

IATI TECHNICAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE DRAFT CHARTER

Version : 30 November 2020

This Charter is a foundational document for the IATI Technical Community of Practice (COP). It has been designed by members of the COP to lay out its thematic scope, guiding principles and ways in which it intends to provide value. The Charter is an informal, adaptable and highly flexible document that reflects the current needs and preferences of the COP. In referencing this document, IATI COPs should be understood to be ongoing communities around standing areas of thematic interest, determined by members of the COP themselves. Membership of IATI COPs is open to anyone with an interest in the subject matter. The digital platform [IATI Connect](#) has been developed to support all COPs' virtual engagement.

GOALS

The initial goals of IATI's Technical COP are defined as follows:

- **Feed into development and strengthening of the IATI Standard and IATI's products and tools** (e.g. digital estate, publishing guidance, etc.), ensuring that they increasingly meet the needs of publishers and data users, by providing inputs to consultations hosted by the Secretariat on IATI Connect¹.
- **Ensure that the IATI Standard remains viable in the long-term:** help support both long-term visioning and day-to-day technical functioning of the Standard (flagging issues, etc.).
- **Support identification of business issues** for uptake by the COP, IATI and / or the Secretariat. Quarterly updates from the Secretariat will outline progress made on issues flagged by the community and where issues may have been declined (and why).
- **Highlight working solutions for the current version of the IATI Standard.**
- **Ensure representation from a diverse set of stakeholders** in proposing technical solutions and increase focus on engagement with governments, organisations and networks in the Global South.
- **Review progress** since the most recent Technical Audit (2018) and Technical Stocktake (2020).

COMMUNITY NORMS

The following are primary guiding principles and community norms considered especially important for the Technical COP:

- **Inclusiveness and recognising the need to ensure space for a diversity of viewpoints and levels of technical expertise.** This may necessitate creating spaces within the COP to accommodate and translate conversations to differing levels of technical expertise, ensuring that the majority of conversations are accessible to a wide audience, which may include, for instance, colleagues from IT, policy, finance, standards writing, etc.
- **Encouraging a diversity of viewpoints to technical solutions** and reviewing challenges from different angles.

¹ **Note:** Inputs from the COP are considered as recommendations and will feed into the formal process of strengthening the IATI Standard and digital estate that will be undertaken within IATI's official governance mechanism (e.g through a formal Working Group, with approval by the Governing Board or Members' Assembly). As such, these inputs should not be seen as binding, but will constitute an important input into these strategic discussions.

- **Collaboration and cross-fertilisation amongst COPs**, ensuring that discussions and activities are not solely confined to the Technical COP, but, where relevant, bring in expertise from members of the wider IATI community.
- **Transparency** to ensure that all shared information is open and freely accessible to all.
- **Membership** of the Technical COP is open to anyone with an interest in the subject matter.

IMPACT

Success of the Technical COP will be predominantly assessed by:

- The **number of actively engaged members**, e.g. through discussion threads or participation in COP activities on IATI Connect.
- An increase in the **sense of a shared interest** and common identity (qualitative).

VALUE FOR COP MEMBERS

- **Help ensure responsiveness of the IATI Standard** to the needs of the data publishing and data use communities.
- **Provide input into changes to the IATI Standard and official IATI products and tools**, ensuring they are fit for purpose.
- **Network with peers** for professional development.
- Share and **experiment** with new ideas.

ORGANISATION

The COP structure should be largely flexible and informal, however, the following preliminary organisational structure is proposed:

- Working with the support of the IATI Connect Facilitator (Secretariat member), the Technical COP will establish a **small and voluntary “core team”** to help expand the community and support initial substantive work. This core team will work with the IATI Connect Facilitator to ensure inputs from the community are filtered into the governance mechanism / decision-making bodies of IATI, as appropriate. A light Terms of Reference for this volunteer group will be approved by the Governing Board. Nominations for these roles will be sourced through IATI Connect.
- Any consultations held within the Technical COP sponsored by the IATI Secretariat (e.g. to gain feedback on a specific issue, tool, etc.) should **conclude with a synthesis of conversations drafted by the Secretariat** that can be shared with the Governing Board, Members’ Assembly or relevant Working Group, as and when appropriate, to ensure a relevant feedback loop between the COP and IATI’s governance structure. To the extent possible, the governance mechanism (Board, MA, Working Group) should seek to respond to recommendations from the COP, including where they will be taken on board, and where they will be declined (and why).
- Members of the COP are also free to spearhead conversations on areas of interest, and the IATI Connect Facilitator will help ensure cross-fertilisation with other COPs and with the IATI governance mechanism, where appropriate.
- The IATI Connect Facilitator will help the COP to clearly define issues that can be resolved within the group, and also signal where intervention by the IATI governance mechanism may be necessary.

WAYS OF WORKING

- Following relevant demand, the COP may choose to host a **dedicated space for exchange and collaboration at the annual IATI Community Event**.
- The Secretariat will share **regular updates** with the COP via IATI Connect as to ensure members stay up to date and have the opportunity to engage with the wider community.