

**UNGA 2018 Side Event:**

*Interactive panel debate & celebratory reception*

***“10 years of IATI: Retrospectives and future trends on data, transparency and open societies”***

*September 25th, 2018, 6.00 – 9.00 pm*

*Princeton Club, New York City*

**Background**

Ten years ago, the [International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)](https://www.aidtransparency.net/), was launched at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in 2008 as a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative with the objective to increase the transparency of development finance streams, to enable better planning and management of national budgets and to support development donors in meeting their commitments on transparency.

Today, IATI is recognized as a key source of information that is published regularly by over 800 development and humanitarian organizations. IATI data is now relied upon for an increasing variety of purposes, from monitoring of climate finance and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, to tracking resource allocation following humanitarian emergencies, and for increasing engagement and partnerships at regional and global levels.

**The event**

In order to discuss and outline the milestones for the next decade of transparency in international development and finance, IATI has invited thought-leaders and senior representation from national governments, private sector, academia and development organizations to gather in New York for an interactive, high-level dialogue.

Featuring an interactive panel debate, the panelists are encouraged to critically reflect on past achievements in aid transparency, data access and monitoring of national and global development agendas, as well as outline their vision for the future of effective and sustainable planning, budgeting for and implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

The audience is encouraged to engage with the panelists and the moderator in an interactive, talk-show style debate on questions around transparency, reflecting on milestones, achievements and current best practices of IATI data use from national and global perspectives, sharing their perspectives and experiences around using IATI data with other datasets to add value in real life contexts.

The event is set to mark the 10th anniversary of IATI and highlight the progress and achievements the initiative has made in an ever-changing developing landscape. Starting from a commitment of a handful of actors during the midst of the Millennium Development Goals era, over the last 10 years, the “IATI Standard” has become a brand and a reporting standard for the publication of data on development activities and finance flows.

The IATI UNGA side-event is co-hosted by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and joined by the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh and Honduras to the United Nations and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

The event is moderated by Henry Bonsu, Freelance Journalist and Broadcaster.

**Panelists**

* H.E. Mrs. Maria del Carmen Nasser de Ramos, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Honduras;
* H.E. Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, CEO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Samoa;
* Ms. Ulrika Modéer, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP;
* Ms. Reina Buijs, Director-General International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands;
* Mr. Daniel Steinberg, Senior Advisor, New York City Mayor’s Office of Operations.

A celebratory milestone in IATI’s history, the event will be an opportunity for the IATI community to gather, discuss and showcase data use and partnerships through IATI. The panel debate and the following reception will provide ample opportunity for members of the IATI community to present on best practices of IATI data use and provide food-for-thought and inspiration to old and new IATI data users.

The event is envisioned as a testimony to international cooperation on aid/development transparency and highlight the progress made over the last decade, while providing outlook to the future of development data use beyond the traditional “aid” approaches.

**Logistics**

The event is hosted as a side-event to the 73rd United Nations General Assembly and takes place on September 25th at the NYC Princeton Club. After a 90-minute panel debate and an “IATI Anniversary Ceremony”, the event will feature an anniversary cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres, providing ample space for the participants to mingle and network and exchange on current transparency standards and practices and to learn more about IATI at our “IATI – past, present, future” wall.

The event will allow for the participation of 100-150 participants; kindly RSVP to Lea Zoric, UNDP-IATI Outreach Specialist, (lea.zoric@undp.org) for seat reservation.