

Minutes of CoST Board Meeting No.58

29 September 2025

PARTICIPANTS	
Board	Observers
Rajiv Lall (RL), Chair	Lauriane Povey (LP), FCDO
Kittidej Chantangkul (KC), Private Sector	Vicki Craig (VC), Magma (auditors)
Rueben Lifuka (RL), Co-opted	International Secretariat
Petter Matthews (PM), CoST IS	Therese Bateson (TB), CoST IS
James Mwangi (JM), Private Sector	Manuel Gonzalez (MG), CoST IS
Gloria Patricia Rincón Mazo (PR), Government	Evelyn Hernandez (EH), CoST IS
Claire Schouten (CS), Civil Society	John Hawkins (JH), CoST IS
Eyasu Yimer (EY), Civil Society	Olive Kabatwairwe (OK), CoST IS
In attendance	
Chrik Poortman (CP), Special Advisor	

Discussion & decisions		Resp.	Deadline
Item 1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks			
1.1	The chair welcomed Board Members and Observers to the meeting.	N/A	N/A
Item 2. Annual General Meeting			
2.1	The Board approved the financial statement (paper C) and the audit findings (paper D). TB confirmed that the Secretariat have accepted the recommendations in the audit findings.	N/A	N/A
2.2	TB to organise the final updates of the financial statement and audit findings and signatures before submission to Companies House on 30 September 2025.	TB	30 Sept 2025
2.3	The Board thanked VC for the flexibility of Dains (previously Magma), especially the change in the timeline for the audit. The Board also expressed their thanks to TB for successfully managing the audit process.	N/A	N/A

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2.4	The Board confirmed the re-appointment of Dains (Magma) for the 2025 audit. It however, agreed that a review of the auditor should take place for the 2026 audit.	TB	N/A
Item 3.	Financial report – Paper C		
3.1	The Board approved the Q2 financial report for 2025.	N/A	N/A
3.2	The Board noted that the CoST IS were looking at how part of the overheads charged to donors can be claimed by CoST. Historically, the full overhead charged was recharged by EAP as CoST had minimal overheads.	N/A	N/A
3.3	LP did not believe FCDO would objective to this. TB to confirm the percentage that CoST should retain.	TB	Nov 2025
Item 4.	Membership		
4.1	The Board confirmed the approval of the application to join CoST as a Member from Kakamega County, Kenya. The application is a direct result of the side event CoST hosted in Nairobi where it convened local stakeholders in a forum as part of the Regional Open Government Partnership Summit.	N/A	N/A
4.2	The Board confirmed that Ethiopia's CoST Membership is revoked. It noted the letter from the Ethiopian Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption (FEAC) withdrawing as host of CoST Ethiopia which followed a letter from the Board to the CoST Ethiopia MSG concerning its recent performance. A letter confirming the decision will be sent to FEAC and the CoST Ethiopia MSG.	EH	Sept 2025
4.3	The Board confirmed that El Salvador's Membership status is now inactive due to the lack of government support for CoST and the lack of space for civil society participation. A letter confirming the decision will be sent to the CoST El Salvador MSG.	EH	Sept 2025
Item 5.	Approval of the minutes & matters arising – Papers A & B		
5.1	The minutes from the 57 th meeting were approved as accurate.	N/A	N/A
Item 6.	Board meeting dates		
6.1	The next Board Call will be on Monday 24 th November from 1300 to 1500.	N/A	N/A
6.2	An in-person Board meeting will take place week commencing Monday 19 th January 2026 probably in Africa. Board Members were asked to hold this week in their diaries whilst potential hosts are engaged with.	Board Members	Dec 2025
Item 7.	Any other business		

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7.1	Companies House - Removal of S. Henderson as Secretary and replacement with T. Bateson - approved	TB	Oct 2025
Item 8.	Chair's closing remarks		
8.1	The Chair thanked members for their participation.	N/A	N/A

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

Rajiv Lall

24 November 2025

Rajiv Lall
Chair

Date