

Joint UNDP-OECD support team response to the Global Partnership consultation on the indicator proposal to measure transparency

The joint support team would like to express our sincere thanks for the valuable feedback and comments received. The interest and range of views expressed towards this indicator proposal confirm that transparency is indeed a top priority on the development effectiveness agenda, and that the momentum around this topic remains strong.

In total, we received feedback from more than 20 contributors, comprising over 100 substantive comments or questions. Some related to the general approach of monitoring transparency, some to technical elements of the indicator and others to the process for developing this indicator.

The feedback included important questions for clarification, constructive suggestions to improve the indicator as well as understandable concerns regarding the proposed approach. In response to all these, substantive revisions have been introduced to the indicator methodology. Most notably the scoring methodology for timeliness of reporting has been revised to recognise more clearly the inherent differences between the OECD/CRS and IATI systems and to enable a more balanced approach to assessing providers' timeliness in each system. Furthermore, the focus of the assessment has been confined to bilateral Official Development Assistance and multilateral outflows to ensure an accurate and clear basis for the assessment. Details on revisions, as well as explanations to clarify the numerous questions raised, are set out in the attached appendix.

Alongside the variety of detailed comments, feedback included also strong support for advancing this work in preparation for the Mexico High-Level Meeting. The joint support team will now proceed to pilot the revised indicator to produce a preliminary assessment and lessons for Mexico. In practice, the assessment of providers' reporting to the systems of the Common Standard will be carried out by the OECD/DAC and IATI secretariats by mid-December, and analysis will be compiled under the leadership of the Global Partnership joint support team during December 2013-January 2014. To facilitate engagement of all providers concerned, the joint support team will share with each provider the outcomes of the piloting by mid-January 2014. The findings of the pilot process will feed into the report on progress since Busan. Complemented with available qualitative evidence, including Common Standard implementation schedules, the report will deliver an overall narrative on the current state of implementation of the common open standard, coupled with recommendations for future monitoring efforts in this area.

This piloting exercise should be seen as an important first step – not as an end in itself. Important aspirations for refining the indicator approach remain, notably incorporating an assessment of quality and usability of information. Furthermore, important questions remain on the overall vision for the common standard, which currently consists of inherently different systems. It will be for all interested stakeholders to decide on when and how they will realise the set ambitions of the standard, and the joint support team encourages leadership of all concerned stakeholders to drive these deliberations. We stand ready to contribute from the perspective of accurate monitoring, and hope to provide helpful inputs to these deliberations through lessons learned from the piloting exercise.

Joint UNDP-OECD Support Team for the Global Partnership

Appendix: Key points for clarification and action by the Joint Support Team