



## Conference concept

### **Increasing the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder initiatives through active collaboration**

Monday 28 – Wednesday 30 April 2014 | WP1314

#### **Context**

Over the past decade there has been a proliferation of multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI) that bring together diverse actors from the public, private and civil society sectors to solve pressing governance challenges, such as enhancing transparency and improving accountability for better development outcomes.

#### **Key policy issues**

This meeting aims to make sense of the growing numbers of governance MSIs and to become clearer about what has worked and what hasn't in MSIs. Multi-stakeholder efforts require good design, skilled facilitation, strong commitments and active participation from stakeholders and evolving governance and funding models. This is especially true for multi-stakeholder groups that work in complex sectors, such as extractive industries, infrastructure or agriculture, or in difficult contexts, such as conflicted-affected states or resource-rich countries.

The meeting will bring together some of the leading MSI practitioners from around the world who work in these complex environments to learn from each other across initiatives and to begin to consolidate a network of practitioners who can continue to support each other.

The meeting will be jointly organised by four organisations with longstanding experiences in facilitating and MSIs and convening action-oriented conferences - Wilton Park, the World Bank, the Transparency and Accountability Initiative and Reos Partners.

Wilton Park organises meetings that encourage innovation, dialogue and collaboration among participants. The World Bank is supporting and involved in several governance MSIs on the global and country levels, including on issues, such infrastructure, extractives and contracting, and in diverse countries, such as Mongolia, Ghana and Nigeria. The Transparency and Accountability Initiative (T/A Initiative) is a donor collaborative working to expand the impact and scale of transparency and accountability interventions. Reos Partners is a social enterprise that helps businesses, governments, and civil society organisations address complex social challenges through multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives.

#### **Goal and objectives**

The objectives of the meeting are:

- To connect diverse experts and practitioners working on governance MSIs across issue areas, industry sectors and countries.
- To build a common understanding of the current landscape and impact of MSIs. This includes mapping of linkages across initiatives, their stages of maturity, their

measurable contributions to the global governance agenda, and the challenges and opportunities for increased sustainability.

- To share approaches for increasing effectiveness and impact of MSIs. These might encompass methods and tools for convening coalitions, building effective M&E systems, fostering innovation, designing effective governance, scaling impact, effective learning strategies and financing mechanisms.
- To identify and articulate opportunities for leveraging each other efforts across initiatives. The group will explore different options for staying connected and supporting each other.

## **Approach**

The meeting will be interactive and hands-on. Participants will be able to work on specific challenges that they are facing in their MSI but there will also be a strong focus on exchanging insights across initiatives. The intention is that this meeting is the beginning of a community of practitioners that continues to convene and support each other after this first convening.

## **Outcomes**

Participants will

- Be clearer about how different MSIs have progressed over time, where they are currently active and what their current challenges and opportunities are.
- Have a shared sense of the impact of MSIs in advancing governance outcomes and options for collective impact measurement.
- Have a better understanding of proven methods and tools that increase effectiveness and impact of MSIs.
- Be part of a connected group of active MSI experts and practitioners that are committed to solving complex governance issues and will continue to support each other.

## **Who should attend**

The meeting will bring together about 40 experts and practitioners involved in MSIs aimed at solving complex governance challenges. The aim is that half of the participating practitioners will be from global initiatives, secretariats and donors and that half will be from local (e.g. country, community or team level) MSI efforts. Diverse stakeholder groups, industry sectors and countries will be represented.

## **Follow up arrangements**

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