Minister Kim Sung-Hwan
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
60, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu,
Seoul, Republic of Korea (110-787)

Date 16/03/2012

Dear Minister

Including progress on aid transparency within Korea's Open Government Partnership Action Plan.

We the undersigned civil society organisations are writing to congratulate the Korean Government on its leadership in development effectiveness around the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4).[i] As Korea prepares its Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan for April 2012, we encourage you to use this opportunity to build on the aid transparency commitments made at HLF-4.

As you will be aware, the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)[ii] provides an essential common standard and open format for aid information, to which all donors committed at HLF-4. For this reason and in order to maintain the leadership Korea established and demonstrated in Busan, it would be most fitting to initiate Korea's engagement with IATI at this time and to include action points relating to the IATI process within Korea's OGP Action Plan.

Korea's vision - to *satisfy the people's expectation, build public trust in government and foster government efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness* - outlined within Korea's January 2012 OGP Country Update[iii] , can be appropriately applied to aid transparency. We therefore anticipate seeing more specific action points relating to aid transparency included within Korea's OGP Action Plan itself.

Through the commitments already delivered by OGP founding members, including the UK and U.S., the links between the OGP and IATI agenda's have been made explicit[iv] as has the potential for OGP participation to complement the IATI process and vice versa. Thus it might be appropriate to include the following intentions within Korea's OGP Action Plan:

- Signing up to IATI and engaging with the initiative at a political and technical level;[v]
- Submitting Korea's IATI Implementation Schedule by December 2012;
- Beginning to publish Korea's aid information to the IATI Registry in 2013;
- Implementing IATI fully by December 2015.

We look forward to working with you and your officials in the future as Korea continues to make progress in this important area.

Yours sincerely

Professor Lee, Tae Joo , Chair, ODA Watch and Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Hansung University

Jinhee Chang, Managing Director, Transparency International Korea

NA, Hyowoo, Executive Director, Asian Bridge

Warren Krafchik, Director, International Budget Partnership and member of the IATI Steering Committee

Brian Tomlinson, Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness, IATI Steering Committee member and co-Chair of the IATI CSO Working Group

Karin Christiansen, Managing Director, Publish What You Fund and member of the IATI Steering Committee

Robin Hodess, Director, Research and Knowledge Group, Transparency International and member of the IATI Steering Committee

Beris Gwynne, Partnership Leader for Global Accountability, World Vision International. Member of the INGO Charter of Accountability Board, representative on the CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness International CSO Advisory Group and and co-Chair of the IATI CSO Working Group

[i] § 23 c of the Final Busan Outcome Document agreed on 1st December 2011 (http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME_DOCUMENT_-_FINAL_EN.pdf) outlines the commitment to:
'Implement a common, open standard for electronic publication of timely, comprehensive and forward-looking information on resources provided through development co-operation, taking into account the statistical reporting of the OECD-DAC and the complementary efforts of the International Aid Transparency Initiative and others. This standard must meet the information needs of developing countries and non-state actors, consistent with national requirements. We will agree on this standard and publish our respective schedules to implement it by December 2012, with the aim of implementing it fully by December 2015.'

ii http://www.aidtransparency.net/

iii Update on Development of Korea's Action Plan on Open Government - January 31, 2012
(http://www.opengovpartnership.org/countries/korea)

iv For example the U.K made the following OGP Commitment on 19/12/2011
(http://www.opengovpartnership.org/countries/united-kingdom):
We will publish aid information from all government departments who spend overseas development assistance (ODA) in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards, extending coverage to other departments in addition to the Department for International Development. Within 12 months, we will have agreed a clear timetable for publication of aid information with relevant departments.

v http://www.aidtransparency.net/about/get-involved