

**INTERNATIONAL AID TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE**  
**SECOND MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2009, OECD, PARIS**

The second Steering Committee meeting of the International Aid Transparency Initiative was held in Paris on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. Members of the Steering Committee attended along with observers (see attached list.) Observers included donors and partner countries who have not yet signed up to IATI, but who were invited to make comments to help inform the discussion. The meeting was chaired by Sarah Cooke, DFID.

**1) Agenda**

- a) Update on IATI progress to date, budget, project plan
- b) Presentation on draft IATI scoping paper by Owen Barder, DIPR
- c) Update and discussion on IATI conference
- d) Membership, structure and workplan for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
- e) Showcase of current aid transparency work (TR-AID)
- f) AOB

**2) Update on IATI progress to date**

- a) Romilly Greenhill, DFID IATI co-ordinator, reminded members that IATI aims to agree common standards for publishing aid information in 4 areas: agreeing what is published; common definitions; common electronic data formats; and a code of conduct. She summarised progress to date, noting that the scoping study has been prepared; partner country consultations are due to start shortly; CSO consultations have already started; and communications materials have been prepared. IATI now has a new website, [www.aidtransparency.net](http://www.aidtransparency.net), which will be further developed over the next few weeks.
- b) Dasa Silovic from UNDP, who are leading on partner country outreach and consultations for IATI, presented the ToR for the regional consultations. She explained that the aims of the regional consultations are to: familiarise partner countries with the initiative; identify information gaps; enable peer learning and south-south exchange; and help to inform the IATI conference.
- c) Romilly Greenhill explained that the next steps are to: continue rolling out partner country and CSO consultations; plan the IATI conference; commence TAG work; scale up the website; and continue donor and partner country outreach. She presented the budget and thanked Finland and Ireland for their contributions and the Netherlands for the expected contribution. Financial support is also needed from other donors.

**Action:** all IATI members to consider scope for financial contribution to IATI. Contributions in the region of 50,000 – 100,000 euro would be welcome.

- d) In the **discussion**, the following issues were raised:
- i) Partner countries including Vietnam, Colombia, Egypt, Cambodia and PNG expressed support for the initiative, noting that they often lack aid information and that there are inconsistencies between country level and OECD data. Partner countries and CSOs emphasised the importance of aid information for the Paris agenda, including ownership, results, and division of labour, as well as to monitor progress. PNG and Vietnam also noted the importance of information on NGO aid flows. The partner country consultations were welcomed and the importance of south-south learning and capacity building were emphasised.
  - ii) It was suggested that the timeframe needs to ensure that the partner consultations could be finalised ahead of the IATI conference.
  - iii) The importance of ensuring appropriate selection of partner country and CSO representatives, and of effectively disseminating the outcomes of the consultations were noted.
  - iv) Other issues raised included ensuring consistency with the work of the WP-STAT: ensuring that the partner country consultations inform the DCF symposium on mutual accountability; the need for more information on what information it is feasible for donors to supply; maintaining linkages to the WP-EFF cluster C; and articulating a common definition of transparency.

### **3) Presentation on draft IATI scoping study**

- a) The chair thanked DIPR for preparing the scoping study and for IATI members for the very high quality of the comments provided to date. Owen Barder from DIPR presented the draft paper (see presentation attached.) Sarah Cooke outlined the key themes that had emerged from the first round of comments. A number of participants praised the high quality of the scoping study.
- b) Issues raised in the discussion were:
  - i) The level of ambition. Some (e.g. PWYF) felt that agreeing standards would not be too technically difficult, others (e.g. WB, Australia, Germany) stressed the challenge ahead, particularly in agreeing definitions and changing systems. Sharing data on outputs and outcomes, and future aid flows, are likely to be particularly challenging.

- ii) The need to draw on lessons from other systems of information sharing, e.g. the dialect approach used in financial markets.
  - iii) The need for greater clarity on the relationship between IATI, the DAC, and other similar initiatives, including to prevent double reporting and creation of new, parallel systems. Yasmin Ahmad from the DAC clarified that the DAC CRS is a statistical system rather than an aid management system, which is not designed to meet partner country needs. She recommended that IATI use existing DAC classification systems, where appropriate, but with additional detail and broader coverage given IATI's broader remit. Brian Hammond also clarified that IATI will aim to use DAC classifications and standards, but not the actual CRS data which are insufficiently timely to meet partner country needs.
  - iv) The importance of engaging with CSOs and non-DAC donors
  - v) The importance of piloting the IATI standards in 2 donor and 2 partner countries, and gaining a better understanding of the likely cost to donors. Piloting will require volunteers to participate in the exercise.
- c) The main areas of agreement were:
- i) IATI should be ambitious but pragmatic about what can be achieved. We should take a phased approach, focusing first on a core set of information and then extending reporting to a broader set of information. The Technical Advisory Group should propose a) what donors should publish b) the code of conduct and then c) a sub-set of issues for which common definitions and formats will be agreed.
  - ii) The TAG should be mandated to produce a more detailed note on the relationship between IATI and existing systems for publishing aid information e.g. the CRS.
  - iii) The TAG should conduct more detailed investigation into what information donors are able to provide easily, and what is more difficult. This includes conducting the IATI pilots.

**Action:** any final comments on the scoping study should be sent to Romilly Greenhill at DFID ([r-greenhill@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:r-greenhill@dfid.gov.uk)) by **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**. A final version will be circulated by the end of April.

Volunteers are also needed for the IATI pilot. **Donors and partner interested in participating in the pilot should contact Simon Parrish at DIPR ([SimonP@devinit.org](mailto:SimonP@devinit.org))**

#### **4) IATI Conference Update**

- a)** Romilly Greenhill presented the draft IATI conference concept note. She explained that we are still hoping to hold the conference in the Netherlands, subject to confirmation from the Dutch Minister. Because of the shortage of time, participants were asked to send comments on the conference concept note by e-mail.
- b)** Members agreed that it would be challenging to get politicians to a conference of this type. It was suggested instead that the conference should focus more on the senior technical level. Other opportunities (e.g. to coincide with high level events such as GA or annual Bank/Fund meetings) should be sought to raise the political profile of IATI.
- c)** Members agreed to change the timeframe of the conference to mid/late September. This will allow more time to encourage senior level attendance, and allow more time for the regional consultations to take place.
- d)** Other suggestions from members included:
  - i)** Allowing more space for sharing of information on existing transparency initiatives;
  - ii)** Greater involvement of those not already signed up to IATI;
  - iii)** Making greater use of learning from other systems including innovative ideas for sharing data;
  - iv)** Shaping the agenda according to the issues raised in the regional consultations.

#### **5) Technical Advisory Group membership, structure and workplan**

- a)** Sarah Cooke explained that informal consultations had demonstrated that there is strong support for Brian Hammond to take on the role of TAG chairperson. Brian has agreed to take on this role, which is very welcome. Brian has now left the DAC and is taking on the role in an independent capacity.
- b)** Brian Hammond presented progress to date on the TAG. He explained that the current TAG membership is short of donor and partner country government representatives. Members were asked to send in their nominations. Participants asked for more information about the skills and experiences required for the TAG and the likely time commitment.
- c)** It was agreed that it was not compulsory to have signed up to IATI to be a member of the TAG, but it is important that participants should share the aspirations of IATI even if they are unable formally to become signatories.

**Action: Brian Hammond and DIPR** will circulate TAG ToR and indicate skills, experience and time commitment for TAG members. **All IATI members** and other interested parties should consider nominating someone for the TAG.

## **6) Presentation by TR-AID**

- a)** Sarah Cooke explained that in order to ensure that IATI builds on existing transparency work, IATI will be inviting representatives from existing transparency initiatives to present their work at Steering Committee meetings.
- b)** TR-AID was the first initiative to present. TR-AID is an EC funded initiative to keep track of donor funding, initially meant to provide a tool to avoid double funding of projects or programmes for development cooperation. The TR-AID is a database which will capture donor flows based on the data they provide from their internal information systems. It is managed by the EU Joint Research Centre.
- c)** DFID will be sharing a copy of the presentation by e-mail shortly.

## LIST OF ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation	E-mail
<b>Steering Committee members</b>			
Sarah Cooke (Chair)	Head, AEAD	DFID	S-cooke@dfid.gov.uk
Craig Fagan	Senior Policy Co- ordinator	Transparency International	<a href="mailto:cfagan@transparency.org">cfagan@transparency.org</a>
Karin Christiansen	Director	Publish What You Fund	Karin.christiansen@publishwha tyoufund.org
Leni Buisman	Senior Policy Advisor	MFA, Netherlands	
Jean-Louis Sarbib	Chair of Board CEO	Development Gateway	Jsarbib@dgfoundation.org
Brian Hammond	Senior Adviser and TAG Chair	Development Gateway	<a href="mailto:Brian.w.hammond@btinternet.com">Brian.w.hammond@btinternet.com</a>
Caitlin Wilson	DAC Delegate	Australia	<a href="mailto:Caitlin.wilson@dfat.gov.au">Caitlin.wilson@dfat.gov.au</a>
Jost Kadel	Senior Policy Adviser	Germany	<a href="mailto:kadel@bmz.bund.de">kadel@bmz.bund.de</a>
Alex Gerbrandij	Senior Policy Adviser	EC	Alex.gerbrandij@ec.europa.eu
Dasa Silovic		UNDP	Dasa.silovic@undp.org
Reichert Thanda	Assistant Secretary Dept of National Planning	PNG	Reichert.thanda@planning.gov. pg
Oscar Schiappa - Pietra	Chief Technical Adviser	PNG	Oscar.schiappa- pietra@undp.org
Kyle Peters	Director, Country Services	World Bank	<a href="mailto:rpeters@worldbank.org">rpeters@worldbank.org</a>
Owen Barder	Director, aidinfo	DIPR	<a href="mailto:own@devinit.org">own@devinit.org</a>
Henri Valot	Policy Adviser	Civicus	<a href="mailto:Henri.valot@civicus.org">Henri.valot@civicus.org</a>
Romilly Greenhill	IATI Co- ordinator	DFID	r-greenhill@dfid.gov.uk
<b>Observers</b>			

Anjula Garg	TR-AID Project Manager	EC Joint Research Centre	Anjula.garg@jrc.it
Tony O'Grady	TR-AID developer	EC Joint Research Centre	Tony.o'grady@jrc.it
Michel Cagnon	Executive Advisor	Canadian CIDA	<a href="mailto:Michel-fin.gagnon@acdi-cida.gc.ca">Michel-fin.gagnon@acdi-cida.gc.ca</a>
Kai Kikuri		MofA, Japan	Kai.kikuri@mofa.go.jp
Philip Courtnadge	Adviser	CDC Cambodia/UNDP	Philip.courtnadge@undp.org
Saudo Alzatec	Director International Cooperation	Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Co-ordination, Colombia	<a href="mailto:salzote@accimsocial.gov.co">salzote@accimsocial.gov.co</a>
Talaat Abdel Malek	Economic Advisor to the Minister	Egypt	
Joan Atherton	Senior Policy Advisor	USAID	jatherton@usaid.gov
Mary-Anne Addo	Director, External Finance Mobilisation	Ghana	<a href="mailto:M_a.addo@mofep.gov.gh">M_a.addo@mofep.gov.gh</a>
Manju Senapaty	Senior Planning and Policy Economist	Asian Development Bank	msenapaty@adb.org
Shahid N Zahid	Lead Professional (Aid effectiveness)	Asian Development Bank	Szahid@adb.org
Bernard Kazandsian	Ministrie Economie	France	<a href="mailto:Christine.bernard-kazandjian@dgtpe.fr">Christine.bernard-kazandjian@dgtpe.fr</a>
Marie Odile Blanc	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs	France	<a href="mailto:Marie-odile.blanc@diplomatie.gov.fr">Marie-odile.blanc@diplomatie.gov.fr</a>
Jasmin Ahmad	Manager data collection	OECD	
Cao Manh Cuong	Deputy Director General, Ministry of Planning	Vietnam	

	and Investment		