

Mr. Andris Piebalgs
European Commissioner for Development
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

4 April 2014

Cc. Ms Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission
Mr Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy
Ms Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response
Mr Fernando Frutuoso de Melo, Director General, DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid

Dear Commissioner Piebalgs,

Accelerating progress on transparency at the GPEDC High Level Meeting, Mexico 15-16 April 2014

We, the undersigned agencies, networks and organisations, ask for your support in ensuring that the development community accelerates and deepens commitments on transparency at the first High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in Mexico on 15-16 April 2014.

We believe accelerated efforts to make development cooperation more transparent, as achieved through the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), are needed urgently. This is achievable in Mexico.

Since the last global meeting in Busan in 2011, more information on development cooperation is being published than ever before. This reflects the time-bound transparency commitments that development providers made in Busan on a common open standard and to publish information on development spending by 2015, including their implementation plans by 2012.¹

Publish What You Fund's 2013 Aid Transparency Index² shows that a small number of development providers, including the European Commission, have made good progress in making their cooperation more transparent. This demonstrates that political commitment can be translated into effective implementation. However, overall progress has been modest and uneven, particularly within the European Union. Most information on development cooperation is still not published in a comprehensive, timely and standardised way. **The vast majority of EU Member States are currently off-track to meet their Busan commitment of full implementation by 2015.**³

The meeting in Mexico is an opportunity to review and kick-start efforts to ensure governments' transparency commitments on development cooperation are met by 2015. The year 2015 will also mark the culmination of several international development processes, which include a new climate change deal and post-2015 priorities for sustainable development. **Transparency of all resource flows is an essential step**

¹ Which includes the Creditor Reporting System and the Forward Spending Survey of the OECD-DAC, and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) – http://www.oecd.org/dac/aid-architecture/Common%20Standard%20Communications%20Note_ENG.pdf

² <http://ati.publishwhatyoufund.org/>

³ To-date 22 official development providers have submitted implementation schedules outlining their plans to publish all elements of the common standard. The number of official government donors currently publishing to the standard is just 14, with an additional 8 international organisations including the UN and Multilateral Development Banks also publishing.

towards harnessing those resources for poverty eradication and for monitoring progress towards post-2015 goals. In this respect, we call on you to:

- Accelerate efforts to publish timely, comprehensive and forward-looking data on all development flows in accordance with IATI and improve the quality of published data;
- Ensure information on development cooperation is compatible and aligned with partner countries' budgets and systems;
- Support specific actions to improve access, dissemination and use of this data by all stakeholders at country level.

Your support in ensuring that the gains made on transparency at the global level translate into real benefits at country level is vital. Let us ensure that the Global Partnership truly delivers on aid transparency for all development stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Publish What You Fund – David Hall-Matthews, Managing Director

Access Info Europe – Helen Darbishire, Executive Director

Africa Freedom of Information Centre – Gilbert Sendugwa, Coordinator & Head of Secretariat

AidData – Brad Parks and Nancy McGuire Choi, Co-Executive Directors

Article 19 – Thomas Hughes, Executive Director

Bond – Ben Jackson, Chief Executive

CAFOD - Graham Gordon, Head of Policy

Canadian Council for International Co-operation – Julia Sánchez, President and CEO

Christian Aid – Alison Kelly, Head of Policy

Council for International Development – Dr Wren Green, Director

DATA Uruguay – Fabrizio Scrollini, Chairman

Development Gateway – Jean-Louis Sarbib, Chief Executive Officer

Development Initiatives – Harpinder Collacott, Director of Engagement and Impact

Dóchas - Hans Zomer, Director

Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación – Miguel Pulido, Executive Director

Global Integrity – Nathaniel Heller, Executive Director

Global Movement for Budget Transparency Accountability and Participation (BTAP) – Rocio Moreno, Global BTAP Coordinator

Integrity Action – Fredrik Galtung, Chief Executive

Integrity Watch Afghanistan – Yama Torabi, Director

InterAction – Sam Worthington, President and CEO

International Budget Partnership – Warren Krafchik, Director

Iraqi Journalists Rights Defense Association (IJRDA) – Ibrahim Al-Sragey, Director

Kepa – Timo Lappalainen, Executive Director

Obong Denis Udo-Inyang Foundation – Emem Udo-Inyang, Director

ODA Watch – Tae Joo LEE, Chair

Open Knowledge Foundation – Rufus Pollock, Founder and President

OpenTheGovernment – Patrice McDermott, Executive Director

Oxfam America

Plan International USA – Tessie San Martin, President/CEO

Slovak NGDO Platform – Lenka Nemcová, Executive Secretary

Sunlight Foundation – Ellen Miller, Founder and Director

Transparency International – Cobus de Swardt, Managing Director

UK Aid Network – Amy Dodd, Coordinator

Ushahidi – Juliana Rotich, Executive Director

World Vision International – Beris Gwynne, Partnership Leader for Global Accountability

Youth Association for Development (YAD) – Atta ul Haq Khaderzai, Chief Executive Officer



