Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board

Purpose

To provide independent advice on ATscale’s strategy and programmes, with a focus on aspects relating to the private sector.

ATscale understands the Assistive Technology private sector to be made up of the individuals and organizations that are neither owned nor directly controlled by governments and are involved in the provision of assistive products and/or services. These include AT manufacturers and developers, distributors, and service providers. Though the private sector can, in theory, also include not-for-profit organizations, such as faith-based organizations or non-governmental organizations, our main target for the Private Sector Constituency are for-profit organizations (including social enterprises).

ATscale has four objectives that guide its overall engagement with the private sector:

1. Ensure access to affordable and high-quality assistive products and services.
2. Expand the service delivery and financing options for AT.
3. Support ATscale’s work by providing a private sector and industry-specific perspective through engagement at the Board and programmatic levels.
4. Leverage additional resources for the AT sector at the global, regional, and country levels.

The Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board should support each of these objectives. It may provide input to a wide range of ATscale’s activities, including those relating to priority setting, the annual work plan, new and ongoing country engagements, and investments in global goods, with respect to the strategic value and potential impact and programmatic merit (such as viability, value for money), drawing on the expertise and/or private sector experience of its members.

Roles and Responsibilities

There are two main roles for this group: to provide strategic and technical advice to ATscale from a private sector perspective; and to select among its members an ATscale Board representative and alternate.
Provide strategic and technical advice

Based on the expertise of the members, provide strategic and technical advice and propose recommendations on:

- The setting of priorities in alignment with ATscale’s overall goals and strategy, including the selection and prioritization of possible areas for intervention;
- The identification of gaps in activities / efforts in the AT sector and possible solutions to address them;
- The development of ‘living’ sector-wide strategies;
- The development of ATscale’s annual work plan;
- ATscale’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework and its implementation.

All input and recommendations from the Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board are advisory. ATscale, in particular ATscale’s board, retains full control over any subsequent decisions or actions regarding any proposals, policy issues or other matters considered by the Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board.

The Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board will be regularly updated and consulted by the Private Sector Board Member and Alternate in preparation for ATscale Board meetings.

The members of the Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board can also make recommendations or proposals on an ad-hoc basis to the ATscale Secretariat for consideration.

Over time, the Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board, will also be expected to support the development of ATscale’s Private Sector Provider’s Network and should consult with this Network on relevant topics, such as via short surveys, in order to facilitate the input of perspectives across the AT Private Sector.

Select the ATscale Board Member and Alternate

The Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board will select, by a vote facilitated by the Secretariat, one of its members to become the Private Sector representative to the ATscale board, as well as an alternate representative. This will be for a one year term to allow rotation among members of the Constituency.

Membership process

The Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board will be a multidisciplinary group, with 8-12 members who have a range of experience, notably including members with
experience working on one or more of ATscale’s priority products (Digital AT, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prostheses and wheelchairs). Consideration shall be given to an adequate distribution of product experience, types of private sector roles, types of private sector experience (i.e. multinational vs smaller companies, for-profit and social enterprise, established and new companies), geographical representation and gender balance. The members should ideally have demonstrated experience in board-level work and the necessary authority to participate in board deliberations.

The ATscale Secretariat will be responsible for the selection of the members Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board through a competitive and open process. Each appointment will be for a three year term.

A due diligence process will take place for the short listed candidates to ensure that individuals are not representing a firm that has been declared ineligible by UNOPS, nor is included in the suspended/ineligibility list of the United Nations Secretariat Procurement Division (UN/PD), other UN Agencies, the UN Security Council, and the World Bank. Any individual working for (or receiving funding from) any entity in the industries producing alcohol, tobacco, arms, or internationally scheduled substances (“illegal drugs”), as well as any entity directly connected to child labour or human trafficking will not be able to join the Private Sector Board Constituency. The Secretariat will also confirm that their business has committed to working against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The members of the Private Sector Constituency for the ATscale Board will serve in a personal and voluntary capacity and will not be remunerated. They shall not speak on behalf of, or represent, ATscale to any third party. They will have to disclose any real, potential or apparent conflicts of interest and will be recused where these conflicts of interest are apparent.

**Member profile**

It is recognised that as a new initiative, the Private Sector Board Constituency will evolve over time and will benefit from a co-creation process between ATscale and its members.

We are looking for individuals with strong business experience from the AT industry, capable of representing a broader private sector perspective. They should have a strong commitment to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and be willing to dedicate some of their time to advance the inclusion agenda. Out-of-the-box thinkers with strong social and communication skills would be particularly appreciated.

More specifically, the Private Sector Board Constituency members should:

- Have a minimum of 10 years of combined private sector experience in assistive technology addressing one or more of the functional difficulty domains (mobility, vision, hearing, cognition, and self-care).
- Be fluent in English
- Should bring some of the following:
o Experience working on one or more of ATscale’s priority products (Digital AT, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prostheses and wheelchairs).

o Experience in senior leadership positions in private sector organizations in the assistive technology sector.

o Experience working in or with low- and middle-income countries.

o Experience with Public-Private-Partnerships

o Demonstrated knowledge or experience of AT-related strategy formulation, market entry, market growth, market shaping, product innovation, regulations and/or quality standards.

● Demonstrate key values and competencies:

  o Effective communication
  o Integrity and Inclusion
  o Results orientation
  o Strategic perspective
  o Solution focus

The call for nominations is open until August 15th, 2023. Please submit your CV and a motivation letter to info@atscalepartnership.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. An interview with the ATscale Secretariat CEO will be organized, alongside the due diligence process, in order to confirm any nomination. It is expected that the selection process will be concluded by end September, in order for the Constituency to meet virtually at least once ahead of the ATscale Board meeting in mid November.