

# Minutes

These draft minutes capture the purpose and agreed outcomes of the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EITI Board.

# MINUTES OF THE 48TH EITI BOARD MEETING

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## Table of Contents

48-1 Welcome and adoption of the agenda.....	3
48-2 Report from the Secretariat .....	3
Secretariat Paper 48-2-A EITI's Strategic priorities 2021-2022 .....	3
Board Paper 48-2-A Implementation Progress Report.....	4
Board Paper 48-2-B Outreach Progress Report.....	5
48-3 Report from the World Bank.....	7
48-4 Report from the Implementation Committee.....	7
Board Paper 48-4-A Measures relating to reporting deadlines and extensions requests.....	7
<u>Action:</u> - The International Secretariat to support implementing countries in adopting the measures as per Board Paper 48-4-A and incentivise innovative approaches to reporting. Board Paper 48-4-B Energy transition and EITI: Priorities and next steps ...	8
Board Paper 48-4-C Independent evaluation of the EITI .....	9
48-5 Report from the Outreach and Candidature Committee <b>Board Paper 48-5 Candidature assessment: Ecuador</b> .....	9
48-6 Report from the Governance and Oversight Committee .....	10
<b>Board Paper 48-6 Enhancing transparency and accountability in Board decision-making</b> .....	10
48-7 Report from the Validation Committee .....	12
<b>Board Paper 48-7-B Report from the Validation Committee</b> .....	13
48-8 Report from the Finance Committee.....	13
<b>Board Paper 48-8 2021 Work plan</b> .....	13
48-9 Any other business .....	14
Annex 1 – Participants list.....	16

## 48-1 Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The EITI Board Chair, Rt Hon. Helen Clark opened the meeting and welcomed the Board members to the second virtual Board meeting. She acknowledged the challenges all implementing countries and stakeholders are facing with the new COVID-19 reality and thanked the continuous commitment of all present to the sustainability of the EITI. She noted that EITI is more relevant than ever and that its stakeholders need to continue guarding against the risk of corrupt practices resurfacing when oversight mechanisms are under strain. She reiterated the critical role of civil society in protecting civic space and helping countries to adhere to the EITI Standard. She also noted the shared common interest of all EITI stakeholder in achieving high standards of accountability and minimising risk of corruption.

The Chair welcomed the new Board members and reminded the Board of the usual procedure of agreeing the outcomes of the meeting through the Board minutes. She reminded the Board that deliberations are confidential and that the minutes would be made public following approval through Board circular.

The draft meeting agenda was approved.

## 48-2 Report from the Secretariat

### Secretariat Paper 48-2-A EITI's Strategic priorities 2021-2022

Mark Robinson explained that the paper sought to bring together key Board decisions in light of the COVID-19 crisis and to provide a strategic framework for the Secretariat's annual work plans, leading up to the 2022 Global Conference.

Board members raised the following issues:

- Some of the strategic priorities outlined could contribute to a potential overextension of the remit of the EITI. Companies are working with other organisations on issues related to climate change, the energy transition and ESG criteria. The focus should rather be on how EITI data can be used by other leading partners in this field.
- The EITI should find a balance between looking forward to a low-carbon future and being mindful about challenges related to energy poverty faced by many implementing countries, particularly in the COVID-19 context.
- The paper should include a statement around shrinking civic space in the COVID-19 context, and flag that natural resource governance will be key in a rapid economic recovery for countries.
- Detailed reporting on employment and local content should be reflected in the priorities, given the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on employment in regions like the Middle East and Northern Africa.
- With regards to anti-corruption, a much more pedagogical and preventive approach should be encouraged, avoiding overlap with other actors active in the fight against corruption, and building capacity within MSGs.
- While the energy transition is a key theme, the EITI should take countries' priorities into account. Financial and technical support will be needed to undertake studies and analyses of national relevance, informing countries' path towards a successful transition.

- Beneficial ownership transparency is a high priority, with a need to strengthen advocacy, communications and awareness-raising efforts and collaboration with companies.
- Tax evasion remains a key concern for implementing countries and should be addressed through disclosures on production costs and transfer pricing.

**Action:**

- The International Secretariat to reflect feedback from Board members in an updated paper on the EITI's strategic priorities, to be shared with the Implementation Committee and the Board for information.

## Board Paper 48-2-A Implementation Progress Report

Mark provided a summary of the IPR, highlighting the sections on funding of EITI implementation and the spotlight on strengthening community engagement. He also explained that the Rapid Response Fund would not be created as envisaged in the previous Board meeting but there would be continued focus on intensified technical assistance for countries requiring urgent support in response to the economic crisis and health pandemic. Mark also announced the successful award of a major grant from the BHP Foundation for a programme on beneficial ownership transparency in collaboration with Open Ownership.

Board members raised the following issues:

- The EITI is only as effective as the governance structures that are put in place in a country, as shown by recent developments in Myanmar highlighted in a letter by the company and civil society constituencies. As the Board discusses the new Validation model, it is important to incentivise progress on civil society engagement and governance in implementing countries.
- Analyses of barriers to participation for local civil society actors and communities should be included in assessments of civil society engagement. Examples of restrictions on civil society space in the Dominican Republic and Honduras show the importance of strengthening civil society engagement at the MSG level, but also of providing support on how to work with communities at the local level.
- The thematic section on funding should highlight what the EITI Secretariat can do in terms of benchmarking expenditure requirements for national secretariats and how countries can learn from each other on cost-effective implementation. More data and analysis are needed to support the claim that systematic disclosures are less costly than current EITI reporting.
- Fundraising and revenue mobilisation are key. Support to implementing countries should be prioritised, in a context where implementing the Standard is made even more challenging by the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.
- The spotlight on community engagement should highlight the role that extractive companies can play at the local and international level to support such efforts.
- Enhanced support on beneficial ownership transparency through the programme with Open Ownership is very welcome, with a focus on engaging with relevant actors to building capacity in-country.
- Flexible reporting provides an opportunity to bring to the fore information needed by policy makers. Beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries are facing a debt crisis, often linked to shrinking revenues from extractive resources. Countries need urgent support to

link policy debates on debt reduction and resource mobilisation.

**Action:**

- The International Secretariat to publish the report on strengthening community engagement.
- The International Secretariat to strengthen support to implementing countries on fundraising and cost-effective implementation and to encourage peer-learning between countries.

### Board Paper 48-2-B Outreach Progress Report

Andrew Irvine from the International Secretariat presented the Outreach Progress Report, highlighting the following:

- Ecuador submitted its EITI candidature application in August 2020.
- Tunisia is likely to submit its candidature application later in the year.
- Angola has stated its intent to implement the EITI. The Secretariat is now engaging stakeholders in the country and welcomes assistance from partners in supporting the Government with EITI implementation.
- Since the June Board meeting, The Gambia, Gabon, Sudan and Uzbekistan have all signalled interest in EITI implementation.
- Lebanon remains eager to submit a candidature application.
- Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Alcoa, Sibanye-Stillwater and the Lundin Foundation joined the EITI as supporting companies.

Andrew briefly addressed an issue of process concerning the EITI candidature application of Equatorial Guinea, providing the following:

- Equatorial Guinea submitted a candidature application to the EITI on 26 October 2019. The Board discussed the application at the Oslo Board meeting in February 2020 and decided that the application did not provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate commitment to the EITI's five sign up requirements.
- The Secretariat undertook "virtual missions" from June through August 2020 to collect additional information and stakeholder views on the completeness of the EITI process in Equatorial Guinea. The Secretariat then prepared an updated assessment of Equatorial Guinea's application for consideration by the Outreach and Candidature Committee on 21 September 2020.
- The Outreach and Candidature Committee discussed the updated assessment but did not take a decision to provide a recommendation to the Board based on an understanding that the Government of Equatorial Guinea intended to withdraw its application and resubmit the application at a later date.
- On 22 September 2020, the President of the National Commission and Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons of Equatorial Guinea provided a letter to the International Secretariat, which was appended to the Outreach Progress Report for information. The letter acknowledged that Equatorial Guinea was unable to make progress to meet the EITI sign-up requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The National Commission reiterated their commitment to the EITI process and requested

postponement of the Board's consideration of Equatorial Guinea's EITI candidature application.

- Since February 2020, the Secretariat has not received additional information from Equatorial Guinea in support of its original candidature application. The deficiencies in addressing requirements 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 have not been cured. Under requirement 1.5 the work plan has not been updated.
- The application submitted a year ago is out of date. The Secretariat recommended that the Board consider Equatorial Guinea's EITI candidature application to be withdrawn, and that the Board encourage Equatorial Guinea to submit a new candidature application after fully addressing the EITI's sign-up requirements.

Diana Kaissy, Chair of the Outreach and Candidature Committee provided the following:

- The Secretariat has dedicated substantial resources to conducting "virtual missions" and updating its assessment of Equatorial Guinea's candidature application.
- The Outreach and Candidature Committee was briefed on the assessment but postponed taking a decision based on the Government's indication that they would be withdrawing their application.
- The National Commission's letter to the Secretariat confirming withdrawal sent a mixed message, creating confusion over whether the Commission was requesting withdrawal or postponement of the application.
- Withdrawal at this point would avoid rejection of the application and allow Equatorial Guinea the time to improve and resubmit its application.
- Postponement would draw out an already overextended process and lead to a piecemeal application.
- Diana agreed with the Secretariat's recommendation that the best path forward for the Secretariat, the Board and especially Equatorial Guinea was for the country to submit a new application once it has fully addressed EITI's sign-up requirements.

Board members provided the following comments:

- Equatorial Guinea has made progress in addressing issues concerning civic space. The Board should consider flexibility in admitting countries; recognizing the EITI is a process that improves governance and benefits the public over time.
- The Secretariat should provide support to Equatorial Guinea in preparing its candidature application and implementing the EITI.
- The Board and Secretariat should consider an assessment of civic space in Equatorial Guinea and work with partners, especially civil society organisations and companies, to educate and support Equatorial Guinea in improving civic space.
- The Secretariat should consider a strategy to document and advocate to outreach countries the case of EITI candidature, considering the more compelling case resulting from COVID-19 and other impacts.
- All constituencies should continue to support Equatorial Guinea on implementation of the EITI, especially supporting civil society in the country.

The Board accepted the Secretariat's recommendation and decided that the EITI candidature

application of Equatorial Guinea has been withdrawn. The Board encouraged Equatorial Guinea to submit a new EITI candidature application addressing the EITI's sign-up requirements. The Board Chair indicated the Secretariat would be available to support Equatorial Guinea in developing a new candidature application.

**Action:**

- The International Secretariat should provide support to Equatorial Guinea in developing a new candidature application, as appropriate, and consider a possible assessment of civic space in Equatorial Guinea and with the support of Board members and civil society, companies and other stakeholders.
- The Secretariat should consider a strategy to document and advocate to outreach countries the case for EITI candidature, considering the more compelling case resulting from COVID-19 and other impacts.

## 48-3 Report from the World Bank

Christopher Sheldon, Practice Manager with the Energy and Extractives Global Practice, presented the report from the World Bank Group (WBG). Christopher acknowledged the vast effects of the COVID-19 crisis noting that it continues to be at the centre of the WB's work. He noted that the WBG is conducting analytical work to examine the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on commodity markets and the early findings conclude that it is causing disruptions in the oil, gas and mining sectors leading to severe impacts on all levels. With this in mind, he underlined the importance of country ownership in EITI implementation process noting that the crisis, in many cases, will strengthen the process and contribute to governments' ownership of the EITI process.

Board members thanked the WBG for continuous support and agreed on the importance of country ownership of the EITI process for its sustainability. Civil society Board members again noted that civil society has to date received no direct support from either EGPS 1 or 2. Christopher agreed that there is a large global programme to support CSOs to implement EITI on a local level and noted that it is at its final stages of the funding being released. He agreed that the additional information being requested by the CSOs will be added to the tables.

**Action:**

- WBG to share the list of grant recipients by organisation names, not just countries.

## 48-4 Report from the Implementation Committee

### Board Paper 48-4-A Measures relating to reporting deadlines and extensions requests

Ian Mwiinga, the co-Chair of the Implementation Committee, introduced the paper. He noted that the Committee's assessment was that the measures agreed in May had provided much needed flexibility, and should be extended to 2021, especially given the funding challenges in several EITI countries. He added that further communications on the practical implications of these measures and sharing early examples from countries pursuing flexible reporting would be important, and that the Board might wish to review the early lessons from this approach in the first half of 2021.

Board members raised the following points:

- While the measures are helpful for countries that are severely affected by the COVID-19

crisis, the Board should ensure that other countries do not take advantage of such flexibility to delay reporting or weaken MSG oversight.

- The Implementation Committee should also consider other challenging circumstances when reviewing extension requests submitted by countries, such as conflict and political transitions.

The Board approved the recommendations in Board Paper 48-4-A.

**Action:**

- The International Secretariat to support implementing countries in adopting the measures as per Board Paper 48-4-A and incentivise innovative approaches to reporting. Board Paper 48-4-B  
**Energy transition and EITI: Priorities and next steps**

Erica Westenberg, the co-Chair of the Implementation Committee, introduced the paper. She noted that the Implementation Committee had considered the findings of the Chatham House report “*Transparency in Transition: Climate Change, Energy Transition and the EITI*” and recommended that the Board agree the four next steps outlined in the paper. She highlighted that the focus was not on whether EITI countries should change their domestic energy mix, but to offer support to countries that are interested in advancing national analysis and inform discussions on how global energy shifts are impacting EITI countries. She noted that examining fundamental issues around revenue resilience had always been at the heart of the EITI’s mandate, and that energy transition brings a new urgency and new information that’s relevant to understanding such issues and the EITI had accumulated much-needed multi-stakeholder experience to facilitate these discussions.

Board members raised the following points:

- The allocation of the proposed budget should be clarified and focus on the period 2020-2022, leading up to the 2022 Global Conference. The International Secretariat should ensure there are appropriate resources to fund this work.
- The notion of revenue resilience will shift over time and have different outcomes in implementing countries, highlighting the need for strong country-level analysis.
- More work needs to be done to identify the most relevant EITI disclosures to shed light on the energy transition, help support the work of other organisations and spur discussions at the country-level. Examples include data on employment generated by the fossil fuel industry and opportunities linked to strategic minerals production. Emphasis should be put on existing data and reporting.
- The third proposed next step on mainstreaming transparency on the energy transition in the Standard remains ambiguous. Any changes to the 2022 Standard would have to be announced well in advance to allow countries to prepare and should take into consideration national priorities.

The Board approved the recommendations in Board Paper 48-4-B, with the clarification that “considering how to” would be added to the third item on mainstreaming transparency on energy transition through the EITI Standard. The Chair concluded that the EITI had a comparative advantage in that it had yielded a large amount of data, that could help chart a way forward for countries as the energy transition progresses.

**Action:**

- The International Secretariat to reflect feedback on the third proposed next step in the

final Board decision.

- The International Secretariat to pursue fundraising efforts to support its work on energy transition and to reach out to interested implementing countries and partners.

## Board Paper 48-4-C Independent evaluation of the EITI

Erica Westenberg, Co-Chair of the Implementation Committee, presented the paper on the proposed next steps for an independent evaluation. The implementation Committee recommended that the evaluation combine country level and global level components to find evidence for the EITI's contributions to development objectives, as expressed in the EITI standard and as formulated in national EITI work plans. Further, the Committee recommended to task the GOC with reviewing any organisational and governance issues as part of their work plan in the run up to the Global Conference. The Implementation Committee's recommendation was that the Secretariat draft the terms of reference, taking into account comments from the IC.

Board members raised the following points:

- The independent evaluation should be focused and pragmatic, and consider recommendations from previous reviews.
- It was questionable to prioritise this work in view of the global pandemic and the ongoing need for financial support from implementing countries. Validation was the more appropriate mechanism to review the impact of the EITI, and there was time needed to return to a stable post-COVID-19 situation and to see the results of the new Validation model.
- The evaluation should look at the impact of EITI implementation in countries that face challenges related to corruption and poverty.
- There was clear interest from the supporting country constituency in an organisational review. The GOC should consider the options outlined in the paper. Some issues were already on the Committee's agenda, including a Board self-assessment and a review of constituency guidelines.
- Further fundraising efforts are needed and should be weighed against other funding needs to support implementation at the country-level in the COVID-19 crisis context.

The Board approved the recommendations in Board Paper 48-4-C.

### Action:

- The International Secretariat to draft TORs and procure a suitably qualified consultant for the independent review with input from the Implementation Committee.
- The GOC to explore what aspects of an organisational review can be dealt with as part of the committee's work plan.

## 48-5 Report from the Outreach and Candidature Committee

### Board Paper 48-5 Candidature assessment: Ecuador

Via video message, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda, Honourable Matia Kasaija, shared his priorities for EITI implementation.

Diana Kaissy, Chair of the Outreach and Candidature Committee provided the recommendation of the Committee that Ecuador be welcomed as an EITI implementing country. In accordance with the EITI Standard, Ecuador is required to publish the required information within 18 months of being admitted as an EITI implementing country. Validation will commence within two and a half years of becoming a candidate.

Esteban Manteca of the International Secretariat presented the paper, providing the following:

- The Secretariat received Ecuador's candidature application on 14 August 2020.
- The Secretariat assessed the application and concluded Ecuador had met the necessary steps to become an EITI candidate country. The Outreach and Candidature Committee reviewed this assessment and recommended Ecuador to be admitted as an EITI candidate country.
- All stakeholders were strongly committed to the EITI process. Some civil society organisations have been pushing Ecuador to implement the EITI since 2012. The government's efforts to join the EITI included preparing a scoping study with support from the World Bank and appointing a National Secretariat to lead the EITI process.
- Funding was noted as a challenge, given the ongoing health and economic crises in Ecuador. Efforts have been made to engage international donors to provide funding for the first phase of EITI Implementation. The Secretariat understands the government has secured 70,000 USD from USAID and will initiate an application to the World Bank EGPS.

Board members provided the following comments:

- The civil society constituency supported the recommendation of the Committee to admit Ecuador as a candidate country and noted the engagement and support of civil society in the country.
- The constituency from LAC also supported the recommendation of the Committee and recognized the importance of the extractives sector in Ecuador and the importance of its candidature in the LAC region.
- The Board and the Secretariat should encourage the Government of Ecuador to provide government funding for implementation of the EITI in the country in order to establish government buy-in and alleviate piecemeal funding.

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Committee and decided on Board Paper 48-5 to admit Ecuador as a new EITI candidate country.

Via video message, Vice Minister of Mines of Ecuador, César Vázquez, highlighted the Government of Ecuador's support for EITI implementation and highlighted the government's efforts to improve governance and increase transparency in the extractives sector through the EITI process.

**Action:**

- The Chair to write to the Government of Ecuador announcing the Board's decision.

## 48-6 Report from the Governance and Oversight Committee

### Board Paper 48-6 Enhancing transparency and accountability in Board decision-making

Oleksiy Orlovsky, Chair of the Governance and Oversight Committee began by introducing the

Committee's recent work. This included appointing an auditor for 2020. A recommendation from the GOC would follow in the next Board circular. The GOC was also reviewing options for assessing adherence to the expectations for EITI supporting companies, including for new supporting companies, and reviewing the constituency guidelines for each constituency of the EITI Association.

Board members provided the following comments on assessing adherence to the expectations for EITI supporting companies:

- The work was timely given concerns that some supporting companies in the United States had not publicly declared their support for the EITI's approach to project level reporting.
- The expectations for supporting companies were insufficient, given the requirements in the 2019 Standard for state owned enterprises in implementing countries. There should be a level playing field. The EITI should consider further work on cost recovery, tax minimisation and other issues of importance to implementing countries.

With respect to Board Paper 48-6, the GOC had reviewed the EITI's policies and practices on the confidentiality of Committee and Board deliberations, including the EITI's Code of Conduct and Openness Policy. There had been concerns regarding the wide distribution of internal Board documents (e.g., relating to ongoing Validations). The focus was on the procedures, deliberations and documentation relating to EITI Board decision-making. The measures would not apply to disclosures and deliberations in EITI implementing countries in accordance with the EITI Standard.

Board members provided the following comments:

- Balance and good judgement were needed so that Board members could consult colleagues as needed in order to effectively represents their constituency, without compromising the confidentiality of Committee and Board deliberations;
- It was important to ensure that all constituencies were treated equally, and that the Board's approach did not impinge on MSG deliberations and oversight in EITI implementing countries.
- Greater clarity was needed on who had the obligation to alert the Board to cases and documentation that included commercially sensitive, competition sensitive or personal information.
- The Board should consider the mechanisms for responding in cases where confidentiality is breached.
- The Board's approach could continue to evolve based on lessons learned, including through the Board self-assessment process under consideration by the GOC.

The Board agreed the recommendations in Board Paper 48-6, i.e., (1) to more clearly address the confidentiality of Committee and Board deliberations in the EITI Board manual and in the induction process for EITI Board members and alternates; (2) to encourage Committees and the International Secretariat to clearly identify any cases and documentation that includes commercially sensitive, competition sensitive or personal information.

**Actions:**

- The International Secretariat to update the Board manual and Board induction materials in accordance with the proposals in Board Paper 48-6.
- The International Secretariat to update the templates for Board documentation to clearly

identify any cases that include commercially sensitive, competition sensitive or personal information in accordance with the proposal in Board Paper 48-6.

## 48-7 Report from the Validation Committee

### Board Paper 48-7- A Outline for a revised Validation model

Stephen Douglas, co-chair of the Validation Committee, introduced the paper noting that the outline for a revised Validation model and the related transitional arrangements were presented by the Validation Committee for decision. The paper included a draft Validation procedure for discussion.

Board members raised the following points:

- Board members welcomed the revised Validation model, noting that it improved the sustainability and relevance of the EITI.
- Several Board members noted that, when clarifying the criteria for engaging external experts in Validation, the Validation Committee should consider the importance of ensuring the independence and credibility of Validation.
- It was clarified that the Validation Committee and other relevant Board Committees would develop the necessary edits to Sections 4 and 5 of the 2019 EITI Standard for Board approval at the next Board meeting in February 2021.
- Civil society Board members proposed that the overall score reflect an average of the scores of the three components. It was explained that the Validation review working group and the Validation Committee had considered the issue thoroughly before recommending a calculation based on the average score of each EITI Requirement. The Board mandated the Validation Committee to further discuss the issue when finalising the revised Validation Guide.
- Civil society stressed the importance of strengthening the assessment of civil society engagement in the Validation Guide. The submissions made by the Publish What You Pay Global Council and a group of civil society representatives from implementing countries were referred to.

The Board approved the recommendation in Board Paper 48-7-A, with the clarification that the scoring procedure would be further discussed and agreed in the revised Validation guide. In addition, the details of the mechanisms for engaging an external expert will be further clarified in the Validation. No objections were made on the proposed transitional arrangements. The Board mandated the Validation Committee to finalise a revised Validation Guide and Validation procedure for Board approval by circular by the end of 2020. The Board mandated the Validation Committee, in consultation with other Board Committees, to develop edits to Sections 4 and 5 of the 2019 EITI Standard for Board approval at its next meeting,

#### **Action:**

- The Validation review working group and the Validation Committee to finalise a revised Validation Guide, Validation procedure and data collection templates for Board approval by circular by the end of 2020.
- The International Secretariat to consult implementing countries on their preferences for

the timing of their first Validation under the new model and to propose a revised Validation schedule considering the factors stated in Annex A of Board Paper 48-7-A.

- The Validation Committee to develop edits to Sections 4 and 5 of the 2019 EITI Standard to reflect the agreed outline for a revised Validation model.

## Board Paper 48-7-B Report from the Validation Committee

Helen invited Validation Committee co-chair Cielo Magno to present the Committee's recommendations to the Board. The Board was alerted to the Validation Committee's efficiency in processing the majority of Validation cases via circular, allowing the Board to focus on more challenging cases in person.

Cielo Magno introduced the Report from the Validation Committee, noting that there was one recommendation for decision. Cielo introduced the single Validation country case for decision on the third Validation of Mauritania, noting considerable progress had been made on most of the corrective actions. The recommendation was that the Board agree that Mauritania had made meaningful progress in implementing the 2016 EITI Standard with considerable improvements across several individual requirements, with 18 months to address one corrective action on beneficial ownership.

Board members raised the following points:

- Implementing country representatives raised concerns about the rigidity of the current Validation model, which meant that Mauritania was not assessed as having made "satisfactory progress" overall in implementing the Standard despite addressing all corrective actions bar one. It was noted that Requirement 2.5 on beneficial ownership was an onerous requirement and that Mauritania should be encouraged to make further progress.
- Civil society and industry representatives noted the need to ensure consistency with previous decisions under the current Validation model. It was noted that Mauritania demonstrated the importance of revising the Validation model to introduce a more nuanced approach to Validation.
- It was noted that Mauritania could apply for an early fourth Validation before the 18 months period.

The Board approved the recommendation from the Validation Committee.

### Action:

- The Chair to write to the Government of Mauritania announcing the Board's decision.
- The Secretariat to publish the results of the Validation of Mauritania, including the supporting documentation.

## 48-8 Report from the Finance Committee

### Board Paper 48-8 2021 Work plan

Dominic Emery provided a summary of the main features of the work plan. He highlighted that Policy was not a separate budget category but integrated as part of other expenditure functions.

Mark Robinson noted that the 2021 budget figures are provisional, and a more accurate and detailed version with updated scenarios will be provided in the version of the work plan submitted for final Board approval. He highlighted that the expected budget for 2021 was USD 7.0m and that the Secretariat had provisionally received a 5-year grant of USD 7.2m from the BHP Foundation for collaborative work with Open Ownership on Beneficial Ownership transparency. The Chair noted that the work plan was for discussion not decision.

Board members raised the following issues:

- Members of the civil society noted that in preparation for the 2022 Global Conference, it would be useful to have a list of members of the EITI Association, noting that this will be part of the work of the Governance Committee in the future.
- Representatives of implementing countries endorsed the work plan, particularly on strengthening the role of the EITI in policy making and public debates. Further work on communicating the EITI in implementing countries would be welcome in the final version of the work plan.
- The supporting country constituency supported elements in the work plan on empowering civil society and gender, which were key features of the current work plan.
- The company constituency noted that the work plan was robust and its support of capacity building, particularly with respect to gender.

**Action:**

- The Secretariat to produce a final work plan that will be submitted by Circular for decision.

## 48-9 Any other business

The Chair thanked the Board members for the productive discussion of the agenda items and shared the proposed dates for the 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Board meetings in 2021:

- 49<sup>th</sup> EITI Board meeting is proposed to take place on 17-18 February 2021 via teleconference;
- 50<sup>th</sup> EITI Board meeting is proposed to take place on 9-10 June 2021. Venue and format will be confirmed in early 2021.

She noted that the International Secretariat will closely monitor travel advisories in order to confirm details of the June meeting, for which Buenos Aires had been provisionally proposed.

The Chair moved on to briefing the Board of the recent deliberations of the Rapid Response Committee regarding the crises in EITI implementing countries and called on Richard Morgan, the Chair of the Rapid Response Committee (RRC) to provide a summary of the Committee deliberations and agreed next steps.

Richard briefed the Board on Rapid Response Committee's deliberations noting that the Committee met a number of times in the past few weeks to discuss:

- **The situation in Mali**– Following the coup d'état by soldiers in Mali on 18 August 2020, the RRC will continue to closely monitor the situation in Mali. It will await the clarification on the status of the transition to a civilian government before any action is taken by the EITI.
- **The situation in Myanmar** – Following the concerns raised by the CSOs in Myanmar on the

appointment of a new National Coordinator who has close ties with mining companies, Committee is closely monitoring the developments before taking any action by the EITI.

- **The situation in Armenia** – The Government of Armenia sent a letter dated 1 October to the Board Secretary concerning the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh involving Armenia and Azerbaijan (letter available [here](#)). The Committee agreed that the matter goes beyond the EITI mandate and recommended that the Chair respond to the letter to this effect. The letter is available [here](#).

The Chair acknowledged the RRC discussions and invited Mark Robinson to provide a brief overview of the letters shared by various stakeholders for the Board's attention. Mark noted that the Board Chair, the Board members and the EITI International Secretariat received the following letters:

- A letter dated 6 October was sent to Board members from CSOs in Latin American and Caribbean region calling for a dialogue designed to improve the working conditions in the MSGs in their respective countries. The letter is available [here in English](#) and [here in Spanish](#) on EITI internal website. Mark noted that the Secretariat has responded, on behalf of the Chair and the Board, by offering to convene a call with the signatories to address the concerns raised in the letter.
- A letter dated 13 October was sent to Board members from EITI CSOs in Asia Pacific, drawing the attention of the Board to concerns related to the proposed methods of assessing Requirement 1.3 in the EITI Standard by the EITI Validation Working Group. The letter is available [here](#) on the EITI internal website. Mark proposed that the Secretariat follows up with the signatories of the letter to address the concerns raised.
- A letter dated 7 October was sent to the Board Chair from the Chair of the PWYP Global Council welcoming the discussion of energy transition. The letter is available [here in English](#) and [here in French](#) on EITI internal website. Mark has acknowledged the receipt of the letter.

**Action:**

- The Secretariat and the Rapid Response Committee to closely monitor the situation in Myanmar.
- The Chair to respond to the Government of Armenia regarding their letter dated 1 October 2020.

## Annex 1 – Participants list

(Board members not attending in grey)

### Chair

**Rt Hon. Helen CLARK**

### Countries

**Mr Ruslan BAIMISHEV**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development, Kazakhstan

Alt: **Ms Viktoriia GNATOVSKA**, Director of Energy and Resource Efficiency Policy Formation Directorate, Ministry of Energy, Ukraine

**Ms Maria Teresa S. HABITAN**, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Finance, Philippines  
Alt: **Mr Ego SYAHRAL**, Secretary General of Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia

**Mr Ian Chitumba MWIINGA**, National Coordinator, EITI Secretariat, Zambia

Alt: **Ms Francesc Piagie ALGHALI**, Minister of State, Office of the Vice-President, Sierra Leone

**Ms Awa Marie COLL-SECK**, Minister of State, Senegal

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