

Mr. Paavo Väyrynen
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Government of Finland
Merikasarmi, Laivastokatu 22 A
Helsinki
Finland

cc. Dr. Alexander Stubb, Minister of Foreign Affairs

17 March 2011

Dear Minister Väyrynen,

Subject: Congratulations on IATI and delivering aid transparency for the Fourth High Level Forum in November in Busan

We are writing to congratulate you on the agreement of a common standard for aid information at the recent meeting of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) on 9 February 2011.

We welcome Finland's participation at the IATI meeting in Paris and the fact that the Finnish Government wishes to re-engage on the issue of improved aid transparency. We believe that this historic agreement reached in February will ensure that the wider goals on aid effectiveness are achievable, particularly those relating to predictability and budget alignment. It also provides a consistent and coherent framework for meeting the aid transparency commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

In the run up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in Busan at the end of this year, donors have an opportunity to demonstrate where progress has been made. By agreeing and implementing a common aid transparency standard for HLF-4, you are at the forefront of efforts to achieve a new consensus on aid and development, underpinned by improved effectiveness and impact of aid.

With eight months to go until Busan, the focus on implementation is critical, starting with implementation schedules published by 31 March and ensuring that systems (financial, operational and IT) are made ready to deliver the information.

We believe that aid transparency is an area in which donors will be able to demonstrate real progress at Busan, with implementation of IATI being crucial to that success. We would like to enlist your support in promoting the topic as a key theme, and as a cross-cutting issue at HLF-4. In practice this means that:

- Aid transparency remains a **core principle** of further implementation of the Aid Effectiveness principles or political outcome document at Busan;
- The IATI standard is **recognised as the international common standard** for sharing timely, comprehensive and comparable aid information;
- The principles and standards developed by IATI are **actively promoted** as the best mechanism for stakeholders to deliver on improved aid transparency and greater aid effectiveness at Busan.

Once again we would like to thank you for consideration of IATI and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure its success at HLF-4.

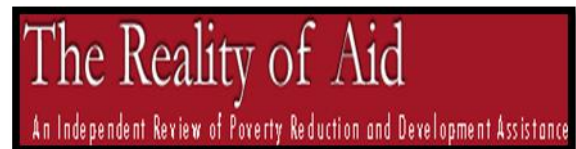
Yours sincerely,

Gerry Barr, President of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and Better Aid, Reality of Aid and the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness and member of the IATI Steering Committee.

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

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

Cobus de Swardt, Managing Director, Transparency International and member of the IATI Steering Committee and signatory of the International Non-Governmental Organisations Accountability Charter.

The logo for BetterAid, featuring the word "BetterAid" in a bold, sans-serif font. "Better" is in black and "Aid" is in green.The logo for CCIC CCCI, featuring the text "CCIC CCCI" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it, in smaller text, is "CANADA'S COALITION TO END GLOBAL POVERTY" and "ENSEMBLE POUR ÉLIMINER LA PAUVRETÉ DANS LE MONDE".The logo for IBP (International Budget Partnership), featuring the letters "IBP" in a bold, sans-serif font. "I" is blue, "B" is orange, and "P" is blue. To the right, it says "INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP" and "Open Budgets. Transform Lives."The logo for the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, featuring a stylized icon of three overlapping circles in green, yellow, and red. To the right, it says "Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness" in a bold, sans-serif font.The logo for Publish What You Fund, featuring the word "Publish" in a bold, sans-serif font inside a blue speech bubble shape. To the right, it says "WhatYouFund" and "The Global Campaign for Aid Transparency" below it.The logo for "The Reality of Aid", featuring the text "The Reality of Aid" in a serif font on a red background. Below it, in smaller text, is "An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance".The logo for Transparency International, featuring a stylized globe icon. To the right, it says "TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL" in a bold, sans-serif font, and "the global coalition against corruption" below it.