



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

New York, 28 March 2018

Proposal to extend consortium hosting arrangement to August 31st, 2019

To the Chair and members of the IATI Governing Board,

The hosting consortium led by UNDP and joined by Development Initiatives, UNOPS and the Governments of Sweden and Ghana “the Consortium” has taken note of the request made by the Board on behalf of IATI members to extend its current arrangement to provide hosting services for a further period of one year, bringing the current arrangement to a close in August 2019. It is understood that this additional one-year extension is required to carry out transitional activities to long term institutional arrangements. The nature of these future arrangements are yet to be determined and are currently under review by a subgroup of the Board, the Working Group on Long Term Institutional arrangements, on behalf of members.

Agreement to continue

I am happy to confirm that the Consortium will continue to provide core Secretariat services aligned with the vision, mission and workplan, carrying out the specific activities covered in the relevant annual budgets as approved by the IATI governing bodies and in accordance with the IATI Standard Operating Procedures.

Achievements

Since assuming the hosting role in September 2013, the Consortium has overseen steep growth of the initiative, with membership increasing by 75% from 49 to 86 members, and the number of publishers tripling from 200 to more than 650. The support desk handles more than 120 requests per month and the technical team supports 16 core tools. The Secretariat has drafted, consulted and continued to update robust Standard Operating Procedures. At the request of members, it supported an evaluation of the initiative in 2015, going on to implement many of its recommendations including organising elections and putting in place all processes leading to the establishment of the IATI Governing Board in April 2016.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

The Secretariat has prepared and published annual reports and increased visibility for the initiative through its active social media engagement and is finalising an end-to-end update of its entire online presence. Members have been supported to attend and hold fruitful discussions both at Steering Committees<sup>1</sup> and Members' Assemblies and Technical Advisory Groups annually and through different consultative methods both online and face to face.

At political levels, this period has seen IATI becoming increasingly well recognised within the global aid architecture, with references at successive High-Level Meetings of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and through clear commitments in global forums and outcome documents such as the Financing for Development Addis Ababa Agenda for Action, the World Humanitarian Summit Grand Bargain, and the United Nations reform agenda<sup>2</sup>, among others.

At the time of taking on the hosting of the Secretariat, less than \$30,000 was available to be carried over from previous arrangements. The Consortium has implemented a fundraising programme to reach financial sustainability, finally reaching 100% financing through membership contributions in FY4. Consortium member organisations have continued to make in-kind contributions varying between \$300,000 - \$450,000 annually. This in-kind support was critical in enabling the timely delivery of essential services.

From an initial budget of \$2.2m in 2013/14, the initiative has been able to complete its planned activities with minimal budgetary increases, rising to just \$2.6m or 18% during the four-year period up to 2017/18. While the long-term financial sustainability of the initiative has not yet been proven, prudent financial management has enabled the Secretariat to deliver its planned activities effectively in the latter years of the arrangement.

### Proposed adjustments

All members of the Consortium acknowledge that IATI has changed during the five years since the hosting arrangements were originally conceived. At that time, it was important to establish a Secretariat that mirrored the diverse multi-stakeholder nature of the membership. With key governance structures

---

<sup>1</sup> Steering committees were held annually or twice annually prior to the establishment of the Members' Assembly and Governing Board structures in 2016

<sup>2</sup> Reports of the Secretary-General: Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet <http://undocs.org/A/72/684>; Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: ensuring a better future for all - Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations <https://undocs.org/A/72/492>



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

such as a Members' Assembly and Governing Board now in place and functioning effectively, and in which each of IATI's three key constituencies (Providers of Development Cooperation, Partner Countries, CSO/Other) are represented, it is no longer such an imperative for the Secretariat to maintain similar representation.

In light of these circumstances, the Government of Sweden will withdraw from the Consortium for the extension period. Remaining Consortium members are tremendously grateful for the extensive support received from Sweden and are assured they will continue to champion IATI as regular members. This change will have minimal financial impact on the current budget as Sweden has not been a recipient of funding (other than for occasional travel) from the IATI Trust Fund.

We are confident that working with the Governing Board, remaining Consortium members can deliver all required functions and support the increasing demands of the growing initiative. We look forward to working with the Board to review and make necessary adjustments to the roles and responsibilities across the Secretariat to ensure successful implementation of the workplan and transition to long term institutional arrangements.

On behalf of the IATI Secretariat,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abdoulaye Mar Dieye', is positioned above the typed name.

Abdoulaye Mar Dieye  
UN Assistant Secretary-General  
Assistant Administrator and Director  
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support