportunities including:

- Input into the work of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the data revolution;
- Contribute to Financing for Development discussions, making the link to a broader range of development flows and ensuring that development effectiveness principles inform the debate;
- Analyse where IATI's experience could have greatest added-value within the post-2015 debate (eg within the Sustainable Development Goals, Means of Implementation, monitoring);

- Consider more formal links with other initiatives such as Open Contracting, the Open Government Partnership, Follow the Money, Making All Voices Count, and The Open Aid Partnership.

Update since last meeting

- France - Agence Française de Développement has published to IATI;
- Arab donors – the IATI technical team has been working with the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and expects them to publish soon. OFID also invited IATI to present to a meeting of the Arab Coordination Group, where the response to IATI was positive;
- Partner countries - Nigeria has joined IATI as a full member, and process is underway for an additional three countries (Somalia, Burundi, Guinea) to join since receipt of their formal requests following the Accra Regional Workshop on data use.
- Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG) – blog published in response on the IATI website;
- Financing for Development (FFD) – the Secretariat has developed materials to support members from all three constituencies to promote IATI within current FFD negotiations, as well as briefing members for meetings organised by missions in New York. As a result of members' efforts, IATI is currently referenced in paragraph 117 of the revised outcome document. The Secretariat is working with others to submit an application for a side-event on the role of global data standards in monitoring FFD commitments at the Addis Ababa Conference.
- Post-2015 – to date, the Secretariat has only devoted limited time to this, but has supported members by providing briefings for meetings in New York.

Guidance on future priorities

While the extent to which the concrete agreements/commitments expected in the FFD as well as the Post-2015 Means of Implementation is yet to be seen, there is a positive indication with regard to the importance of open data, global data standards and the greater potential for initiatives such as IATI to play an important role beyond 2015. In this context, visibility of IATI at country level as well as more organisations publishing to the IATI standard remains a key purpose of IATI outreach strategy. Guidance from the Steering Committee is sought on the following:

1) Key international meetings

FFD Conference, Addis Ababa, July 13th-16th To date, the Secretariat has focussed on supporting members to promote IATI within the current negotiations, for example by the

provision of briefing materials. With six weeks to go before the Conference, do members endorse this approach or would they like to see IATI playing a more proactive role in its own name, for example through the publication of articles, blogs, social media?

UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, New York, 25th-27th September

Previous sessions on outreach and the results of the evaluation survey confirm that there is support from members for promoting IATI within the post-2015 context – what ideas do members have for taking this forward?

Open Government Partnership Summit, Mexico, 27th-29th October

– there is considerable overlap between IATI and OGP’s membership, and a number of OGP members have included specific commitments on IATI within their National Action Plans. The OGP Summit also provides a forum for sharing experiences with other data standards and transparency initiatives – what level of priority do members believe IATI should give to this event?

Global Partnership High Level Meeting, date and venue tbc, 2016

– the Secretariat invested considerable time in preparations for the Mexico HLM, and IATI secured a high profile as a result. Do members support a similar approach to the next HLM?

2) Strengthening outreach and communications at country level

Both the report from the Accra regional workshop and the results from the evaluation survey underline the need for greater investment in outreach and communications at country level in order to increase the demand for high quality data and support increased data use. What ideas do members have for taking this forward, and what support can they offer themselves on this?

3) Collaboration with other data standards and transparency initiatives

The scope for collaboration with others engaged in similar work has emerged in several of our recent discussions, and guidelines for this have been presented. Would members support a scoping exercise to identify the potential for formalising some of these relationships or do they prefer an ad hoc approach?