

Paper A. Minutes of CoST Board Meeting No.37 17 March 2021 (virtual meeting via Zoom)

Participants			
Board: Chrik Poortman (CP) (Chair) George Ofori (GO) Petter Matthews (PM) Natalie Forsyuk (NF) Vincent Lazatin (VL)		In Attendance: Manuela Di Mauro (MDM), FCDO Charlotte Broyd (CB) International Secretariat Evelyn Hernandez (EH) International Secretariat John Hawkins (JH) International Secretariat Nora Pesheva (NP) International Secretariat Sean Henderson (SH) International Secretariat	
Apologies: Gavin English (GE) Alexandra Habershon (AH) World Bank			
	Discussion & Decisions	Responsible	Deadline
Item 1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks			
1.1	The Chair welcomed Board members and observers to the call and thanked everyone for their time and availability for the online meeting.	N/A	N/A
1.2	There were apologies received from GE and AH.	N/A	N/A
Item 2. Approval of the minutes & matters arising			
2.1	The minutes from the 36 th meeting were approved as accurate.	N/A	N/A
2.2	GO enquired about minute 6.5 where it suggested that the Board would approach organisations to nominate candidates to represent civil society on the board and asked if this should be confined to current members. PM explained that some positions on the board are appointed by the board itself and others elected by members. The board is not limited in where it can seek nominations from in the former category and it can also consider advertising positions. The first elected position is scheduled for the second quarter of 2021 and will be for a representative from civil society.	N/A	N/A
Item 3. CoST Members update			
3.1	EH presented the report on members and affiliates and their progress.	N/A	N/A
3.2	It was reported that the strong performing members with consistent success, innovative approach, usually strong political support and regular impact stories were Afghanistan, Honduras, Thailand, Sekondi-Takoradi, Uganda and Ukraine.	N/A	N/A

3.3	Those members that had some but inconsistent success, often lacking adequate political support and not generating sufficient impact were Costa Rica, Guatemala, Malawi and Panama.	N/A	N/A
3.4	Members considered to be poorly performing and/or there are concerns about the political environment that give cause for serious concern are the Province of Buenos Aries, Ethiopia, El Salvador and Tanzania	N/A	N/A
3.5	Of the new members, CoST Jalisco and CoST West Lombok are moving quickly with the MSGs & Secretariat established, disclosure platforms in development and stakeholders being meaningfully engaged. CoST Ecuador and CoST Mozambique are making reasonable progress with their MSGs and Secretariats established. There is concern that the CoST Timor Leste programme has yet to be publicly announced but the Government has agreed to self-fund the programme which is a very positive development.	N/A	N/A
3.6	<p>The Board previously agreed to revoke the CoST member status of Tanzania unless it received a formal letter from the Government indicating its commitment and progress by mid-April 2021. The Board agreed to an extension to the inactive period in meeting 34 from 6 to 12 months. This period is due to conclude shortly and we have not received the assurances requested.</p> <p>The Board agreed that there would be a conciliatory message in the letter to Tanzania confirming the formal ending of the relationship. The Board placed on record its sincere gratitude to the individuals and institutions which had worked on the programme over the years.</p>	EH	May 2021
3.7	<p>The Board acknowledged the concerns raised about the current conflict in Ethiopia and the lack of Government commitment to CoST. The CoST Ethiopia manager has also recently resigned for personal reasons.</p> <p>It was agreed that the CoST Ethiopia MSG with the support of the CoST IS would be given an opportunity to engage the government after the elections in May 2021. The Board would then consider a formal first review in line with the performance monitoring policy towards the end of 2021 if the lack of Government commitment continues. The Board will write to the MSG to inform them of this position.</p>	JH	April 2021
3.8	It was agreed that the IS would assess how the CoST Province of Buenos Aries programme has worked to draw lessons on how the affiliate member model could be improved. A letter from the Board will be sent to the State Governor to request information about the status of the programme.	EH / JH	June 2021
		EH	April 2021
3.9	The CoST Malawi EU funded programme has just been launched following a lengthy delay due to the pandemic. The President of Malawi will be officially named as the CoST	EH	April 2021

	Malawi Champion later this week. A letter congratulating the President will be sent from the Board.		
3.10	<p>The Board also agreed that letters would be sent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MSG in El Salvador outlining their concerns. - The MSGs in Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala & Malawi supporting progress and recommending improvements. - The MSGs in Afghanistan, Honduras, Thailand, STMA and Ukraine congratulating them on progress and recommending further improvements. - To the President of Guatemala, Minister of Public Works in El Salvador, the President of Malawi and the Honduras Secretary of Transparency. - The CoST Champions in Uganda, Costa Rica and Ethiopia (following elections in May). <p>The letters would inform MSGs of the current funding position of CoST. Board members also agreed to participate in a 'Ask the Board' webinar with MSG Members, Secretariats etc. should there be interest in such meetings.</p>	EH & JH	April 2021
3.11	The IS will share the presentation on member performance with the Board.	EH	April 2021
3.12	It was confirmed that progress had improved since the CoST Uganda MSG was dissolved.	N/A	N/A
3.13	The \$460m saving reported by the Thai Ministry of Finance is documented here https://infrastructuretransparency.org/cost-thailand-saving-millions-enabling-participation-and-shifting-mindsets/ and here https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30375998	N/A	N/A
3.14	CP suggested that the IS consider convening a Champions meeting although this may not be possible until travel restrictions are lifted. The IS to consider the practicalities of a physical or virtual Champions meeting.	CoST IS	June 2021
3.15	NF asked if the IS could provide the Board with a summary of the self-financing members and where they obtain their funding.	CoST IS	April 2021
Item 4	AOB		
4.1	CP also thanked CB for the internal communication bulletin which he found very useful.	N/A	N/A
4.2	There were no safeguarding incidents reported since the last meeting.	N/A	N/A
4.3	There were no conflicts of interest reported by Trustees since the last meeting.	N/A	N/A
Item 5	Chair's closing remarks		
5.1	The Chair thanked everyone for joining the call and the Secretariat for preparing the presentation and documents for	N/A	N/A

this meeting and for the team joining in the very early or very late hours.

These minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.



Christiaan J. Poortman
Chair

05/07/2021
Date