



**The Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency
Report to the Lead Stewards. Entities and organizations that would like to continue
to benefit from the network as stewards
January 2017**

The objective of this document is to request GIFT Lead Stewards to approve the request of eight entities to become stewards of GIFT. Presented here is a brief description of how these institutions have been increasingly contributing and benefiting from the network's activities.

Per section 3 of the GIFT Operating Procedures (approved on July 8, 2015), members of the multi-stakeholder action network are the stewards. Participation in GIFT is inclusive and open to any agency, institution, organization, or body willing to advance fiscal openness and to contribute to, or benefit from, the network's streams of work. Any GIFT stewards or the network director can invite these stakeholders to engage in GIFT activities, who will be identified as partners of GIFT. These participants do not have to fulfill the stewards' functions, but are expected to uphold the values and principles articulated in the High-Level Principles for Fiscal Transparency and to consistently and continually advance fiscal openness.

Eligible stewards can join GIFT by submitting a letter of intent that signals their willingness to become members of the network, assuming the terms of reference of the stewards and their commitment to intensify efforts to enhance fiscal transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies. They should also express disposition to promote discussions on participatory and accountable management of fiscal policies and the willingness to promote cooperation and information sharing.

Current members of the Network are the following institutions (Name of the Institution (year of becoming a steward). Marked with an asterisk (*) are the six lead stewards]:

1. The International Budget Partnership* (2015)
2. The World Bank Group* (2015)
3. The International Monetary Fund* (2015)
4. The Federal Secretary of Budget and Planning of Brazil* (2015)
5. The Department of Budget and Management of the Philippines* (2015)
6. The International Federation of Accountants* (2015)
7. The US Treasury Department (2015)
8. The Organization of Economic Co-Operation and Development (2015)
9. Fundar, Center for Research & Analysis, Mexico (2015)
10. The Institute of Public Finance of Croatia (2015)
11. The Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos, Brazil (2015)
12. The Omidyar Network (2015)
13. The National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights, India (2015)
14. The Ford Foundation (2015)
15. The UK Department for International Development (2015)
16. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (2015)
17. The Center on Budget & Policy Priorities (2015)
18. The Unit for Transparency and Evaluation of the Secretary of the Treasury in Mexico



(2015)

19. The Budget Department of the National Treasury of South Africa (2015)
20. Technical Secretariat of Planning & Economic & Social Development, Paraguay (2016)
21. Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia (2016)
22. Ministry of Finance, El Salvador (2016)
23. Ministry of Finance, The Dominican Republic (2016)
24. Ministry of Finance, Tunisia (2016)
25. ICEFI (based in Guatemala, working in various countries in Central America) (2016)
26. SEKNAS FITRA (Indonesia) (2016)
27. Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo, FUNDE (El Salvador) (2016)
28. The Emerging Markets Investors Alliance (USA) (2016)
29. Global Integrity (USA) (2016)

The following three government institutions and five civil society organizations have expressed their willingness to continue to be part of the network, increase their engagement in 2017 and formalize their partnership with GIFT.

Office of Planning and Budget, Presidency, Uruguay
<http://www.opp.gub.uy/>

GIFT and the Uruguay's Office of Planning and Budget (OPP in Spanish - with a ministerial level) have developed an intense collaboration throughout 2015-6. Given the OPP's commitment to build a fiscal transparency portal that meets international standards, representatives of this Office have participated in the fiscal transparency workshops last year (April in Mexico City and September in Jakarta), in the framework of the OGP's Fiscal Openness Working Group (FOWG). Thus, the team in charge of Uruguay's fiscal transparency portal has received technical assistance from their counterparts from Brazil and Mexico, as well as directly from GIFT's coordination team, which held technical meetings with them in Montevideo (May 2016). Moreover, Alvaro García, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget has participated in peer learning activities, such as the Fiscal Transparency Commitments in OGP's National Action Plans Workshop and Stewards meeting in Washington, D.C (June), as well as in the Paris Global OGP Summit in December to present their ambitious transparency and public participation in fiscal policy agenda. Also, importantly the OPP has partnered with GIFT to pilot the Open Fiscal Data Package.

Ministry of Public Finance, Guatemala
<http://www.minfin.gob.gt/>

2016 was a year of productive engagement with the Ministry of Public Finance of Guatemala, having their participation at several GIFT's workshops and meetings. In the framework of the OGP's FOWG, the MoPF benefited from GIFT's comments to their Second National Action Plan's fiscal transparency commitments. Additionally, GIFT has co-organized with the World Bank, the Ministry and ICEFI (GIFT Steward) meetings in Guatemala City to discuss transparency and public participation in fiscal policy, in which GIFT sponsored the participation of the network director, as well as that of representatives from the governments of Mexico and Dominican Republic to share their experiences. In his presentation at the Fiscal Transparency Commitments in OGP's National Action Plans



Workshop and Stewards meeting in Washington, D.C (June), Carlos Mendoza, Director of Fiscal Evaluation and Transparency, discussed his country's new government commitment to increase transparency and public participation in fiscal policy. The MoPF has also partnered with GIFT to pilot the Open Fiscal Data Package.

Ministry of Finance, Croatia
<http://www.mfin.hr/en>

Representatives from the Ministry of Finance engaged in several GIFT meetings throughout 2015 and 2016, including the workshop in at the OGP Global Summit in Mexico City (October 2015), the regional workshop in Slovenia, and GIFT's Lead Stewards Strategic Planning Workshop in Washington D.C. (September 2016). Ivana Jakir-Bajo, Assistant Minister and Chief State Treasurer, has been actively involved in GIFT's activities, by being a member of the Guide on Public Participation in Fiscal Policy Principles and Mechanisms' External Review Group; attending the mentioned planning workshop, as well as the Presentation Seminar of the Guide in Washington D.C. (September 2016). As with the case of the OPP of Uruguay and the MoPF of Guatemala, the MoF of Croatia is also piloting the Open Fiscal Data Package.

Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM), South Africa
www.psam.org.za

The Public Service Accountability Monitor forms part of the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. It has a vision to ensure that the right to social accountability is universally realized. During the last year, PSAM has been engaging in GIFT's meetings and workshops, as an active counterpart to South Africa's Department of National Treasury (GIFT Steward). These two institutions have shared repeatedly that the progress achieved in fiscal transparency and public participation in South Africa cannot be explained without the intense dialogue between civil society and government. PSAM's Zukiswa Kota has attended the fiscal transparency portal workshops in Mexico (April) and Jakarta (September), the OGP FOWG Africa Regional Meeting (May), as well as the Fiscal Transparency Commitments in OGP's National Action Plans Workshop and Stewards meeting in Washington, D.C (June). She was also a panelist at GIFT's session in the Paris OGP Global Summit (December).

Social Watch, Benin
www.socialwatch.org

Social Watch is an international network of citizens' organizations in the struggle to eradicate poverty and the causes of poverty, to end all forms of discrimination and racism, to ensure an equitable distribution of wealth and the realization of human rights. Dieudonné Houinsou, Social Watch Benin's Executive Secretary, who is the local Open Budget Index researcher, joined several GIFT activities last year, including the fiscal transparency portal workshop in Jakarta (September). Social Watch has acted as an important liaison for GIFT to build the incipient partnership with Benin's Ministry of Finance. Leveraged with Social Watch's membership to GIFT, Benin could become one of the few countries to join the FOWG (through the MoF) prior to becoming an OGP member country.



The MITRE Corporation
www.mitre.org

The MITRE Corporation is a not-for-profit company that operates multiple federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs). The Corporation works with civil and military agencies of the USA Government in provide innovative and practical solutions for some of the Government's critical challenges in technology, defense and intelligence, transparency, aviation, civil systems and governance, homeland security, the judiciary, healthcare, and cybersecurity. Since 2015, MITRE has attended as a partner several GIFT workshops. In particular, Jim Cooke, MITRE's Vice-President, participated in two Washington D.C. meetings: the Fiscal Transparency Commitments in OGP's National Action Plans Workshop and Stewards meeting (June), as well as in the Lead Stewards Strategic Planning Workshop (September 2016). MITRE is decidedly interested in joining GIFT given its growing international work. In turn, for GIFT the strategic value of having MITRE join is in that it is a vehicle to establish and maintain high level relations with many US government agencies.

The Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI)
<http://www.cabri-sbo.org>

CABRI is an intergovernmental organization that provides a platform for peer learning and exchange for African ministries of finance and planning. It is currently chaired by the Budget Planning Director of the National Treasury of South Africa. CABRI has had an important role in Africa in institutional capacity building of ministries of finance. CABRI has participated in general stewards' meetings and in regional meetings, such as the OGP Fiscal Openness Working Group Africa Regional Meeting (May 2016). CABRI's formal engagement with GIFT represents a strategic alliance that opens the possibility to work with ministries of finance of several African countries.

Open Contracting Partnership
<http://www.open-contracting.org/>

The Open Contracting Partnership is a multi-stakeholder network composed by a community of policy experts, leaders and campaigners who believe that better open data and more community engagement can transform public projects, goods and services. OCP works on collaborative processes that included hundreds of stakeholders across government, business, and civil society, to open up public contracting through disclosure, data and engagement so that the huge sums of money involved are spent honestly, fairly, and effectively. Open Contracting has participated in several FOWG workshops and stewards' meetings, in which they have been given the space to present and promote their initiative. Currently, GIFT is partnering with this network seeking to move transparency one step beyond by linking budget and contracting open data through a first project with the Mexican MoF. Thus, Open Contracting's membership to GIFT would represent a technical-strategic alliance.