Hon. Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
195 Lambton Quay
Wellington
New Zealand

22 September 2011

Dear Minister McCully,

Delivering aid transparency at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2011

We, the undersigned agencies, networks and organisations, are writing to ask for your support in ensuring that donors reaffirm and deepen their commitments on aid transparency at the Fourth High Level Forum (HLF-4) on Aid Effectiveness in Busan. In this letter we set out why aid transparency is needed now; what we believe is achievable at Busan and in the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness process; and what we would like you to do before Busan.

The recent Evaluation of the Paris Declaration and the Monitoring Survey emphasize that transparency is the indispensable foundation for aid effectiveness and mutual accountability. Although donors and partner countries acknowledged this in 2008 by making several aid transparency commitments under the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), the pace and extent of change, particularly regarding transparency for development results, has been "mostly slow to moderate".[1] Public support for the "Make Aid Transparent" Campaign – already supported by 96 organisations and with thousands of signatures from 125 countries – shows how people around the world want their governments to deliver on these commitments.

Partner countries have also recognised the need for greater aid predictability and transparency and for ensuring compatibility of the common standard with partner government budget systems, as reflected in the CABRI[2] Position on Aid Transparency. This compatibility would allow the alignment of aid information with country budgets, enabling partner governments to plan their resource allocation most effectively and supporting accountability processes at the country level.

We believe that aid transparency is an area in which donors will be able to demonstrate real progress at Busan, with implementation of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) being crucial to that success. With less than 3 months to go before Busan, aid transparency must be recognised as a core theme and IATI as the primary vehicle for delivering this, embedded as a set of concrete, time-bound and measurable commitments in the final Outcome Document. In practice, this requires the following:

- All donors to publish comprehensive, timely, forward-looking data on all aid flows in a common, public and comparable format in accordance with the IATI standard by December 2015;

- All donors to publish implementation schedules by December 2012 in order to meet these commitments;

- Published information to use common definitions and formats that are compatible with partner countries' budgets and systems.

As a signatory and valued supporter of the IATI process, your role in actively promoting aid transparency internationally will be vital before and during HLF-4.

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[1] *The Evaluation of the Paris Declaration – Final Report,* May 2011, p. 20.
[2] The Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) is a network of senior budget officials in 22 African Ministries of Finance or Planning.

New Zealand's own implementation is equally important – we urge you to accelerate this in the run-up to HLF-4 by publishing to the IATI Registry as planned and beginning implementation of IATI's optional components, including publishing information on results, conditions, activity-level budgets and future flows, as well as publishing all documents in machine readable and accessible format. These steps will allow New Zealand to achieve the AAA commitments in full, particularly concerning predictability and alignment to recipient country budgets.

IATI's feasibility for delivering aid transparency is now undeniable – donors accounting for 33% of reported ODA have so far declared their intention to publish to the standard by Busan. We look forward to working with you to ensure that this figure continues to grow and that HLF-4 truly delivers on aid transparency both for citizens of New Zealand and partner countries.

Yours sincerely

Access Info Europe – Helen Darbishire, Executive Director

Access to Information Programme Bulgaria – Gergana Jouleva, Executive Director

Alliance for Aid Monitor Nepal (AAMN) – Prabhash Devkota, Secretary and National Program Manager

Alliance Sud – Michèle Laubscher, Coordinator of Development Policy

 Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) – Lydia Alpízar, Executive Director

Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) – Marc Purcell, Executive Director

Bahrain Transparency Society – Adulnabi Alekry, President

Bond – Nick Roseveare, Chief Executive

CAFOD – Joanne Green, Head of Policy

Cercle de Coopération des ONG de développement – Christine Dahm, Secrétaire générale

Christian Aid – Loretta Minghella, Director

CIDSE – Bernd Nilles, Executive Director

Demnet Foundation for Development of Democratic Rights – Robert Hodosi, Policy Officer

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe – Uli Post, Director of Public Affairs and External Relations

Dóchas – Hans Zomer, Director

Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation – Ms. Piret Hirv, Secretary-General

Eurodad – Nuria Molina, Director

The Fight Against Corruption – Debbie Vogler, Chief Operating Officer

GlobalGiving Foundation – John Hecklinger, Chief Program Officer

Global South Initiative – Hansha Sanjyal, President

Gram Bharati Samiti – Bhawani Shanker Kusum, Secretary and Executive Director

Institute of Global Responsibility (Poland) – Marcin Wojtalik, Board Member

Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad – Juan E. Pardinas, Director General

International Budget Partnership – Warren Krafchik, Director. *Member of the IATI Steering Committee*

KEPA – Timo Lappalainen, Executive Director of Service Centre for Development Cooperation KEPA

Kurdistan Centre for Strengthening Administrative and Managerial Ability – Shadan Mohammed Saeed, Executive Director

Lalenok Ba Ema Hotu – Christopher Henry Samson, Executive Director

Make Poverty History Australia – Tom Costello & Joelle Auffray, Co-Chairs

New African Research and Development Agency – Lancedell Mathews, Executive Director

Oikos, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento – João José Fernandes, Executive Director

ONE – Adrian Lovett, European Director

OpenAid – Claudia Schwegmann, Director

Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness – Brian Tomlinson, Member of the Global Facilitating Group. *Member of the IATI Steering Committee*

Open Knowledge Foundation – Daniel Deitrich, Chairman Executive Board

Oxfam International – Jeremy Hobbs, Executive Director

Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD – Pedro Cruz, Executive Director

Polish Humanitarian Action – Janina Ochojska, President

Publish What You Fund – Karin Christiansen, Director. *Member of the IATI Steering Committee*

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights – Lynn Delaney, Executive Director

Save the Children UK – Brendan Cox, Director of Advocacy

SHERPA – Maud Perdriel-Vaissiere, Managing Director

Slovak NGDO Platform (MVRO) – Nora Benakova, Chairwoman

Socio Economic Rights and Accountability Project – Adetokunbo Mumuni, Executive Director

South African History Archives – Tammy O'Connor, Advocacy Officer

Tearfund – Matthew Frost, Chief Executive Officer

Tiri – Fredrik Galtung, Chief Executive Officer

Transparency International – Corbus de Swardt, Managing Director. *Member of the IATI Steering Committee*

Transparency International Pakistan – Saad Rashid, Executive Director

WaterAid – Margaret Batty, Director Policy and Campaigns Department

World Vision International – Beris Gwynne, Director of Global Accountability. *Member of the INGO Charter of Accountability Board and INGO Charter of Accountability Company representative on the CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness International CSO Advisory Group and the IATI Steering Committee.*

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