

Minutes of CoST Board Meeting (Call) No.49, 12 December 2023

Participants			
Board: Chrik Poortman (CP) (Chair) Gavin English (GE) Rueben Lifuka (RL) Petter Matthews (PM) Claire Schouten (CS) Eyasu Yimer (EY)		Secretariat: Sean Henderson (SH) John Hawkins (JH) Maria Prado (MP) Apologies: Evelyn Hernandez (EH) Tim Williamson (TW), World Bank Rory Moody (RM), Oleksii Sobolev (OS) Zlatina Loudjeva, Strategic Advisor	
	Discussion & Decisions	Responsible	Deadline
Item 1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks			
1.1	The Chair welcomed members and observers and thanked everyone for their time and availability for the meeting.	N/A	N/A
Item 2. Approval of the minutes & matters arising			
2.1	The minutes from the 48 th meeting were approved as accurate.	N/A	N/A
2.2	The Board was informed that EH and Olive Kabatwairwe are currently in Kaduna providing training to the new multi-stakeholder group. This follows the development of a risk assessment plan.	N/A	N/A
2.3	There has not been any formal feedback on the most recent letters from the Board to CoST members. However, it was reported that has been some recent positive developments in Ethiopia and Honduras. The Board would like to hear about Member updates in a future meeting.	N/A	N/A
2.4	The Board re-appointed Magma as the auditors for a further twelve months.	SH	Oct 2023
2.5	The Board was informed of the formal closure of the programme in Afghanistan and that a statement will be published shortly to announce this publicly. The statement will be discussed with IWA before publication to avoid sensitivities.	PM	Jan 2024
Item 3. Board appointments			
3.1	The Board approved the appointment of Gloria Patricia Rincón Mazo as the new Board members representing government. This follows her election by the Latin America delegate assembly. The appointment will be announced shortly.	PM	Jan 2023

Item 4. Financial report			
4.1	The financial report including the management accounts up to 30 September 2024 was approved.	SH	Oct 2023
4.2	SH clarified that Thailand opted not to receive the budgeted grant due to the insufficient time to deliver.	N/A	N/A
Item 5. Commercial criteria			
5.1	The Board approved the criteria for CoST to engage in commercial work. PM to reflect the discussion on the commercial work paper. The Board also mentioned that these are aspects to be considered in the context of the Business Plan discussion review.	PM	N/A
5.2	The Board requested that the CoST IS identifies the financial reserve it would like to establish via commercial work and to be mindful of rates to be applied in commercial work as to avoid the perception of profiteering.		
5.3	The CoST IS would in time develop a database of consultants that it would use to provide services.	N/A	N/A
Item 6. CoST IDS/OC4IDS review			
6.1	The Board endorsed the approach of the CoST IS in developing new optional modules covering environment, climate and resilience, social, economic and financial, institutional and climate finance. Members would use the core IDS/OC4IDS and then have the options in applying the modules that are relevant to their infrastructure programmes.	N/A	N/A
6.2	The board asked if grievance and redress mechanisms and safeguarding had been considered and if beneficiaries had been disaggregated. MP explained that in principle the data points that were adopted had to have available information within procuring entities. This mean that one or two issues were not included in the modules. For example, procuring entities do not disaggregate the beneficiaries and only addressing it in terms of direct and indirect beneficiaries.	N/A	N/A
6.3	The Board thought the climate finance module would help position CoST as a leader in addressing the integrity of climate finance.	N/A	N/A
6.4	The CoST IS will be meeting with OCP to discuss the future governance arrangements.	JH EH	January 2024
6.5	A further discussion on how to promote and operationalise the modules will take place at the Board meeting in April.	Agenda	April 2024
Item 7. Business plan review			
7.1	The Board broadly agreed to the outline approach to completing the business plan review. This principally involves a membership consultation and engaging with partners outside of the membership model who are interested in CoST tools and standards.	N/A	N/A

7.2	In addition to the issues raised in the Board paper, members thought the review should address private sector engagement, CoST's role in international thinking, any changes to the monitoring and evaluation framework and the pathway of change mentioned in the learning paper (from capacities to attitudes, to improvement in communication, mobilisation and behaviour change). The Board also thought there may be value in publishing a new business plan to avoid having to repeat the exercise in the not to distant future.	JH EH PM	April 2024
7.3	The CoST IS were asked to reflect on why CoST membership seems not to be attractive to countries where CoST has a strategic relationship (such as Scotland, Brazil and South Africa).	CoST IS	April 2024
Item 8	Any other business		
8.1	The next Board meeting will take place via Teams on Tuesday 6 February from 1300 - 1500 GMT.	ALL	N/A
8.2	The remaining dates for Board meetings in 2024 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22-26 April 2024 to be hosted by a CoST member. • 26 June 2024 via Teams • 24 September 2024 via Teams • 26 November 2024 via Teams 	IS	N/A
8.3	Potential hosts for the Board meeting April are Ghana, Uganda and Indonesia. A decision will be made in early January.	IS	Jan 2024
8.4	No conflicts of interest were reported by Board members.	N/A	N/A
8.5	There were no safeguarding incidents reported since the last Board meeting.	N/A	N/A
Item 9.	Chair's closing remarks		
8.1	The Chair thanked everyone for joining the meeting and the Secretariat for preparing the documents for this meeting	N/A	N/A

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



6 February 2024

Christiaan J. Poortman
Chair

Date