

FACT SHEET

EITI in Trinidad and Tobago at March 2016

The EITI

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a global initiative with the objective of promoting transparency and accountability by companies and governments involved in extractive industries (i.e. oil, gas and mining) by having them agree to disclosing to citizens the payments made by companies to government independently reconciled with government's declared receipts.

Countries rich in natural resources, such as oil, gas and minerals, have tended to under-perform economically, experience a higher incidence of conflict and suffer from poor governance with resultant under-development and widespread poverty. As a result, civil society organizations have campaigned for companies to publish what they pay to governments so as to foster improved governance through greater transparency and accounting to citizens and less corruption. The EITI was launched in 2003 in response to that campaign.

Of the countries that are rich in natural resources (estimated population 3.5 billion), 51 countries (population 1 billion) are members of the EITI and are at various stages of implementation. 31 countries have EITI Compliant Country status, the highest membership level, and 18 have Candidate Country status, the membership entry level. Two countries are temporarily suspended for non-compliance with the EITI Standard. Trinidad and Tobago became a member on 1 March 2011 and was accorded EITI Compliant Country status on 23 January 2015. In the Americas Region, Peru, Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago have Compliant Country status and USA, Colombia, Honduras and Dominican Republic have Candidate Country status. Mexico and Guyana are preparing for membership. In Europe, Norway and Albania have Compliant Country status and UK and Germany have Candidate Country status. France is preparing for membership.

T&T and the EITI

Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) has played a pivotal role in the development of the EITI from its inception.

- ❖ In 2003, T&T was one of 31 countries that attended the First EITI Plenary Conference in London that established the EITI Principles (<https://eiti.org/eiti/principles>), the underlying tenets of the EITI that were endorsed by all EITI supporters. T&T then committed itself to participating in the EITI and was appointed to a 9-country team to undertake a 2-year Pilot Project to interpret and implement the EITI Principles. The lessons learnt from the Pilot Project shaped the development of the EITI as it is known today. The team comprised Azerbaijan, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Nigeria, Peru, Republic of Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor Leste and T&T.
- ❖ In 2005, T&T attended a preparatory EITI Conference in Paris and the Second EITI Plenary Conference in London that established the EITI Criteria (<https://eiti.org/eiti/criteria>) based on the common, mutually agreed upon requirements for all EITI implementing countries. T&T recommitted to implementing the EITI.
- ❖ In 2006, the First EITI Global Conference was held in Oslo, Norway, and a Board of Directors was elected consisting of 20 members representing implementing countries, supporting countries, civil society organizations, extractive industries and investment companies.
- ❖ In 2007, 15 countries were assessed to have met the four Sign-up EITI criteria and were granted membership with Candidate Country status. T&T, having not progressed on three of the four Sign-up criteria, was not among the first member countries.

- ❖ In 2010, September 9, the Cabinet of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirmed the country's commitment to the EITI and, on December 8, the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, publicly announced Government's decision to apply for EITI membership. A Cabinet-appointed multi-stakeholder group Steering Committee (TTEITI SC) was appointed to oversee the implementation of the initiative. Cabinet mandated the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA) to provide the Steering Committee with administrative and financial support.

Current members of the TTEITI SC are:

Chairman: Victor Hart with a Civil Society background

6 Government representatives (3 ministries and 3 state-owned companies):

- Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries
- Ministry of Finance
- Board of Inland Revenue
- Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
- The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
- The National Quarries Company Limited
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5 Company representatives:

- bpTT LLC
- Shell Trinidad Limited
- BHP Billiton Trinidad and Tobago
- Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- The Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago

6 Civil Society representatives:

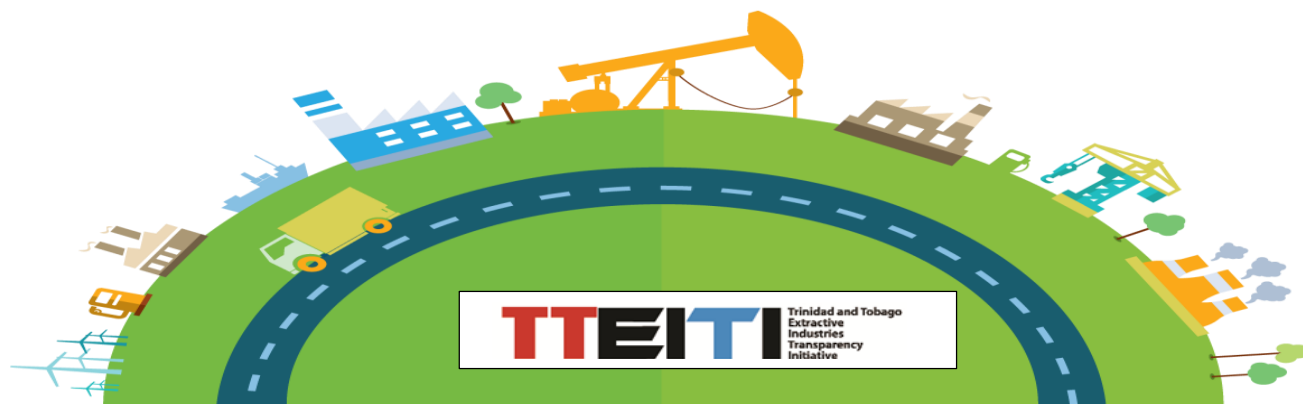
- Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute
- Oilfields Workers' Trade Union
- The National Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago
- The Cropper Foundation
- Fishermen and Friends of the Sea
- The Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women

EITI implementation highlights

A detailed history of the EITI implementation in T&T is posted at website: <http://www.tteiti.org.tt/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/02/TTEITI-History-of-Implementation.pdf>. The following is a summary of the implementation highlights to date:

Year 2011

- ❖ February 4: T&T Government applied to the EITI International Secretariat in Oslo, Norway, for EITI membership.
- ❖ March 1: T&T was admitted to EITI membership with Candidate Country status. The EITI Board set a deadline of 28 February 2013, later extended, for T&T to complete validation and gain EITI Compliant Country status.
- ❖ March 2-3: T&T was represented at 5th EITI Global Conference in Paris, France, by then Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan and Victor Hart, TTEITI SC Chair. Ms. Clare Short was presented as the newly elected Chair of the EITI Board of Directors in succession to Dr. Peter Eigen.
- ❖ April 4: Minister Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan publicly launched T&T's EITI implementation programme. Dr. Peter, Eigen, immediate past-Chair of EITI Board, delivered the Feature Address.
- ❖ June 27: Senator the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine was sworn in as T&T's new Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs.



- ❖ September 15: the TTEITI Secretariat was established with Mark Regis as its Head with responsibility for general administration and the execution of the TTEITI Workplan (<http://www.tteiti.org.tt/>).
- ❖ September 26-27 and December 8-9: the TTEITI SC held Capacity Building Workshops to educate and inform (a) SC members, the media and other stakeholders on the EITI implementation process, (b) local accounting profession on their role in the EITI implementation and the requirements for the EITI Administrator and (c) executives of upstream energy companies on their companies' role in EITI implementation.

Year 2012

- ❖ May 6: T&T signed a US\$325,000.00 Grant Agreement with the World Bank Multi-Donor Trust Fund to support EITI implementation.
- ❖ June 4+5: the TTEITI SC held Capacity Building Workshops for upstream Energy Companies and staff of the MEEA.
- ❖ June 5: T&T awarded a special World Bank Grant of US\$100,000.00 for civil society capacity building and EITI awareness promotion.
- ❖ June 5: Legal Consultant contract awarded, funded by an IADB technical assistance grant, for the preparation of a Draft EITI Bill for TTEITI SC consideration.
- ❖ June 26-28: T&T was represented by a 5-person team at the first Regional EITI Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean hosted by the Government of Peru in Lima, Peru.
- ❖ August 4: the TTEITI SC held its first Civil Society Capacity Building Workshop with the aim of sensitizing Civil Society to their role in the EITI implementation process. That was followed other Civil Society workshops throughout the country.
- ❖ September 3: The TTEITI Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was formed with the aim of popularizing the EITI among the country's youths and the recruiting of Youth Champions to spread the EITI message among their peers. There followed other youth related activities throughout the country.

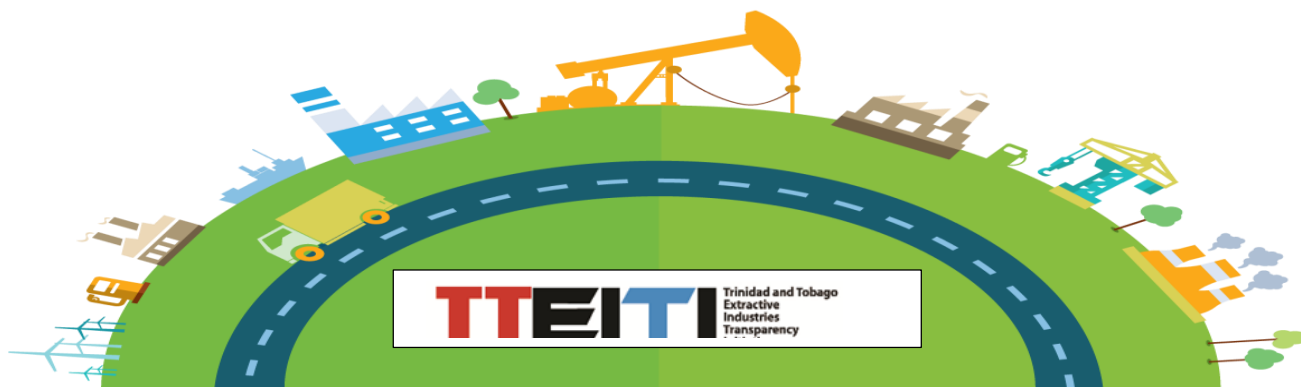
Year 2013

- ❖ February 18: BDO Trinity Limited (T&T), in partnership with Hart Nurse Group (UK), was contracted to provide the Administrator services and to produce the EITI Reports for fiscal years 2011 and 2012.
- ❖ May 1: The EITI Board introduced the 2013 EITI Standard to replace the EITI Rules 2011.
- ❖ May 23-24: T&T was represented by a 6-person team at the 6th EITI Global Conference in Sydney, Australia, which saw the adoption of the 2013 EITI Standard. TTEITI SC Chair, Victor Hart, addressed the Closing Plenary Session.
- ❖ June 7: Government, extractive companies and civil society representatives publicly signed a Stakeholders' Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on EITI implementation in T&T to affirm their commitment to the process.
- ❖ July 27-29: Mr. Jonas Moberg, Head of the EITI Secretariat in Oslo, Norway, paid his first visit to T&T to meet with stakeholders to discuss EITI implementation progress.

- ❖ August 18: Ms. Angel Yalartai of Liberia visited T&T (to 3 September) on a youth exchange programme between TTEITI and LEITI to learn about T & T Energy Sector and to share experiences with her T&T peers.
- ❖ August 28: TTEITI SC Chair, Victor Hart, attended in Medellin, Colombia, the Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean and addressed the session: *UN Guiding Principles and Standards in Extractive Industries in Latin America and the Caribbean*.
- ❖ September 30: T&T's first EITI Report for fiscal year 2011 published (<http://www.tteiti.org.tt/eiti-reports/>).
- ❖ October 17: TTEITI SC agreed to serve on the EITI Secretariat's 12-country Pilot Study on Beneficial Ownership to test the feasibility of requesting such disclosure through the EITI by oil, gas and mining companies operating in implementing countries. T&T was unable to complete the undertaking.
- ❖ November 6: TTEITI SC and University of the West Indies (UWI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in capacity building programmes for EITI stakeholders with emphasis on civil society.
- ❖ November 17- 22: T&T was represented by a 5-person team at the second Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional EITI Conference and Workshop held in Bogotá, Colombia. Included were a 1-day Civil Society Workshop, a 2-day Conference and a 2-day Training Workshop on the 2013 EITI Standard. Head of the TTEITI Secretariat addressed the conference's Plenary Session.
- ❖ November 29: Contract awarded to International Petroleum Associates Norway (IPAN) to conduct T&T's first Validation Test.

Year 2014

- ❖ January 15: The TTEITI mobile application and website, designed to make T&T's EITI Reports more accessible, were released for Android, IOS and Blackberry mobile devices at <http://www.tteiti.org.tt/report-data-reconciliations/>
- ❖ February 5: TTEITI SC hosted T&T's first Contract Transparency workshop to introduce the concept as part of the Trinidad and Tobago Energy Conference 2014. The Feature Address was delivered by Dr. Susan Maples.
- ❖ February 12-21: IPAN AS of Norway conducted their Country Field Trip to T&T as part of the Validation Test. The Validators met with the TTEITI SC on February 20.
- ❖ February 20: Launch of 6-day CSO Training Course at University of West Indies facilitated by lecturers from UWI, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Revenue Watch Institute (Natural Resource Governance Institute) and TTEITI Team. The course, entitled '*Understanding the extractive industries in Latin America and the Caribbean*', was attended by CSO representatives and government actors from T&T, Guyana, Suriname and Jamaica.
- ❖ March 31: Head of TTEITI Secretariat, Mark Regis, was succeeded by Ms. Melanie Richards as Interim-Head.
- ❖ April 1: The Secretariat was strengthened by the addition of Vanita Redoy (Policy Analyst) and Garik Joseph (Project Officer).
- ❖ April 10: Policy Analyst Gisela Granado left the TTEITI Secretariat to take up a position at the EITI Secretariat in Oslo, Norway.
- ❖ May 19: The Administrator began work on the EITI Report 2012 based on the 2013 EITI Standard.
- ❖ May 22: TTEITI SC endorsed the Validator's Final Report and submitted it to the EITI International Secretariat.
- ❖ June 1-7: Publish What You Pay (PWYP) team visited T&T for joint activities with UWI and TTEITI SC.
- ❖ June 5: TTEITI SC hosted a Plenary Session on '*Status of Transparency Initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago*' at UWI/bpTT Revenue Reporting Conference.
- ❖ June 25: TTEITI made a presentation entitled '*EITI and the Environment. What's the connection*' at the University of Trinidad and Tobago and The Cropper Foundation's event '*A Research Showcase on the Extractive Industries*'.
- ❖ June 30: Melanie Richards represented TTEITI at the 29th EITI Board Meeting and associated events in Mexico City and made a presentation entitled '*The impact of the EITI on governance in the extractive industries*'.



- ❖ June 30: T&T's first Annual Activities Report 2013 published. (<http://www.tteiti.org.tt/eiti-reports/trinidad-and-tobago-eiti-annual-activity-report-2013/>).
- ❖ August 8: TTEITI SC submitted its Draft EITI Bill to MEEA to initiate action for Parliament's enactment.
- ❖ September 29: T&T's second EITI Report for fiscal year 2012 published (<http://www.tteiti.org.tt/eiti-reports/>).
- ❖ October: The EITI Report 2012 Roadshow was launched to widely disseminate the report findings. It included electronic and print media reports and ads, TV and Radio Interviews and a public forum for the business community.
- ❖ November 4: SC Chair, Victor Hart, attended an IDB Forum at The Brookings Institution, Washington DC, at the launch of a book '*Transparent Governance in an Age of Abundance: Experiences from the Extractive Industries in Latin America and the Caribbean*' to which TTEITI had contributed a chapter. He delivered an address and took part in a Panel discussion on the subject '*Governance and Institutional Capacity in the Extractor Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean*'.
- ❖ November 11: SC Chair, Victor Hart, addressed the 8th Tobago Economic and Business Outlook Conference 2014: Leading Business Transformation on the subject '*The Energy Sector's Role in Tobago's Economic and Business Outlook*'.
- ❖ November 30: SC Chair, Victor Hart, addressed a group of 50 MPs from both houses of Parliament on EITI implementation.
- ❖ December 8: Interim Head of TTEITI Secretariat, Ms. Melanie Richards, was succeeded by Mr. Sherwin Long.

Year 2015

- ❖ January 23: The EITI International Board awarded T&T Compliant Country Status, the highest level of EITI membership.
- ❖ January 26 – 28: Ms. Clare Short, Chair of EITI International Board, paid her first visit to T&T.
- ❖ January 27: Ms. Short delivered the Feature Address on Day 2 of the Trinidad & Tobago Energy Conference 2015 and announced that T&T had been granted Compliant Country status by the EITI International Board. Ms. Short met with TTEITI SC and with local stakeholders (including downstream companies) and donors to discuss implementation issues.
- ❖ February 4: TTEITI SC held its first engagement with the Mining Sector through a workshop held at UWI aimed at the sector's inclusion with the oil and gas sectors in EITI reporting process in the near future. Canadian expert Dr. Tony Andrews facilitated.
- ❖ February 27: Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, Senator Kevin Ramnarine, made an official statement in Parliament to announce and record T&T's elevation to EITI Compliant Country status.
- ❖ March 14-17: Sherwin Long, Head TTEITI Secretariat, represented the TTEITI SC and addressed a Beneficial Ownership Conference hosted by the EITI International Secretariat in London, England.
- ❖ 24-27: Chair TTEITI SC, Victor Hart, participated in the 2015 Integrity Week Forum in Paris, France, hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He addressed the session entitled '*Improving Governance to Promote Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean's Extractive Sector*'.

- ❖ April 24: Victor Hart and Sherwin Long met *in camera* with members of the first Trinidad and Tobago Parliament Joint Select Committee on Energy Affairs. This historic event introduced the EITI to members and explained how EITI implementation will assist them in their work to bring greater oversight to the country's energy affairs.
- ❖ June 10: TTEITI SC held its second engagement with the Mining Sector through a workshop held at UWI aimed at building the companies' Corporate Governance capacity. Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business facilitated.
- ❖ June 17: TTEITI SC and Secretariat received the Oil & Gas Year Trinidad and Tobago 2015 Institutional Initiative of the Year Award for its work in EITI implementation in T&T.
- ❖ June 22-24: TTEITI SC was represented by a 3-person team at the EITI Regional Training Workshop for EITI implementing countries in the Americas in Lima, Peru. Sherwin Long, Head of TTEITI Secretariat, addressed the working sessions.
- ❖ June 29: T&T's second Annual Activities Report 2014 was published (<http://www.tteiti.org.tt/eiti-reports/tteiti-annual-activity-report-2014/>).
- ❖ July 2: TTEITI SC held its first engagement with downstream energy companies to explore their future participation in the EITI reporting process.
- ❖ July 8: Government, companies and civil society representatives publicly signed a second Stakeholders Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on EITI implementation in T&T to renew their commitment to the process. The MOU covers the next two EITI Reports.
- ❖ July 29: TTEITI SC held its third engagement with the Mining Sector aimed at build companies' financial management capacity. The ACCA facilitated.
- ❖ August 4: BDO Trinity Limited (T&T) with Hart Nurse Group (UK) signed a contract for Administrator services for the next two EITI Reports.
- ❖ August 18: Rostant DDB signed a contract as Communications Agency to manage the TTEITI public awareness and communications programme to engage stakeholders in gaining a better understanding of the EITI and to commit to the initiative.
- ❖ August 31: TTEITI SC Chair, Victor Hart, was presented with a National Award partly in recognition of his EITI work.
- ❖ September 11: Following a change in government on September 7, Ms. Nicole Olivier MP was sworn in as Minister of Energy and Energy Industries.
- ❖ September 30: T&T's third EITI Report for fiscal year 2013 published (<http://www.tteiti.org.tt/eiti-reports/>).
- ❖ October 02: EITI Report 2013 launched by Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, Mrs. Nicole Olivier, who delivered her maiden public speech.
- ❖ October 19-20: TTEITI Secretariat Head, Sherwin Long, attended the EITI National Coordinators Meeting in Berne, Switzerland.
- ❖ October 24: TTEITI held Outreach Forum on the EITI Report 2013 at Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business for students and faculty members.
- ❖ October 26: TTEITI SC Chair, Victor Hart, addressed a workshop in Jamaica entitled 'Promoting Natural Resource Revenue Transparency and Sustainable Resource Revenue Management in the Caribbean' sponsored by the UK Prosperity Fund.
- ❖ October 30-31: TTEITI Secretariat Head, Sherwin Long, addressed a UNDP sponsored 'Seminar on Building Capacity for Managing the Hydrocarbon Sector in Guyana.'
- ❖ November 19: TTEITI SC Chair, Victor Hart, addressed a workshop in Suriname entitled 'Promoting Natural Resource Revenue Transparency and Sustainable Resource Revenue Management in the Caribbean' sponsored by the UK Prosperity Fund.

- ❖ November 26-27: TTEITI Secretariat Head, Sherwin Long, and Steering Committee Member, Gary Aboud, attended a Regional EITI National Coordinators Meeting in Lima, Peru.
- ❖ December 7-9: TTEITI SC Chair, Victor Hart, addressed Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Workshops attended by Regional Parliamentarians in T&T's Parliament.
- ❖ December 18: TTEITI SC Chair, Victor Hart, nominated by TTEITI SC to contest the EITI International Board elections.
- ❖ December 31: EOG Resources Limited retired from the TTEITI SC after five years membership.

Year 2016

January 18-20: Dr. Francisco Paris, EITI International Regional Director, visited T&T for the second time and addressed the Energy Chamber's 2016 Energy Conference (18th) and met with and addressed the TTEITI SC (19th).

- ❖ January 22: Dr. Francisco, Victor Hart and Sherwin Long addressed a workshop in Guyana entitled 'Promoting Natural Resource Revenue Transparency and Sustainable Resource Revenue Management in the Caribbean' sponsored by the UK Prosperity Fund.
- ❖ January 26: TTEITI held Outreach Forum on the EITI Report 2013 at T&T Chamber of Industry & Commerce for business persons.
- ❖ January 28: News received that Victor Hart had been nominated by EITI Region 6 (Europe and the Americas comprising Albania, UK, USA, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and T&T) for election to the EITI Board (2016-2019).
- ❖ February 23-25: T&T was represented by a 4-person delegation at the 7th EITI Global Conference in Lima, Peru.
- ❖ February 23: EITI Members Meeting elected new EITI Board (2016-2019) with Fredrik Reinfeld as Chair and Victor Hart as Director of Region 6 and Ms. Maria Isabel Ulloa Cruz, Colombia Vice Minister of Mines as Alternate Director.
- ❖ February 24: 7th EITI Global Conference held.
- ❖ February 25: EITI Board Meeting No. 33 held, the first of the new Board.
- ❖ March 04: TTEITI SC Chair, Victor Hart, SC Member, Gia Gaspard Taylor, and TTEITI Secretariat Head, Sherwin Long, addressed Guyana Symposium 'Promoting Natural Resource Revenue Transparency and Sustainable Resource Revenue Management in the Caribbean' sponsored by the UK Prosperity Fund.
- ❖ March 09: OWTU Public Policy Forum on EITI Report 2013 addressed by Victor Hart and Sherwin Long.

Next steps

- Continue engaging the Mining Sector to prepare companies to join the EITI reporting process in the near future.
- Continue engaging the downstream energy companies and engage the mid-stream companies to explore their future participation in the EITI reporting process.
- Continue engaging MEEI and Parliamentarians for the enactment of EITI legislation in 2016.
- Continue work on the introduction of a Beneficial Ownership Register of extractive companies.
- Engage stakeholders in discussions on the introduction of contract transparency in EITI reporting.

References: TTEITI website: www.tteiti.org.tt. 2016 EITI Standard (<http://eiti.org/document/standard>).