



CH-3003 Berne, SDC

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Mrs Karin Christiansen, Director
1 London Bridge
Dwonstream Building (3rd floor)
London, SE1 9BG
United Kingdom

Berne, 4.03.2011

RE: International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

Dear Ms Christiansen,

Thank you very much for the letter dated 25 January you addressed to Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, Federal Councillor, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the nongovernmental organisations and civil society networks promoting the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

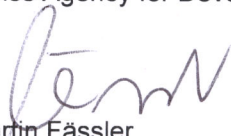
Switzerland remains fully committed to transparency issues and sees IATI as an important player in the improvement and harmonisation of up-to-date and relevant information provided to national and international stakeholders. At the last Steering Committee, we are pleased to witness the achievement reached and see the gradual implementation of the IATI standards ahead of Busan and beyond.

Switzerland has actively participated in the discussions and preparatory work, which has given a concrete insight of the political and operational challenges to set up a collective and standardised information platform. A greater focus on the information needs on both sides, donors and partners, is crucial and the debate around the standards has been very motivating. However, IATI's requirements imply that important measures are undertaken to adapt and develop our existing information systems. Switzerland will present next month its plan and future solutions in order to meet the standards.

We will continue to engage with the initiative as a sign of our commitment and solidarity to the transparency and accountability agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC


Martin Fässler
Head of Staff of the Directorate