MSI INTEGRITY STANDARDS PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND REVIEW PROCESS
MAY 1 - JULY 31, 2013

The Institute for Multi-Stakeholder Initiative Integrity (MSI Integrity), in conjunction with Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic, has developed an MSI Evaluation Tool. The Tool, which includes 400+ indicators, seeks to measure the effectiveness of the design of MSIs from a human rights perspective. The Tool is a critical component behind the assessment work of MSI Integrity, and forms the basis of the MSI Evaluation Reports. The MSI Evaluation Tool was developed over a two-year period, based on extensive academic literature review, as well as consultation with members of the business and human rights community.

MSI Integrity plans to conduct a public consultation and review of its evaluation standards, including the MSI Evaluation Tool. The process will be managed by the Board of MSI Integrity and includes the following steps:

- The establishment of an advisory group to provide guidance and additional oversight for the review process;
- An open consultation period from May 1 - July 31, 2013, to solicit comments. Interested parties may submit written comments to MSI Integrity throughout the period. In addition, consultation sessions will be organized by host institutions around the world to provide an opportunity for a range of stakeholders to actively participate in the consultation process. Special emphasis will be placed on the inclusion of communities affected by MSIs;
- The review of working evaluation reports from select MSIs, to demonstrate the application of the MSI Evaluation Tool to MSIs, and illustrate MSI Integrity's evaluation process. These reports will be available from those MSIs that have agreed for their working evaluation reports to be used to inform the consultation and review process;
- Regional consultation sessions around the world. At the completion of each regional consultation, host institutions will submit reports to the advisory group and the Board of MSI Integrity, summarizing the comments and recommendations received;
- A final report produced by the advisory group, submitted to the Board of MSI Integrity. The report will contain recommendations regarding the evaluation standards; and
- The Board of MSI Integrity will make revisions based on the advisory group's recommendations.

Advisory Group

The Board of MSI Integrity will appoint an advisory group of six to ten members. As far as practicable, the Board will strive to ensure geographic diversity and the representation of affected communities. The Board will also be cognizant of the need to ensure the independence of MSI Integrity while drawing upon relevant expertise, seeking to involve individuals who have prior experience with MSIs while minimizing the number of advisors actively engaged in MSI governance. The advisory group will review the comments and feedback received during the review process and will then submit a report with its recommendations to the Board of MSI Integrity.

Public Consultation and Review

MSI Integrity intends to partner with regional host institutions to organize world-wide consultation sessions on the standards. These are planned to take place in North America, South America, Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe. Beginning May 1, comments can be submitted electronically to MSI Integrity or via the host institutions. The host institutions will be responsible for collating feedback and reporting it to the advisory group and the Board of MSI Integrity.

Working Reports

MSI Integrity has prepared working evaluation reports assessing five MSIs based on its existing standards and indicators. The five evaluated MSIs are the Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C), Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Fair Labor Association (FLA), Global Network Initiative (GNI) and the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). The working reports apply MSI Integrity's existing indicators and standards, and allow for a rich engagement and understanding of the current methodology. A select number of MSIs have agreed to the release of their working reports for the purposes of the public review and consultation process. While the working reports demonstrate the application of MSI Integrity's existing indicators and standards, the consultation period will be focused on the evaluation process and the MSI Evaluation Tool, not the review or evaluation of any particular MSI. Agreement for the report to be used in the consultation process does not amount to an endorsement of the working evaluation report or MSI Integrity's standards or methodology.

Upon completion of the consultation process, all five working reports will be revised based upon the updated MSI Evaluation Tool and standards, and will then be published.

The first set of consultation sessions will take place on May 7, 2013 in Washington, D.C. More details on the review process and the MSI Evaluation Tool will be released before May 1, 2013.