# Results: statement to describe the purpose of IATI results data

**Note:** This suggestion addresses Principle 8 from a consultation driven by Monitoring and Evaluation experts from UK CSOs Jan – Mar 2017 – see <http://discuss.iatistandard.org/t/results-discussion-space-and-tag-2016-17-path/502/> (specific text relating to Principle 8 copied below as justification). Technical suggestions were devised by technology specialists at the Nethope Athens conference March 2017.

Technical suggestion:

1. Add codes to the DocumentCategory codelist with *Name* “IATI Qualifications”
   * 1. A13 – for activity level qualifications
     2. B19 – for organisation level qualifications
2. Add “Qualifications” section to organisation “about” entry in registry https://iatiregistry.org/publisher/about/<organisation name>
3. Template text is developed by the IATI Secretariat and/or TAG that clarifies e.g: intended scope, target audience, limitations and exclusions of the data, guidelines on responsible data sharing and any alignment with the Open Data Charter (<http://opendatacharter.net/>). Organisations could then use this template as a basis for their own statements / subsequent consultation for their contexts (for example including in their Open Data Policy etc.).
4. Require statement to be made easily accessible across IATI e.g: website, tools etc.

Justification:

* **Issue:** There is currently no means to indicate the intended purpose and limitations of IATI results data.
* **Why is this a problem?:** No standard can be expected to provide all audiences with all the required information for all possible purposes. The messy and frequently sensitive nature of International Development and Humanitarian Aid interventions provide a particular set of challenges. For example, the IATI standard does not (and possibly no standard can) reflect the non-linearity of interventions that are characterized by rapidly changing, and often dangerous, contexts that frequently drive significant intervention adaptation. Without clarifying these limitations and target audiences, there can be unrealistic expectations of the data and its usage, leading to miss-interpretation, poor decision making and potential reputational damage for the IATI, and associated development stakeholders that are involved (e.g. reporting organisations, those reported upon, funding or even the sector as a whole).
* **Suggestions:** There should be means to include a statement within an IATI dataset that clarifies intended scope, target audience, limitations and exclusions of the data as well as guidelines on responsible data sharing and use. This statement could be dataset, project or organisation specific or be general across the complete IATI. Although beyond the remit of this document, we also suggest the IATI secretariat and TAG develop a template statement and consider requiring this information to be made widely available across, for example, websites, tools, etc.