

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

### INDICATOR 4 - Transparency: information on development co-operation is publicly available

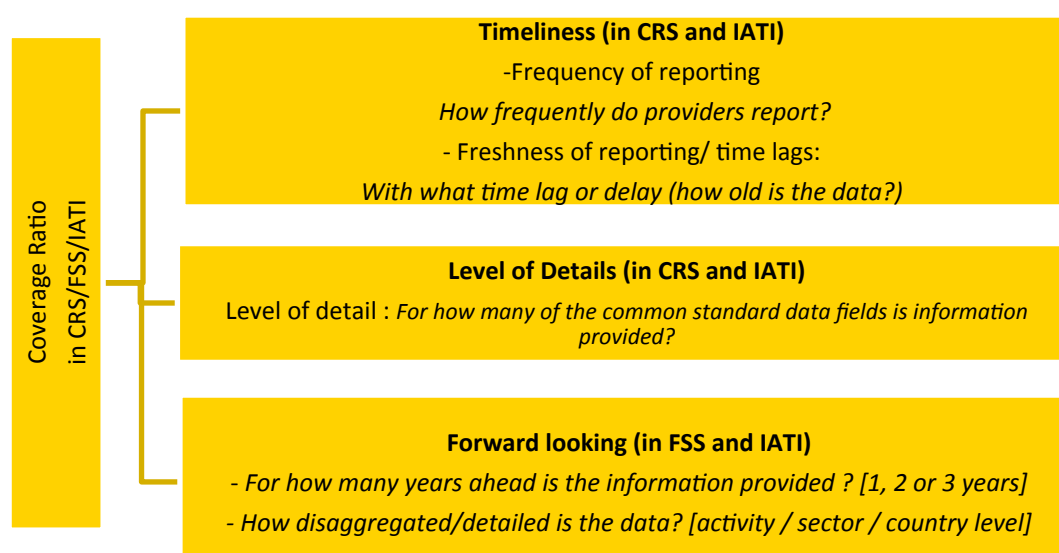
#### Origins of Indicator 4

The Busan Partnership agreement commits providers of development co-operation to implement a “common, open standard for electronic publication of timely, comprehensive, and forward-looking information on resources provided through development cooperation, taking into account the statistical reporting of OECD and complementary efforts of International Aid Transparency Initiative and others” (BPA §23c). The common standard was endorsed by the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in July 2012. It is **built on three existing systems – the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS), the OECD Forward-Spending Survey (FSS) and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)**. It was the result of consultations led by representatives of key stakeholder groups, including IATI partner countries, CSOs, the IATI secretariat, the WP-STAT, the DAC Secretariat and the Busan building block on transparency (together also referred to as the Ad Hoc Group on the common standard).

#### What does Indicator 4 assess?

The Global Partnership monitoring framework endorsed in July 2012 has defined the indicator on transparency to “measure the state of implementation of the common standard by co-operation providers”. The target set for 2015 was to implement the common standard.

In direct reference to the Busan commitment, the measurement of the state of implementation of the common standard by co-operation providers includes assessment of three components: **(1) the timeliness; (2) comprehensiveness; and (3) forward-looking nature** of individual providers’ electronic publication of information. For the purpose of constructing an indicator, the measurement of comprehensiveness encompasses two aspects: i) level of detail of information and ii) coverage of information.



#### What will Indicator 4 achieve?

The indicator aims at providing a **global snapshot on the status of implementation the common standard by co-operation providers** to revitalise political momentum and accountability against the

Busan commitment. It also aims to incentivise providers to improve information publication, focusing on the key transparency elements agreed in Busan.

### Indicator methodology

The pilot indicator was developed through a process of **consultations and technical deliberations**. The principles underpinning the indicator approach reflected the Busan commitment to electronically publish timely, comprehensive and forward-looking information, and were informed by feedback received in February 2013 from the **Ad Hoc Group on the common standard**, which brokered the standard itself. The **piloting of the indicator revealed important challenges**. Challenges identified in the piloting of the transparency indicator are set out in detail in the [document prepared for the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting](#) (January 2015).

After the piloting exercise, feedback from both WP-STAT and the IATI members indicated the need to **strengthen and refine the indicator methodology to better reflect the differences between the DAC and IATI reporting systems, and to allow sufficient time for consultation** in order to secure support for the second monitoring round. The principles underpinning the indicator remains relevant as agreed in the Steering Committee in January 2015. These include:

- The indicator methodology to focus on **monitoring a tangible and time-bound Busan commitment**: the implementation by 2015 of a common, open standard for electronic publication of timely, comprehensive and forward-looking information on resources provided through development co-operation (Busan Partnership Agreement §23c).
- The indicator methodology is based on **assessing the three dimensions of timely, comprehensive and forward-looking information**.
- It focuses on **actual delivery of information**. These include measuring providers' actual delivery/availability of information (as opposed to performance against their own common standard implementation schedules); drawing data from existing sources with no need for additional data collection at the country level; and providing a simple, graduated measure of implementation, recognising that compliance with the common standard is not "all or nothing".
- Maintaining a practical approach entails **building on existing data and systems**. Currently, information on providers' resource flows is centrally available through the reporting systems of the common standard. Therefore this transparency indicator examines existing information provision to the systems of the common standard.

Guided by these principles, the **Steering Committee in January 2015 endorsed a composite approach that disaggregates performance in different reporting systems**. Further **technical work is on-going in close collaboration with the two secretariats that serves the two systems of the common standard**, in order to identify feasible solutions to further differentiate the measurement approach to reporting in three different systems as well as how to form a global narrative on the state of implementation of the common standard.

### Main steps in developing the proposed indicator

**Step 1 (on going)** - Common understanding of the distinct measurement approaches in IATI and DAC reporting systems. The DAC and IATI Secretariats providing their feedback on their interpretation, proposed refined assessment and scoring approach on three dimensions.

**Step 2 (May-June 2015)** - Joint review and consolidation of measurement approaches into a composite indicator that disaggregates performance in different reporting systems.

**Step 3 (June 2015)** - Consultations with stakeholders on a proposed refined approach for a composite indicator.

**Step 4 (July 2015)** A revised methodology note for the Steering Committee endorsement/decisions.