

Joachim von Amsberg
Vice President and Head of Network
Operations Policy and Country Services

March 29, 2011

IATI Steering Committee Members
(See Distribution list below)

Dear Steering Committee Members,

Thank you for the letters to Mr. Robert Zoellick of January 25th and March 17th, signed jointly by some of you. Mr. Zoellick asked me to respond on his behalf.

I would like to share with you our progress on implementing the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). The World Bank is firmly committed to transparency, and we see IATI as a critical initiative for us and for our international partners.

To date, as one of the first signatories of IATI, we have been contributing significantly to its policy framework and technical design through our membership in the Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Group. Together with other IATI members, we have been making an effort to bring the partner country perspective into the initiative, so that the aid data and information reported by development partners are aligned with partner country needs for budget planning and management. With the design stage completed, we are almost ready for implementation of this important initiative.

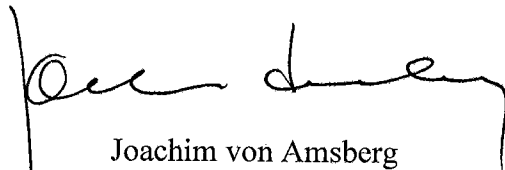
The implementation of IATI will take place in the context of our broader transparency initiatives that are being implemented following the new landmark policy on Access to Information. As of last year, the public can get more information from the World Bank than ever before —information about projects under preparation, projects under implementation, analytic and advisory activities, and Board proceedings. Through our Open Data Initiative, we now provide free, open, and easy access to statistics and indicators about development for all users around the world.

We believe that the implementation of IATI will complement and take further these initiatives. Using largely our existing systems and processing for collecting and sharing data, we are preparing to start the implementation of IATI soon. At the same time, we are working to establish an IT systems-based solution to improve the frequency and ensure consistency and quality of external reporting provided by the Bank.

We will summarize these steps in more detail in an implementation plan to be submitted to IATI shortly, as requested.

We are committed to continuing to contribute to IATI and look forward to seeing concrete implementation plans from additional signatories going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joachim von Amsberg', written over a horizontal line.

Joachim von Amsberg
Vice President and Head of Network
Operations Policy and Country Services

Distribution list:

Mr. Tim Nicholson
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Australia

Mr. Richard Sisson
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Australia

Mr. Alex Gerbandij
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, EC

Ms. Annegret al-Janabi
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Germany

Mr. Ronald Siebes
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Netherlands

Mr. Franck Rasmussen
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Sweden

Ms. Jackie Peace
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, United Kingdom

Ms. Dasa Silovic
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, UNDP

Mr. Brian Tomlinson
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, BetterAid

Mr. Steve Davenport
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Development Gateway

Mr. Jean-Louis Sarbib
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Development Gateway

Ms. Judith Randel
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Development Initiatives for Poverty Research

Ms. Karin Christiansen
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Publish What you Fund

Mr. Craig Fagan
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Transparency International

Ms. Beris Gwynne
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, International NGO Charter of Accountability Company

Mr. Ole Jacob Hjollund
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Denmark

Mr. Ramses Malaty
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Finland

Mr. Geoff Adlide
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, GAVI

Mr. Kevin Bohrer
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Hewlett Foundation

Ms. Paula Nolan
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Ireland

Mr. Roger Cornforth
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, New Zealand

Ms. Hanne Thonstad
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Norway

Mr. Willem Luijkx
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Spain

Mr. Philippe Besson
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Switzerland

Ms. Manju Senapaty
Member of the IATI Steering Committee, Asian Development Bank

cc: Ms. Caroline Anstey, Vice President, External Affairs, The World Bank
Ms. Shelley B. Leibowitz, Vice President and World Bank Group Chief Information Officer, The World Bank
Mr. Yifu Lin, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, The World Bank
Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg, Vice President Concessional Finance and Partnerships, The World Bank
Mr. Charles A. McDonough, Vice President and Controller, The World Bank
Mr. Sanjay Pradhan, Vice President, World Bank Institute, The World Bank

bcc: Kyle Peters (OPCCS); Aysegul Akin-Karasapan (OPCDR); Barbara W. Lee, Alma Kanani (OPCAE); Van Der Wouden (EXC), Goh (EXC), Ferguson (EXC), Uwanyiligira (EXC); Shaida Badiee, Neil James Fantom , Uranbileg Batjargal (DECDG); Dipankar Ghosh (CTRFD); Nancy Fleming (CTRCF); Sumir Lal (EXTOC); Julia Nielson (EXTEU); Leena Chaukulkar (OPCDR)

EXC Ref: EXC-2011-00523

Drafter's name and extension: Alma Kanani, Advisor, OPCA, x30858

Cleared by: Caroline Anstey, Vice President, External Affairs, x31800

Contact person and extension: Sharon D.C. Faulkner, x82749