

Excmo. Sr. D. José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil
Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación
Palacio de Santa Cruz
Plaza de la Provincia, 1
28012 Madrid - Spain

12 March 2012

Excmo. Sr. García-Margallo,

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

We the undersigned civil society organisations are writing to congratulate you on Spain's signing up to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). This is a very positive step towards accessible, open data on Spain's external spending. As Spain prepares its Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan for April 2012, we encourage you to use this opportunity to build on the transparency commitmentsⁱ made at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in December 2011 and on your progress within the IATI process.

As you know, the aims of Spain's Open Data Portal, *Datosⁱⁱ* - *to encourage openness and reuse of public sector information and the creative participation of its users* - can appropriately be applied to aid transparency. We therefore anticipate seeing more specific action points relating to the transparency of aid and related flows included within Spain's OGP Action Plan.

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 explicitⁱⁱⁱ as has the potential for OGP participation to complement the IATI process and vice versa. Thus it might be appropriate to include the following steps within Spain's OGP Action Plan:

- Continuing to improve Spain's IATI data – particularly by publishing 2011 data;
- Setting a timetable for publication of development-related flows, including climate finance;
- Implementing IATI fully by December 2015.

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

Yours sincerely

Helen Darbshire, Executive Director, Access Info Europe

Eduardo Sánchez Jacob, Presidente de la Coordinadora de ONG para el Desarrollo – España.

Jesús Lizcano, President, Transparency International, España

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 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://datos.gob.es/datos/>

ⁱⁱⁱ 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.