

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2019 STANDARD

1 Decision

Board decision 2019-36/BC-272 (<https://eiti.org/BD/2019-36>) from 30 April 2019.

The EITI Board agreed that the 2019 Standard will come into force immediately, i.e., on 30 April 2019. Implementing countries are encouraged to adopt the new Standard as soon as possible.

Countries currently working on EITI Reports and corrective actions from Validation may continue their work under the 2016 Standard.

For EITI disclosures and reports published prior to 31 December 2019 the Board will apply a “no disadvantage test” in Validations and other assessments whereby implementing countries may demonstrate adherence to either the 2016 EITI Standard or the 2019 EITI Standard.

From 1 January 2020 onwards, only the 2019 EITI Standard will apply.

Prior to 1 January 2020, multi-stakeholder groups may seek Board approval to extend this transition period. In considering such requests, the Board will apply the same criteria as used in other extension cases.

The Board tasked the International Secretariat with providing support to implementing countries in understanding the changes that are required and with providing regular updates to the Board through the Secretariat’s Implementation Progress Reports.

The Board also agreed to consider opportunities to recognise countries that are adopting these changes ahead of schedule both through the Validation process and in other communication materials.

2 Background

At the 42nd EITI Board meeting in Kyiv, the EITI Board agreed in principle to a number of refinements to the 2016 EITI Standard¹. The Board agreed that the Implementation Committee would work on the final edited version of the revised 2019 EITI Standard, with the Board to approve the final edited version via Board Circular. The Board also agreed to develop transitional arrangements to help countries implement the proposed changes.

¹ For an overview, see: <https://eiti.org/BD/2019-25> and this review: <https://eiti.org/blog/road-from-kyiv-to-paris>.

3 Proposal

In the past, previous changes to the EITI Standard (and EITI Rules) have involved a rather complicated schedule of phased implementation and Validation². In Kyiv, the International Secretariat suggested a simpler approach whereby the 2019 Standard would come into force immediately. This would enable implementing countries to take advantage of the improvements and clarifications that have been agreed. Countries currently working on EITI Reports and corrective actions from Validation would need a reasonable period to finalise this work. The International Secretariat suggests a “no disadvantage test” for the transition period, where countries would need to demonstrate adherence to either the 2016 or 2019 Standard. After this period, only the 2019 EITI Standard would apply. The Secretariat suggests a relatively short transitional period, covering EITI disclosures and reports published prior to 31 December 2019, with a stipulation that multi-stakeholder groups may seek Board approval to extend this transition period where needed. In the Secretariat’s view, this proposal will facilitate the adoption of the new requirements while minimising the disruption to ongoing work.

² See for example the transitional arrangements relating to the adoption of the 2016 EITI Standard, replacing the 2013 EITI Standard: <https://eiti.org/document/eiti-standard-transitional-arrangements>