

Dr. Rajiv Shah
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20523

April 4, 2014

Dear Administrator Shah,

Accelerating progress on transparency at the GPEDC High Level Meeting, Mexico April 15-16 2014

We, the undersigned agencies, networks, organizations and individuals, ask for your support in ensuring that the development community accelerates and deepens commitments on transparency at the first High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in Mexico on April 15-16 2014.

We believe accelerated efforts to make development cooperation more transparent, as achieved through the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), are needed urgently. This is achievable in Mexico.

Since the last global meeting in Busan in 2011, more information on development cooperation is being published than ever before. This reflects the time-bound transparency commitments that development providers made in Busan on a common open standard and to publish information on development spending by 2015, including their implementation plans by 2012.¹

Publish What You Fund's 2013 Aid Transparency Index² demonstrates that only a small number of development providers have made significant progress in making their cooperation more transparent. Overall progress – both in the U.S. and globally – has been modest and uneven. For example, USAID improved its ranking, moving up from 27th place to 22nd. On the other hand, the State Department ranked 40th out of 67 agencies and as of this month, the Department had not published any of its information to the IATI Registry. MCC placed number one in the 2013 ranking. As the largest single donor in the world, the U.S. should be leading on this agenda and the results of the leading global development agencies demonstrate that political commitment can be translated into effective implementation. If the U.S. is truly committed to being a global development leader – and on the cutting edge in terms of innovation, technology, and accountability – then our leading agencies must accelerate progress. Most information on development cooperation is still not published in a comprehensive, timely and standardized way. **The vast majority of development providers are currently off-track to meet their Busan commitment of full implementation by 2015.**³

¹ Which includes the Creditor Reporting System and the Forward Spending Survey of the OECD-DAC, and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) – http://www.oecd.org/dac/aid-architecture/Common%20Standard%20Communications%20Note_ENG.pdf

² Aid Transparency Index: <http://ati.publishwhatyoufund.org/>

³ To-date 23 official development providers have submitted implementation schedules outlining their plans to publish all elements of the common standard. Of those, the number of official government donors currently publishing to the standard is just 19, increasing to 21 when international organizations such as the UN and Multilateral Development Banks are included.

The meeting in Mexico is an opportunity to review and kick-start global efforts to ensure governments' transparency commitments on development cooperation are met by 2015. The year 2015 will also mark the culmination of several international development processes, which include a new climate change deal and post-2015 priorities for sustainable development. **Transparency of all resource flows is an essential step towards harnessing those resources for poverty eradication and for monitoring progress towards post-2015 goals.** In this respect, we call on you to:

- Accelerate efforts to publish timely, comprehensive and forward-looking data on all development flows in accordance with IATI and improve the quality of published data.
- Ensure that information on development cooperation is compatible and aligned with partner countries' budgets and systems.
- Support specific actions to improve access, dissemination and use of this data by all stakeholders at country level.

Your support in ensuring that the gains made on transparency at the global level translate into real benefits at country level is vital. Given the importance of U.S. development assistance, global progress cannot proceed without U.S. fulfillment of its existing commitments. Let us ensure that the Global Partnership truly delivers on its transparency commitments for all development stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Individuals:

George Ingram – Senior Fellow, Brookings

Ben Leo – Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development

Larry Nowels – Independent Consultant

Diana Ohlbaum – Senior Associate, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

U.S. based organizations:

Center for Effective Government – Gavin Baker, Open Government Policy Analyst

Global Integrity – Nathaniel Heller, Executive Director

InterAction – Sam Worthington, President and CEO

Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network – Didier Trinh, Executive Director

Oxfam America

ONE – Tom Hart, US Executive Director

OpenTheGovernment – Patrice McDermott, Executive Director

Save the Children USA – Carolyn Miles, President and CEO

The Lugar Center – Lori Rowley, Director, Global Food Security and Aid Effectiveness Programs

The Lugar Center – Connie Veillette, Senior Fellow

Transparency International USA – Claudia J. Dumas, President and CEO

Plan International USA – Tessie San Martin, President/CEO

Sunlight Foundation – Ellen Miller, Founder and Director

Non U.S. based organizations:

Publish What You Fund – Dr David Hall-Matthews, Managing Director

Access Info Europe – Helen Darbishire, Executive Director

Africa Freedom of Information Centre – Gilbert Sendugwa, Coordinator & Head of Secretariat

Article 19 – Thomas Hughes, Executive Director

Bond – Ben Jackson, Chief Executive

CAFOD – Graham Gordon, Head of Policy

Canadian Council for International Co-operation – Julia Sánchez, President and CEO
Christian Aid – Alison Kelly, Head of Policy
Council for International Development – Dr Wren Green, Director
DATA Uruguay – Fabrizio Scrollini, Chairman
Development Initiatives – Harpinder Collacott, Director of Engagement and Impact
Dóchas – Hans Zomer, Director
Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación – Miguel Pulido, Executive Director
Global Movement for Budget Transparency Accountability and Participation – Rocio Moreno, Global BTAP Coordinator
Integrity Action – Fredrik Galtung, Chief Executive
Integrity Watch Afghanistan – Yama Torabi, Director
International Budget Partnership – Warren Krafchik, Director
Iraqi Journalists Rights Defense Association (IJRDA) – Ibrahim Al-Sragey, Director
Kepa – Timo Lappalainen, Executive Director
Obong Denis Udo-Inyang Foundation – Emem Udo-Inyang, Director
ODA Watch – Tae Joo LEE, Chair
Open Knowledge Foundation – Rufus Pollock, Founder and President
Slovak NGDO Platform – Lenka Nemcová, Executive Secretary
Transparency International – Cobus de Swardt, Managing Director
UK Aid Network – Amy Dodd, Coordinator
Ushahidi – Juliana Rotich, Executive Director
World Vision International – Beris Gwynne, Partnership Leader for Global Accountability
Youth Association for Development (YAD) – Atta ul Haq Khaderzai, Chief Executive Officer





