

Mr. Erik Solheim
Minister of the Environment and International Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of Norway
7. juni-plassen/ Victoria Terrasse
PB 8114 Dep. N-0032
Oslo
Kingdom of Norway

25th January 2011

Dear Minister Solheim,

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 thank you for your critical leadership to ensure that the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is a success. Your country's participation in IATI puts you at the forefront of international efforts to increase aid transparency 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 that signatories have 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.

We are writing to ask you as a key signatory to ensure that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is fully engaged in this meeting and that the agreement reached on 9 February truly delivers on aid transparency both for Norwegian and recipient country citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Access Info Europe – Helen Darbshire, 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

The Development Fund / Utviklingsfondet – Andrew P. Kroglund, Director of Information and Policy

FUNDEPS – César Múrua, Executive Director

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

ONE – Eloise Todd, Brussels 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*



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