



# IATI Newsletter

June 2009

## Welcome

Welcome to the June edition of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) newsletter. The initiative has reached an important stage in which groundwork to establish the standards is taking place: technical work on the initiative is now in full swing and both partner country and civil society organisation consultation workshops are underway. Read on to find out more about recent developments and upcoming dates.

## Switzerland signs up to IATI

Switzerland recently became the seventeenth donor to join the International Aid Transparency Initiative. We would like to welcome Switzerland to IATI, and look forward to working with them as we take the initiative forward. We are also pleased that a growing number of partner countries are endorsing the initiative.

## IATI conference- 20th and 21st October, The Hague

We are pleased to inform you that the dates for the IATI conference have been confirmed for 20 and 21 October 2009 in The Hague. Many thanks to our colleagues in the Netherlands for hosting the conference. The event will be opened by Albert Koenders, Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation. The conference will bring together participants from donor agencies, partner country governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), aid information experts and the media, to explore aid transparency within the broader context of ownership, domestic accountability and mutual accountability. Further details and invitations will be sent out in due course. For more information, please contact [r-greenhill@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:r-greenhill@dfid.gov.uk)

## Autumn 2009: A key phase for IATI

September to December 2009 will be a key phase in agreeing the first part of the IATI standards. By December, we aim to have agreed what information donors commit to publishing and the code of conduct governing implementation. Detailed technical work on both these areas is being taken forward by the IATI Technical Advisory Group (TAG), with proposals expected to be shared with the full TAG in early September. The proposed schedule is as follows:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Early September:   | TAG meeting discusses first draft proposals                               |
| 29 or 30 September | IATI Steering Committee meets virtually to consider TAG proposals         |
| 20/21 October:     | IATI Conference shares feedback from consultation and discusses proposals |
| 3/4 December:      | Final agreement by IATI Steering Committee                                |

## Partner country and CSO consultations in full swing

Partner country and CSO consultation exercises will be scaling up as of 29 June. The latest schedule is as follows:

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 29/30 June                | African partner country consultation, Kigali (contact <a href="mailto:robin.ogilvy@undp.org">robin.ogilvy@undp.org</a> )             |
| 29 June-17 July           | Start of e-consultation in the Asia region (contact <a href="mailto:stefanie.carmichael@undp.org">stefanie.carmichael@undp.org</a> ) |
| 3 July                    | European CSO consultation, Brussels (contact <a href="mailto:r-greenhill@dfid.gov.uk">r-greenhill@dfid.gov.uk</a> )                  |
| 6/7 July                  | CEE/CIS partner country consultation, Montenegro (contact <a href="mailto:astrid.schnitzer@undp.org">astrid.schnitzer@undp.org</a> ) |
| w/b 20 <sup>th</sup> July | Middle East and North Africa consultation, Jordan (tbc)  |
| 4-7 August                | African CSO consultation, Nairobi (contact <a href="mailto:atujuan@ibon.org">atujuan@ibon.org</a> )                                  |
| 27/28 August              | Asia regional consultation, Bangkok (contact <a href="mailto:aidan.cox@undp.org">aidan.cox@undp.org</a> )                            |
| Late August               | Latin America regional consultation, Dominican Republic (tbc)  |
| 8-9 September             | West Africa regional consultation, Accra, Ghana. (tbc)   |

All reports of consultation meetings will be made available on the IATI website ([www.aidtransparency.net](http://www.aidtransparency.net)).

## Update on the Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

The TAG has held two meetings since the last newsletter – a planning meeting in London on 12 May and meetings of workstreams 1 (scope of the standard) and 3 (code of conduct) in Brussels on 2 and 3 June. The records of these meetings are available at: [www.aidinfo.org](http://www.aidinfo.org) and [www.aidtransparency.net](http://www.aidtransparency.net). We are still seeking one or more IATI members to lead workstream 1. The Brussels meeting identified the need for more research into information about procurement and traceability of aid spending, as well as to recast the prospective information items into flow charts of the project cycle for different aid modalities to help visualise when and by whom the information is collected, with what frequency and in what level of detail and where it is currently published, if at all. Alex Gerbrandij (EC) and Henri Valot (CIVICUS) have kindly agreed to lead workstream 3. In Brussels workstream 3 examined examples of existing codes and considered the scope, audience, ownership, content, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of the code of conduct. It discussed issues of historical information, data validation, thresholds, exemptions, licensing, access to information and use of ‘crowd sourcing’ to comment on data. Both workstreams aim to have proposals for discussion at a wider TAG meeting in the first or second week of September. They also both noted the importance of establishing close linkages with the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, notably with Cluster C on Transparent and Responsible Aid (which includes a network on transparency) and Cluster E on Managing for Development Results.

## TAG workstream 4: Donor fact-finding

Donor fact-finding got underway on 22-24 June with a visit to DFID to investigate how potential IATI standards might impact them. DFID’s disclosure policy and the new ARIES system mean that DFID would find it relatively easy to meet the standards, but some adjustments may be needed to meet in-country information needs. Further fact finding missions to four other donors are planned in July to September, as well as two partner country pilots.

## New IATI website

Keeping track of progress with IATI should soon become easier with the launch later this week of a much expanded IATI website at [www.aidtransparency.net](http://www.aidtransparency.net).