Paper B: Deprecation of Version 1 of the IATI Standard

Background

On Standards Day at the TAG in Dar es Salaam (March 2018) participants discussed a paper "Deprecation of Old Versions of the Standard". A deprecated version would not be deleted but would no longer be supported or recommended. There was general consensus on the need to deprecate old versions and that this is a matter to be decided by the Members' Assembly. There was, however, no consensus on how much notice needs to be given for such an action to come into effect.

The questions below were posted for all members on IATI Discuss on 14 June 2018, and no responses were received to date.

Implications

- There are 17 active publishers (three of them IATI members) using Version 1 of the standard. This includes a number of large institutions.
- There a further 79 publishers using Version 1 who have not updated their data for at least a year.
- The lists of affected publishers are available here and members affected have already been contacted directly.

Recommendation

The technical team recommends that Version 1 should be deprecated for two main reasons:

- It is difficult for users to compare data between the two integer versions;
- Data quality / validation in Version 2 is more robust than in Version 1.

The technical team believes that a two-year notice period is sufficient to enact this change, and will provide dedicated support to the three IATI members affected by this action.

With this background, the following two questions are presented to Members' Assembly:

1. Should Version 1 of the Standard be deprecated?
2. If so, what notice period should be given.
Discussion on this proposal is welcome, with a view to receiving clear guidance from the MA that can be taken forward at the TAG 2018.