

# Minutes of CoST Board Meeting No.36

## 23 February 2021 (virtual meeting via Zoom)

| Participants   |   |   |          |
|--|---|---|----------|
| <b>Board:</b><br>Chrik Poortman (CP) (Chair)<br>George Ofori (GO) (until point 3)<br>Petter Matthews (PM)<br>Gavin English (GE) (until point 6, but not point 4)<br>Vincent Lazatin (VL) |   | <b>In Attendance:</b><br>Alexandra Habershon (AH) World Bank<br>Manuela Di Mauro (MDM), FCDO<br>Charlotte Broyd (CB) International Secretariat<br>John Hawkins (JH) International Secretariat<br>Nora Pesheva (NP) International Secretariat<br>Sean Henderson (SH) International Secretariat<br>Soren Kirk Jensen (SKJ), International Secretariat |          |
| <b>Apologies:</b><br>Natalie Forsyuk (NF)<br>Ivo Stoel (IS), MinBuZa<br>Zlatina Loudjeva (ZL), Strategic Adviser<br>Evelyn Hernandez (EH) International Secretariat                      |   |   |          |
|  | 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 EH, NF and IS.   | N/A   | N/A      |
| Item 2. Approval of the minutes & matters arising  |   |   |          |
| 2.1  | The minutes from the 35 <sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as accurate.  | N/A   | N/A      |
| 2.2  | CP pointed out that the performance of CoST members was not discussed last time and there will be not be the opportunity during this meeting. A proposal from CoST IS is to have an extra meeting in March specifically on this issue   | N/A   | N/A      |
| Item 3. Funding update   |   |   |          |
| 3.1  | JH presented the expected budget for 2021 and how this compares to the two previous years plus the current position with each current financial support and how the CoST IS is engaging with potential supporters.                      | N/A   | N/A      |
| 3.2  | GO was pleased with the presentation and that there will be guidance to support CoST members to secure funding. GO to send details to JH and PM about a unit in Australia that would like CoST to do a video to showcase the programme. | N/A   | N/A      |
| 3.3  | PM explained there are some positive stories with the Governments of Timor Leste and Honduras recently agreeing to fund their CoST programmes.  | N/A   | N/A      |

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|----------------|---|-----|-----|
| 3.4            | MDM explained that FCDO still strongly supports CoST even if it is not able to provide financial support at present.  | N/A | N/A |
| <b>Item 4.</b> | <b>Financial Report</b>   |     |     |
| 4.1            | The Board approved the financial report including the end of year accounts for 2020 and the forecast budget for 2021.   | N/A | N/A |
| <b>Item 5</b>  | <b>CoST models</b>  |     |     |
| 5.1            | JH presented paper F on three CoST models that (the current membership model, members are self-funded and a non-member model) that the Board initially discussed in December and were developed during a CoST IS workshop early February.   | N/A | N/A |
| 5.2            | JH explained that the current funding position meant that in effect CoST is transitioning into members being self-funded from October 2021. He also explained that the non-membership model is not considered an option as CoST would lose some of its brand identity.  | N/A | N/A |
| 5.3            | Governments are being encouraged to follow the examples of CoST Honduras and Timor Leste to fund their own programmes. This will be easier with new members such as Timor Leste where prior to them joining CoST there was an expectation that they would fund their programme. The Honduras Government is funding CoST alongside its OGP and EITI programmes.  | N/A | N/A |
| 5.4            | The Board acknowledge that CoST is currently moving towards a member self-funding model and that the CoST IS for developing the paper.  | N/A | N/A |
| 5.5            | GE asked if CoST IS refreshing its language in its promotional materials to reflect the changing the world (especially post-COVID).<br><br>CB confirmed this is the case and gave few examples in specific materials and how they have been changed. There has been work around how initiatives like CoST are relevant in COVID responses.  | N/A | N/A |
| <b>Item 6</b>  | <b>CoST Board Elections</b>   |     |     |
| 6.1            | PM explained that procedures for electing Board members in Paper g reflect the changes to the Articles of Association. PM then presented the proposed election schedule in paper H.   | N/A | N/A |
| 6.2            | VL enquired why are there two positions for Government to be elected on the board. PM explained that there would also two civil society members and two private sector members on the Board with one from each sector elected by the regions and one from each sector appointed by the Board. It was thought there was no international organisation representing government as there is for civil society and the private sector. Thus, both positions would be elected. | N/A | N/A |

|               |   |               |            |
|---------------|---|---------------|------------|
| 6.3           | VL also pointed that GO position is referred as “one other” and this could have a better title (e.g. vice-chair as it is his position). PM explained this is how it is referred in the article and it gives flexibility to co-opt another person from any background but agreed this can have better reference.   | N/A           | N/A        |
| 6.4           | It was explained there was a strong preference from CoST members to move quickly with the election. Hence, why the first election would take place in the second quarter of 2021.   | N/A           | N/A        |
| 6.5           | The Board were encouraged to provide feedback on the electoral procedure including on diversity and gender by email (open email to everyone) before the final version is drafted. The procedure will then be discussed with the CoST Africa members before they elect a new civil society representative in the second quarter of 2021.<br><br>The Board are also asked to suggest organisations that should be approached to nominate people on the currently vacant International Civil Society position. | Board Members | March 2021 |
| <b>Item 7</b> | <b>Any other business &amp; future meetings</b>   |               |            |
| 7.1           | The CoST IS to organise a call in mid-March focused on CoST members and a further Board meeting may be required in May or June.   | CoST IS       | March 2021 |
| 7.2           | EAP was selected as a knowledge partner for the OECD Integrity Forum in March which involves organising a 90 minute webinar. It will give the opportunity to showcase CoST.   | N/A           | N/A        |
| 7.3           | PM informed the Board that the C20 Infrastructure Working Group is no longer operational due the Italian Presidency restructuring the C20 working groups. Infrastructure is linked to the finance track.  | N/A           | N/A        |
| 7.4           | The Board approved the application (papers C and D) to join the CoST as a member from the City of Bogotá by email.  | N/A           | N/A        |
| 7.5           | There were no safeguarding incidents reported since the last meeting.   | N/A           | N/A        |
| 7.6           | There were no conflicts of interest reported by Trustees since the last meeting.  | N/A           | N/A        |
| <b>Item 8</b> | <b>Chair’s closing remarks</b>  |               |            |
| 8.1           | The Chair thanked everyone for joining the call and the Secretariat for preparing the presentation and documents for this meeting and for the team joining in the very early or very late hours.  | N/A           | N/A        |

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



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Christiaan J. Poortman  
Chair

17/03/2021  
Date