**IATI Meeting of the Standing Subgroup on Budget 9-11am EST**

5 November, 2014

*Attendees: Harika Masud (World Bank), Martin Akerman (UNFPA), Yohanna Loucheur (Canada), Joni Hillman (DI), Argjira Belegu-Shuku (UNOPS), Annelise Parr (UNDP), Anna Whitson (UNDP), Craig Fagan (Transparency International).*

*Absent: Isaora Zefania Romalahy (Madagascar)*

**Expressions of interest - Chair of Subgroup**

* UNFPA has kindly volunteered for the role of Chair. Others on the call agreed with this proposal but with no Partner Country representative on the call it was agreed to circulate this information among the sub-group checking there are no other expressions of interest, before confirming UNFPA as Chair.

**Alternates – Budget Subgroup**

* For reasons of continuity, etc., an alternate for each member of the Budget Subgroup should be briefed at all times.
* There was general consensus that an alternate could likely be found in each organizational representative’s same department.
* For a UNFPA alternate, another member from the UN Working Group on Transparency could be approached. UNICEF would be a good option.
* Action: Each organization to designate an alternate to be invited to the next series of calls.
* Action: The Secretariat will revise the ToR regarding current working arrangements of the Budget Subgroup.

**Budget document – Papers 3A and 3B**

* The TAG meeting has been moved to the voluntary contributions section of the budget and another series of cuts have been included (but as mentioned in paper 3A, this brings us to a “bare bones” scenario and will likely affect implementation of the workplan).
* Consensus is that the budget document reflects the SC requests to present a balanced budget.
* Action: Sec will include revised information on revenue streams (income scenarios) on first page of the Excel budget document.
* Action: Final document will be circulated to the Budget Subgroup by COB today for final comments, and to the wider Steering Committee tomorrow.

**Communications and coordination**

* Consensus that all documents pertaining to the Budget Subgroup (minutes, working and final drafts, etc.) should be housed on an open workspace within the IATI website.
* IATI Chair and Co-Chairs as well as the Chair of the Budget Subgroup will be asked to join the Secretariat calls once per month.

**Staff costs linked to activities**

* Staff costs cannot easily be cut when activities are held back due to delays in receiving funds, etc. Several activities are however to be undertaken by short-term consultants and these costs can be more easily adjusted (however it was noted that this is a direct linkage to lack of funds leading to a lack of implementation of the workplan).
* There was discussion around showing staff costs better linked to activities in the budget document – though it was agreed that this would likely be time intensive and the greater priority at this time was to sign off on the delayed budget. More clarity on staff costs will be helpful for future budget compilation processes and this will be addressed early in the next budget cycle.

**Fundraising**

* Proposal came from the SC Meeting on the creation of an additional working group on fundraising, though there have not yet been any volunteers.
* Translation services are greatly needed and are an example in which creative outsourcing possibilities could be considered (partner with a university?)
* We could also explore partnerships with research universities for example as venues for TAG or other conferences.
* More clarification on division of labor regarding exploratory initiatives is needed, and it was noted that this could change according to particular tasks (i.e. some contacts better peer to peer, and others more centrally by the Secretariat).
* Further dedicated discussion is needed on the issue of fundraising.
* Action: The Sec will take up suggestions made by USAID at the SC to contact members (foundations) that might offer specific fundraising expertise, perhaps as pro bono contributions.