Minister Giulio Maria Terzi di Sant' Agata
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1
00135 Rome
Italy

06/03/2012

Dear Minister Terzi di Sant' Agata

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

As Italy prepares its Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan for April 2012, we the undersigned civil society organisations are writing to encourage you to take this opportunity to build on the aid transparency commitments[i] made at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) and to initiate Italy's involvement with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) process.

As you will be aware, the International Aid Transparency Initiative (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 Italy's engagement with IATI at this time and to include action points relating to the IATI process within Italy's OGP Action Plan.

As you know, the challenges of - *promoting transparency, accountability, modernization and citizen participation[ii]* - named within Italy's September 2011 Letter of Intent to OGP as priorities to be addressed through Italy's OGP membership - can be appropriately applied to aid transparency. We therefore anticipate seeing more specific action points relating to the transparency of aid and related flows included within Italy'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 agendas have been made explicit[iii], 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 Italy's OGP Action Plan:

• Signing up to IATI and engaging with the Initiative at a political and technical level;
• Submitting an IATI Implementation Schedule by December 2012;
• Beginning to publish Italy'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 Italy continues to make process in this important area.

Yours sincerely

Elisa Bacciotti, Direttrice Dipartimento Campagne e Cittadinanza Attiva, Oxfam Italia

Marco De Ponte, Secretary General, ActionAid Italy

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

Brian Tomlinson, Member of the Global Facilitating Group, Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness and member of the IATI Steering Committee

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 member of the IATI Steering Committee

[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.