

STDF Practitioner Group on Public-Private Partnerships

Concept Note for Discussion by Interested Working Group Members (7 July 2020)

I. Introduction

1. Building on the recommendations of the 2019 STDF external evaluation, [STDF's Strategy for 2020-2024](#) identified Practitioner Groups on priority topics for safe trade as an opportunity to further develop the partnership and expand its reach and resources. Practitioner Groups offer a way to connect interested STDF partners and other members on specific work areas, to enable members to contribute more actively to the development, use and dissemination of STDF knowledge products and good practices, to promote dialogue, innovation and an exchange of experiences and learning, and to influence and catalyse wider change.¹

2. This Concept Note sets out a proposal for an STDF Practitioner Group on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to facilitate safe trade. This Group will inform and support the delivery of STDF's work on PPPs across STDF's two outcomes, in line with the STDF's Theory of Change.

II. Purpose, Outcomes, Scope

3. The purpose of the Practitioner Group is to improve the planning, delivery and dissemination of STDF's work on PPPs, across relevant knowledge and project work. The STDF Secretariat will convene members of this Group to:

- Draw on their technical expertise on PPPs.
- Exchange experiences and learning about PPPs.
- Promote innovations and new synergies to expand and strengthen PPPs that facilitate safe trade.
- Influence and catalyse SPS improvements more widely on the ground.

4. The Practitioners Group would be expected to contribute to the following specific outcomes:

- New collaborative relationships to promote the use of PPPs to strengthen SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade for the benefit of developing countries.
- New information and knowledge products (blogs, papers, etc.) on experiences and learning related to the use of PPPs for dissemination on the STDF website and via members.
- Additional resources (financial and/or in-kind) to promote the use of PPPs to build SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade. This may include, for instance, expertise and resources to support and scale-up the approach in the STDF regional pilot projects on the use of voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes.²

5. The Practitioners Group will initially focus on STDF PPP-related knowledge work and projects discussed in the Working Group and/or included in [STDF work plans](#) (see below). Members of the Practitioners Group would come together to share information and experiences on PPP approaches, experiences and lessons of relevance to STDF's work; identify new opportunities for synergies and collaboration on PPPs; and support wider dialogue, learning, dissemination and/or scaling up of the results and experiences of STDF's knowledge and project/PPG work related to PPPs. STDF's current / planned work on PPPs includes the following.

¹ Practitioner Groups are not entirely new. STDF members have already come together in the past to collaborate on selected STDF work areas. For instance, in 2019, the STDF Working Group approved Terms of Reference for an STDF SPS Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (ECAC). In 2019, interested STDF members contributed to the STDF's work on domestic spillover impacts as part of a PPG. Similarly, some interested members volunteered to support the STDF's knowledge work on Good Regulatory Practices.

² See: www.standardsfacility.org/PG-682 and www.standardsfacility.org/PG-665

Knowledge work³

- Survey of WTO Members on the use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes linked to ongoing Codex work on this topic and two new STDF regional projects in Central America and West Africa. This online survey was issued in February 2020 in collaboration with IICA and UNIDO. Other STDF members with an interest in the topic provided inputs and technical guidance. The findings are being analysed and reported, and will be presented to the STDF Working Group and shared with other interested audiences in due course.
 - For instance, the Practitioners Group could provide a sounding board to review and discuss the findings of this survey, including linkages with other relevant ongoing work.
- Collection and compilation of new PPP examples/case stories (via an online survey and interviews with relevant stakeholders) to update the 2012 STDF/IDB PPP publication.⁴ The STDF Secretariat is doing desk research and in early July issued an online survey⁵ (building on its original PPP survey and the OIE PPP survey) to collect new examples of PPPs to facilitate safe trade.
 - For instance, the Practitioners Group could provide support to identify new examples of PPPs, to share the STDF survey more widely, to discuss the findings, recommendations and follow-up, etc.
- STDF events to raise awareness on PPPs to facilitate safe trade: The STDF work plan for 2020-21⁶ includes organization of a regional/global PPP event.
 - For instance, the Practitioners Group could provide inputs and suggestions to support planning for this event.

Projects / PPGs

- STDF regional projects in Central America and West Africa to pilot and learn how food safety regulatory authorities can make use of the approach outlined in the Draft Codex Principles and Guidelines for the Assessment and Use of Voluntary Third-Party Assurance Programmes to strengthen food safety outcomes.
 - For instance, the Practitioners Group could provide a fora to promote dialogue and sharing of experiences about work carried out under these new projects, to allow interested stakeholders to hear about progress on these projects and to identify opportunities for synergies, etc.
- Other ongoing / future projects and PPGs with a PPP approach.
 - For instance, the Practitioners Group could support an exchange of information and experiences, identification of synergies and collaboration, learning and/or scaling up of PPP-related work under other STDF projects and PPGs.

III. Operational aspects

6. Participation will be based on a written expression of interest by email to the STDF Secretariat. The Group is expected to include STDF members and other organizations with experience in the area of PPPs, including:

- Interested STDF partners FAO, OIE, WHO, WBG and WTO, including Codex and IPPC
- Other members of the STDF WG with an interest in PPPs, including the implementing organizations for the STDF pilot projects (IICA and UNIDO), donors, private sector bodies (GFSI, FIA), developing country experts and other relevant stakeholders

7. The expected roles – outlined below – will be discussed and further clarified during the first meeting. Participants will be expected to:

- Commit time to participate in meetings

³ See the Concept Notes presented to the STDF Working Group in 2018: www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships

⁴ See: www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_PublicPrivatePartnerships_EN_1.pdf

⁵ See: www.surveymonkey.com/r/B5J53BL

⁶ See: www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Work_Plan_2020-2021.pdf

- Share relevant information on relevant developments and work related to PPPs (including the use of vTPA programmes) during and in-between meetings
- Provide comments on meeting agendas, summaries, and other PPP-related documents, etc.
- Actively explore opportunities in their organizations and wider networks to leverage resources in support of the STDF's PPP work for wider scaling-up.
- Based on interest, volunteer and provide time and expertise to the development of new information / knowledge products.

8. The STDF Secretariat will be expected to:

- Schedule and host Zoom meetings in cooperation with the pilot project implementing organizations
 - Share draft meeting agendas with participants in advance of meetings
 - Draft short summary reports of discussions with participants; finalize based on comments received
- Report periodically to the STDF Working Group on the work and discussions, etc. of the Group.

9. Meetings will generally take place using online platforms (e.g. Zoom). Face-to-face meetings may be convened on the margins of an existing global meeting (e.g. GFSI conference, G2B, Codex meetings), wherever relevant and possible. A schedule of upcoming meetings will be discussed and agreed during the first meeting.

IV. Next steps

- Working Group members who would like to participate should inform the STDF Secretariat before 30 July (only those who inform the Secretariat will be included on emails about meetings).
- The Practitioners Group will meet virtually (Zoom), approximately every 2-3 months, subject to further discussions.
- The first meeting is expected to take place around late Aug. / early Sep. 2020. A Doodle poll will be used to help arrange meetings.