METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

The Institute for Multi-Stakeholder Initiative Integrity (MSI Integrity), in conjunction with Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic, is preparing a compilation of evaluations that examine five prominent global multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) from a human rights perspective. Each evaluation report comprises a long-form report and a report card. The content of these reports derives primarily from the results of the MSI Evaluation Tool.

MSI Evaluation Tool

The Tool, which includes 400+ indicators, is a core component of the MSI Integrity's assessment process, which seeks to measure the effectiveness of the design of MSIs with regards to human rights. The MSI Evaluation Tool was developed in consultation with members of the business and human rights community and will be undergoing a further public consultation and review process. Indicators in the Tool are categorized as minimum standards, good practice or innovative practice. In addition, some indicators are purely informational. The 400+ indicators are objective, meaning that they ask specific questions that can be answered with yes or no responses. For example, "Are the MSI's standards publicly available?" Answers are based only on material released publicly by the MSI. The decision to rely only on publicly released material to assess the MSI provides the MSI with an opportunity to see how outside observers perceive and interpret its operations. To ensure that data about the MSI is compiled accurately, the MSI Evaluation Tool is run independently by two individual evaluators, who submit their results to a third-party auditor for reconciliation. The audited results are then used to generate a score for the MSI with regards to its standards, internal governance, implementation, transparency and level of affected community involvement.

Evaluation of scope and mandate

In addition to evaluating the information that the MSI has released publicly, MSI Integrity conducts external research about the human rights issues relevant to each industry, as well as the events that led to the MSI's formation. This external material is used to assess the MSI's scope and mandate.

Long-form evaluation report

Based on the audited outcomes of the Tool and the research related to the MSI's scope and mandate, MSI Integrity prepares draft long-form reports. The reports contain objective, factual descriptions of the MSI's structure. These descriptions are then followed by evaluation, as well as recommendations that reflect the practices identified in the MSI Evaluation Tool. These reports are reviewed by the MSI itself, as well as independent experts.

Engagement process

To ensure the accuracy of the evaluations, MSI Integrity provides each MSI with an opportunity to comment on the findings. The MSIs are notified once a draft report has been prepared, and a comment period is scheduled in conjunction with the MSI. During the comment period, the MSI is encouraged to submit written comments on the draft, as well as documents and other materials. MSI Integrity also seeks to meet with the MSI to discuss the report findings and answer questions whenever possible. For the 2013 evaluation reports, meetings were held with staff or representatives from each MSI.

The reports are then updated to reflect the information gathered in the engagement process. Clarifying information provided by the MSIs that is not publicly available on its website is noted as coming directly from the MSI, in order to make explicit the source of all material. Information that is publicly released after the collation of data done when running the MSI Evaluation Tool is marked as an update.

Expert review

The draft report is also reviewed by two independent experts: one with experience with the evaluated MSI, and one with general experience in business and human rights. The experts are asked to review the section of the reports that examine the scope and mandate of the MSI as well as to review the accuracy of the description of the MSI throughout the report. Experts do not provide their own independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the MSI. Each MSI is then given the opportunity to review and comment on revised versions of the report that have incorporated feedback from the comment period and the experts.

Report card

The MSI report card complements the long-form report. Each report card consists of an overview crystallizing the main issues raised in the long-form report as well as a set of MSI Scores.

The MSI Scores are a set of three scores: the Overall MSI Score, the Transparency Score, and the Affected Community Involvement Score. The Overall MSI Score is made up of the MSI's score for mandate, standards, implementation, internal governance and development.

The MSI scores are calculated based on the proportion of minimum standards that an MSI has met under the MSI Evaluation Tool, as well as a set of criteria assessing the MSI's scope and mandate.

More details on the scoring will be made available as part of the 2013 public consultation and review process. To find out more about the public consultation and review process, please visit **www.msi-integrity.org**.