

10 April 2015

Your Excellency,

Ensuring transparency for sustainable development in the Financing for Development outcome document

We, the undersigned agencies, networks and organisations, call on you to support transparency and open data commitments for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

As we have learned from the MDGs, without a comprehensive picture of all the resources dedicated to achieving the post-2015 agenda, and related disaggregated data, it will be impossible to know whether commitments to leave no-one behind are being adequately reflected in policy formulation, implementation and results. The lack of public information about revenue flows, expenditures and results achieved is a systemic issue in many countries.

Transparency and open data can address this issue by ensuring that all development stakeholders have a complete picture of the resources going into sustainable development and how they are spent. The intergovernmental process can deliver key actionable policy commitments at FfD3 in order to unlock the full potential of transparency and open data. We urge you to ensure that the outcome document includes specific, action-oriented and time-bound commitments to:

- **Provide timely, comprehensive and forward-looking information** on all development activities in a common, open, electronic format, based on strengthening existing initiatives. All other development actors should be encouraged to follow this lead. Governments should commit to supporting different transparency initiatives, including IATI, GIFT, Open Contracting and EITI and mandatory extractives payment reporting by companies in home states, and help to ensure that open data standards can be joined up and compared.
- **Ensure inclusive and meaningful public participation at all stages of financing and governance processes.** Inclusive and unrestricted civic space at all levels, and provision of timely, quality data and information will enable all citizens to engage meaningfully in budgetary discussions.
- **Invest in equipping citizens, legislators, public servants, entrepreneurs, and civil society to understand and use financial and development data effectively.** Capacity building must be strengthened for empowering all relevant stakeholders to demand, understand and utilise open data.

Your support in including and promoting these recommendations internationally will be vital before and during the FfD3 negotiations. Many of the required structural reforms are already in place or underway and must be recognised in order to unlock the potential of transparency and open data to help achieve the FfD3 objectives.

Yours sincerely,

Africa Freedom of Information Centre



AfroLeadership



BudgIT



Council for International Development



Development Gateway



Development Initiatives



Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU



Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación



Global Integrity



Global Poverty Project



Integrity Action



Integrity Watch Afghanistan



International Budget Partnership



Namati



ONE



Open Contracting Partnership



Open Knowledge Foundation Germany



Oxfam America



Publish What You Fund



Publish What You Pay



Restless Development



Slovak NGDO Platform



Transparency International



UK Aid Network



Youth Association for Development Pakistan

