

# Minutes of CoST Board Meeting No.55

## 31 January 2025

PARTICIPANTS	
<b>Board</b>	<b>International Secretariat</b>
Chrik Poortman (CP), Chair	John Hawkins (JH), CoST IS
Kittidej Chantangkul (KC), Private Sector	Evelyn Hernandez (SH), CoST IS
Rueben Lifuka (RL), Co-opted	Justine Wharton (JW), CoST IS
Petter Matthews (PM), CoST IS	Melina San Martin (MSM), CoST IS
Gloria Patricia Rincón Mazo (PR), Government	
James Mwangi (JM), Private Sector	
Claire Schouten (CS), Civil Society	
Eyasu Yimer (EY), Civil Society	
<b>In attendance</b>	
Rajiv Lall (RBL), Incoming chair	

Discussion & decisions	Resp.	Deadline
<b>Item 1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks</b>		
1.1 CP welcomed those present especially the new Head of Advocacy and Communications, Justine Wharton.	N/A	N/A
<b>Item 2. Approval of the minutes &amp; matters arising – Papers A &amp; B</b>		
2.1 The minutes from the 54 <sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as accurate.	N/A	N/A
2.2 It was explained that further work is required to explore copyright options for the ITI published materials. Hogan Lovell's, CoST's pro-bono legal advisor, is providing support.	PM	Ongoing
2.3 The special advisor terms of reference are currently being drafted. The core functions are identified but the details require further definition.	PM	March 2025
<b>Item 3. US Department of State Grant Agreement</b>		

## CoST Board Meeting 56 – Paper A

3.1	CoST received a Stop Work Order on 25 January 2025 from the US Department of State. This follows a Presidential Executive Order announcing a 90-day review of foreign assistance programs.	N/A	N/A
3.2	CoST signed a 2-year grant agreement with the Department of State in September 2023 which was extended in by 12 months in September 2024. CoST was informed that the review could lead to the grant agreement being pursued as agreed, amended or terminated.	N/A	N/A
3.3	The Executive Order also includes an instruction not to issue disbursements. CoST is paid in arrears and we have incurred costs of approximately \$80,000 in the last quarter.	N/A	N/A
3.4	The Board asked that the IS assess what the implications would be on promoting infrastructure transparency globally if the agreement was cancelled as well as the financial implications.	JH	March 2025
<b>Item 4.</b>	<b>Strategic Plan – Paper C</b>		
4.1	The Board was broadly supportive of the outline Strategic Plan presented in paper C. The proposed strategy outlines four themes: Opening up sustainable, inclusive and resilient infrastructure, strengthening public investment management systems, safeguarding infrastructure investments and deterring corruption and improving performance (including post-war reconstruction).	N/A	N/A
4.2	The Board agreed that the Vision and Mission would be modified, and that the options presented provided a good basis for doing that.	CoST IS	March 2025
4.3	The Board requested more detail on the thinking and discussions that informed the outline. This might include a SWOT analysis, internal capacity assessment and how we will scale up impact. It would also like to ensure alignment with the priorities of key partners.	CoST IS	March 2025
4.4	Board members indicated that the strategy should include sections on risk management, resourcing and references to what has been learned in the last five years and how the lessons have been incorporated.	CoST IS	March 2025
4.5	A parallel review of the theory of change and monitoring, evaluation, accountability learning framework has commenced with the outcome to be included in the plan. The previously agreed values and principles will also be reviewed and updated if necessary to reflect the strategy.	N/A	N/A
4.6	The Board suggested that fundamental questions about the future form of the CoST Charity and its relationship with members be considered as part of the process. For example, consideration could be given to moving away	N/A	N/A

## CoST Board Meeting 56 – Paper A

	from a membership based model, to focus more directly on advocacy and through leadership.		
4.7	The CoST IS will develop a draft strategic plan for discussion at the next meeting. The Board offered to look at an interim working draft before then.	CoST IS	March 2025
<b>Item 5.</b>	<b>2025 Board member elections and rotation</b>		
5.1	PM to share an updated schedule for Board member elections and rotation.	PM	Feb 2025
<b>Item 6.</b>	<b>Board meeting dates</b>		
6.1	The next Board meeting will be held in London from 18-20 March 2025. RBL and CP will meet with Helen King, Director for Economic Development at FCDO prior to the meeting. The membership sub-group will also meet on 17 March. Nora Pesheva will contact each Board member to organise their travel arrangements.	MSM NP	Feb 2025
<b>Item 7.</b>	<b>Chair's closing remarks</b>		
7.1	The Chair thanked members for their participation and closed the meeting.	N/A	N/A

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

*Rajiv Lall*

18 March 2025

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Rajiv Lall  
Chair

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Date