

How to become a Candidate country

Guide to the EITI sign-up process

EITI International Secretariat

June 2013

EITI Sign-up: Steps for becoming an EITI Candidate country

The [EITI Standard](#) sets out four steps that need to be satisfied in order to become an EITI Candidate country:

- 1.1 The government is required to issue an unequivocal public statement of its intention to implement the EITI.
- 1.2 The government is required to appoint a senior individual to lead the implementation of the EITI.
- 1.3 The government is required to commit to work with civil society and companies, and establish a multi-stakeholder group to oversee the implementation of the EITI.
- 1.4 The multi-stakeholder group is required to maintain a current workplan, fully costed and aligned with the reporting and Validation deadlines established by the EITI Board.

The “sign-up” steps are described in more detail in the Requirements 1.1 – 1.4 of the [EITI Standard](#).

Applying to become an EITI Candidate

When a country has completed the “sign-up” steps and wishes to seek EITI candidature, the government should submit an EITI Candidate Application¹, endorsed by the multi-stakeholder group, to the EITI Board. The application should describe the activities undertaken to date and provide evidence demonstrating that each of the sign-up steps have been completed. The application should include contact details for government, civil society and private sector stakeholders involved in the preparations for implementing the EITI.

Once submitted, the application will be made publically available on the EITI website. The EITI Board, working through the Outreach and Candidature Committee, will review the application and assess whether the sign-up steps have been completed. The International Secretariat will work closely with the senior individual appointed by the government to lead on EITI implementation in order to clarify any outstanding issues. Based on this and any other available information, the EITI Board’s Outreach and Candidature Committee will make a recommendation

¹ A standardized application form is available from the International Secretariat.

to the EITI Board on whether a country's application should be accepted. The EITI Board takes the final decision.

The EITI Board aims to process applications within 8 weeks of receiving the application. The EITI Board prefers to make decisions on admitting an EITI Candidate country at EITI Board meetings, although may consider taking a decision via Board circular between meetings where appropriate.

When the EITI Board admits an EITI Candidate, it also establishes deadlines for publishing the first EITI Report and undertaking Validation. An implementing country's first EITI Report must be published within 18 months from the date that the country was admitted as an EITI Candidate. EITI Candidate countries will be required to commence [Validation](#) within two and a half years of becoming an EITI Candidate. Further information on deadline policies is available in Requirement 1.6 of the [EITI Standard](#).

Where Can I Find Support?

The EITI International Secretariat provides support to countries considering implementation, including:

- Guidance and training on the EITI Standard and the sign-up requirements.
- Advice on good practice from other implementing countries and facilitation of peer learning, e.g., on MSG terms of reference, establishment of national EITI Secretariats, the development of workplans.
- Advice on accessing technical and financial assistance.

The International Secretariat does not provide financial support. Direct, medium-term technical and financial assistance to support implementation is usually led by stakeholders other than the International Secretariat – typically, the World Bank (supported by the donor-provided Multi-Donor Trust Fund – EITI MDTF), regional development banks, other international development agencies, bilateral agencies, and international civil society organisations.

Depending on their respective priorities for partnerships and collaboration with EITI countries and stakeholders areas, the thematic areas which technical advisors might support include all or part of the following:

- Political encouragement.
- Awareness raising workshops for outreach countries – making the case for EITI.
- Provision of technical support for countries exploring potential EITI commitment, e.g. support to feasibility studies.
- Embedding EITI as part of broader policy dialogue with country or stakeholders.
- Feasibility studies.
- Governance studies to advice on the functioning and management of the multi-stakeholder group and national secretariat.
- Scoping studies on what sectors and materiality EITI might cover.
- Legal and other constraints studies.
- Launch workshops.
- Needs assessment of financial and technical requirements.

Further information

For more information about the EITI process, please visit <http://www.eiti.org>