

Dear Colleagues,

As we are approaching the end of 2009, we are pleased to share with you an update on the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and the plans for taking the IATI forward in the course of 2010.

1. IATI Steering Committee meeting, 30 November 2009 – keeping the ambition

The IATI Steering Committee met on Monday, 30 November at the OECD/DAC in Paris to review 1) the timeline for reaching agreement on the four parts of the IATI standards, i.e. scope of information, common definitions, common data exchange format, and code of conduct, and 2) the work plan of the IATI Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the Partner Country Engagement Plan for 2010.

The members of the Committee, among them representatives from partner countries, agreed that implementation of phase 1 of IATI will begin by end 2010 as originally envisaged. Phase 1 will consist of core data required by partner countries, plus conditionality (key commitment of donors in the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)) and already published documentation. Other documentation not yet widely published will be shifted to phases 2 and 3.

Thus, in the first half of next year, the IATI TAG will move to work intensively on definitions and formats with a view to reaching an agreement on what data is published with the agreed formats and definitions by July 2010. Agreement on what documents should be published with agreed formats and definitions is expected to be reached by end 2010. The Code of Conduct will continue to be revised, but should be finalized by the end of 2010.

Furthermore, donors signatories to the IATI agreed to pursue consultations within their organizations on the standards in order to have a better assessment of the steps necessary to begin implementation of phase 1 as planned. The IATI TAG will assist these efforts by conducting fact-finding missions in donor HQs.



Furthermore, the Steering Committee endorsed both the IATI TAG and Partner Country Engagement plans for next year. We are currently in the process of mobilizing resources for both plans and we will keep you informed as the funds and activities firm up in the course of the next weeks.

The IATI would also like to garner the experience of partner countries in collecting and analyzing aid information provided by development partners at the country level, and the use of this information for

planning, budgeting, aid coordination and monitoring purposes. For more details on the planned partner country pilots, consultations, etc., please see the attached Partner Country Engagement Plan.

2. Emerging thinking on implementing the IATI – publish once, use often

During the IATI Steering Committee, Development Initiatives for Poverty Research (member of the IATI Secretariat) presented the emerging thinking on how IATI will be implemented.

The IATI is a concrete effort to translate the AAA commitments on transparency into a tangible outcome. The proposal is for donors to provide access to their published aid information in a common format via an IATI registry, which is a virtual catalogue or index. The information will be published according to an agreed timeline depending on the type of information (e.g. whether it is information regarding budgets, disbursements, or strategies, etc.). Donors will register the location of their published information with the registry which will allow multiple users of this information – including partner country AIMS - to easily find and access it. The strap-line is: “Publish once, use often”. Aid information intermediaries can then build databases and portals tailored to the needs of various aid information users. The approach aims to build on existing international and national standards and systems of donors, the OECD/DAC Creditor Reporting System and partner country AIMS. Its objective is to maximize the potential of these systems by providing public access to key information for decision-making, research and other purposes in a timely manner.

The attached paper and Power Point presentation outline the proposal in greater detail. These are currently being revised based on comments received from the Steering Committee, and the final versions will be available on <http://aidtransparency.net/> by the end of this month. Please share them as widely as possible among your colleagues and partners.

3. The IATI and the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness’s Cluster C on Transparent and Responsible Aid

The IATI has been asked by Cluster C on Transparent and Responsible Aid, in particular its Task Team (TT) on Transparency and Predictability to develop proposals on what information should be published, with agreed formats and definitions, in order to meet the Accra transparency commitments. It is envisaged that the TT will also produce a paper on the linkages between predictability and transparency. The TT met in Paris on 1st December to review progress and receive an update from the IATI Steering Committee.

It should be noted that the IATI standard on what aid information donors will publish includes data on future funding opportunities, annual forward planning budgets, planned disbursements and payments.

If you have any questions on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us at r-greenhill@dfid.uk.gov and danila.boneva@undp.org.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration in 2010.

With best regards,

The IATI Secretariat

