Deputy Minister Ayanda Dlodlo
Department for Public Service and Administration
13th Floor, 120 Plein Street
Cape Town 8000
P O Box 9148
South Africa

Date 16/03/2012

Dear Deputy Minister Dlodlo,

Including aid transparency within South Africa's Open Government Partnership commitments

In light of the aid transparency commitments[i] made by South Africa at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4), we the undersigned civil society organisations are writing to encourage you to update your Open Government Partnership (OGP) commitments accordingly as a means to maintain South Africa's momentum towards becoming the first *emerging donor* to sign the International Aid Transparency initiative (IATI)[ii].

As you will be aware, IATI provides an essential common standard and open format for aid information, to which all donors committed at HLF-4. For this reason it would be most fitting to initiate South Africa's engagement with IATI at this time and to include action points relating to the IATI process within South Africa's OGP Commitments.

The challenges South Africa aims to address through OGP participation - to *increase public integrity by improving public services, create safer communities, effectively manage public resources and increase accountability* and South Africa's 7th OGP Commitment - to *enhance the involvement of civil society at every stage of the budgetary process across all spheres of government to enhance the progressive realisation of socioeconomic rights and enable citizens to track public expenditure[iii]* - can be appropriately applied to aid transparency. We therefore urge you to update South Africa's OGP Commitments with specific action points relating to the transparency of aid and related flows.

Through the commitments now delivered by other 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 South Africa's updated commitments:

- Signing IATI as a donor and endorsing it as a partner country;
- Submitting South Africa's IATI Implementation Schedule by December 2012;
- Beginning to publish South Africa'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 South Africa continues to make progress in this important area.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Volger, Co-founder and COO, The Fight Against Corruption

Peter Wonderlik, Founder and Executive Director, New Hope Federation, South Africa

Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, President and Founder, African Monitor

Linda Mafu, Executive Director, World AIDS Campaign

Rajesh Latchman, Convener, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) - South Africa

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] http://www.opengovpartnership.org/countries/south-africa

[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.