

Mr. Henri de Raincourt  
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, responsible for Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
27, rue de la Convention  
CS 91533  
75732 Paris Cedex 15  
France

25<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Dear Minister Raincourt,

**Re: Delivering effective aid and 9 February International Aid Transparency Initiative phase two agreement in Paris**

We, the undersigned agencies, networks and organisations are writing to ask you to use your critical leadership to ensure that the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is a success. As an observer of the IATI process you are part of a group of leading donor agencies focusing on this issue and we look forward to continue working with you on these efforts.

The IATI process is now at an historic point. In July 2010 the first phase of the IATI standard was agreed. The second phase of the standard will be approved at the next IATI Steering Committee on 9 February 2011.

The International Aid Transparency Initiative provides signatory agencies with a framework for delivering on key aid effectiveness commitments they made at Accra in a consistent and coherent way. At the Accra High Level Forum in 2008 donors also committed to “make aid more transparent”. This included information about current and future aid flows and publishing details of all conditions. Development ministers from around the world will have to account for their success or failure to meet these commitments at the next High Level Forum in Korea later this year.

To honour these commitments, IATI members need to agree an aid transparency standard that fully addresses the priority issues identified by partner countries. These include:

- the provision of up-to-date information on current and future aid flows; and
- ensuring that published information uses common definitions and formats that are compatible with partner countries’ budgets and systems.

But agreeing the standard is not the only commitment made – it is critical that the implementation schedules are published and systems (financial, operational and IT) are made ready to deliver the information needed in a format that is openly licensed so it can be accessed and used by other stakeholders.

We welcome the progress made on developing the IATI standard. Your leadership is now essential to ensure officials and technicians finalise an effective standard and approve a roll-out schedule.

Please show your support to IATI and the aid effectiveness commitments made in Accra by moving forward with signing IATI and agreeing a standard that will really deliver aid transparency, both for French and recipient country citizens.

Yours sincerely,

**Access Info Europe** – Helen Darbishire, Executive Director

**Article 19** – Agnès Callamard, Executive Director. *Member of the Global Transparency Initiative*

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

**Centre for Law and Democracy** – Toby Mendel, Executive Director. *Member of the Global Transparency Initiative*

**CIDSE** – Bernd Nilles, Executive Director

**Coordination SUD** – Jean-Louis Vielajus, President

**FUNDEPS** – César Múrua, Executive Director

**International Budget Partnership** – Warren Krafchik, Director. *Member of the IATI Steering Committee*

**ONE** – Guillaume Grosso, France Director

**One World Action** – Andy Rutherford, Acting Director.

**Open Knowledge Foundation** – Rufus Pollock, Director

**OpenAid** – Claudia Schwegmann, Director

**Publish What You Fund** – Karin Christiansen, Director. *Member of the IATI Steering Committee*

**Transparency International** – Corbus de Swardt, Managing Director. *Member of the IATI Steering Committee*

