



# EITI Validation extensions in response to Covid-19

Acknowledging the profound challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the EITI Board has allowed flexibility for some ongoing and planned Validations to be postponed or extended. These measures allow implementing countries to retain the momentum of EITI implementation while taking into account restrictions that have affected travel and data collection.

## Ongoing Validations

[Ongoing Validations](#) will be completed. Multi-stakeholder groups (MSGs) may request an extension of up to four weeks to provide feedback on the draft assessment or draft Validation report.

Requests should be submitted by the National Coordinator or MSG Chair.

## Validations scheduled between April and August 2020

Countries with Validations scheduled to commence between 1 April and 31 August 2020 have the option to postpone Validation. These countries will receive an automatic extension of up to six months to the commencement of their Validation upon request from the MSG, if the request relates to Covid-19 as the reason for delay.

The request must be submitted ahead of the [scheduled commencement date](#) of the Validation.

## Validations scheduled for September 2020 onwards

Countries with Validations scheduled to commence after 1 September 2020 may request an extension to the commencement of their Validation. The standard procedure is set out in [Section 4 Article 7 of the 2019 EITI Standard](#). The requests will be assessed by the EITI Board on a case-by-case basis.

Due to the uncertainty related to how the Covid-19 pandemic will develop and its implications on EITI implementation, these countries are encouraged to submit their extension requests closer to the scheduled Validation date.

## Validation model

The EITI Validation model is [under review by the EITI Board](#), which aims to agree a new model in October 2020. The International Secretariat is organising regional webinars to seek implementing countries' views.

Once approved, the Board will agree transitional arrangements to the new Validation model.

### Convening multi-stakeholder groups



Multi-stakeholder oversight is a central feature of EITI implementation. Under the current circumstances, convening MSGs may be challenging.

Where national secretariats and MSG Chairs have taken reasonable steps to seek MSG comments and approval, the EITI Board will take this into account when assessing whether the MSG approved key decisions relating to the EITI process.

“Reasonable steps” by the MSG chairs could include:

- Circulating documents in sufficient time prior to meetings or conference calls;
- Reaching out to MSG members by phone or online;
- Providing sufficient time for MSG members to provide input to draft documents;
- Requesting confirmation from MSG members from each constituency to approve decisions.

For more information on the Validation process and schedule, visit [eiti.org/validation](http://eiti.org/validation)