Note on IWG Membership
Document 3

IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP MEETING
19 April 2017, Washington D.C., U.S.A
New Deal Implementation Working Group: A Note on Membership

Current Membership
Currently, the IDPS Secretariat does not have a formal list of members for the IWG. There is little consistency in attendance over the last three IWG meetings, and members attending other IDPS-related meetings (g7+ technical meetings or Steering Group meetings) have tended to stay on for IWG meetings, too.

Current Membership Criteria
The current IWG Terms of Reference (2014) indicate that to become member it is sufficient for would-be candidates to indicate their interest to the Secretariat or to the co-chairs of the IWG. The draft revised IWG TORs which were tabled as a Room Document at last year’s Steering Group meeting (December 2016), strengthened the obligations associated with membership, but did not say anything additional about procedure for becoming a member, or external vetting of compliance with obligations after membership is accorded.

Additional proposal for membership criteria
The IWG co-chairs recently discussed the membership composition of the IWG. They insisted on the need to clarify the criteria for membership and insisted on the following:

- Flexibility and openness to encourage members to engage based on their interest in particular issues at a given time
- Transparency on the rules guiding membership and on who is a member
- A clear work plan to foster member commitment
- Continuity based on continuous ‘permanent’ membership and to allow also for constituencies to be represented in a balanced way
- Country focal point mechanism participation
- A direct link with Steering Group members to ensure that the IWG is able to flag issues requiring political attention

Based on these discussions, the co-chairs have set out a number of options for membership, to be considered by constituencies in advance of the forthcoming IWG meeting.

Option 1: The IWG contains a group of ‘permanent members’
The permanent membership would be composed of a certain number of members per constituency (number tbc), at least half of which could be Steering Group members. All members should be able to commit to championing at least one priority issue on the IWG agenda, and be able to mobilise their constituency for participation/ facilitating country dialogues in priority countries, on at least one priority thematic area.

Option 2: An IWG composed of ‘permanent’ and non-permanent members
This would include the above option 1, plus a group of non-permanent member slots (number tbc) to be filled on invitation by constituencies, based on their interest in priority issues of the IWG, or on an issue that they may seek to table.
Option 3: All of the above, plus representatives from each of the secretariats and the focal point mechanisms, depending on countries of focus.

This category would enable the IWG to include members with an operational presence, and so enable the IWG to transmit lessons learnt and obstacles encountered at in-country, for global level political consideration.