

H.E. Dirk Niebel  
Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
Stresemannstraße 94  
10963 Berlin  
Germany

cc. Dr. Bernd Eisenblätter, Chairman of the Management Board, German Agency for International  
Cooperation  
Dr Ulrich Schröder, Chief Executive Officer, KfW

17 March 2011

Dear Minister Niebel,

**Subject: Congratulations on IATI and delivering aid transparency for the Fourth High Level Forum in November in Busan**

Thank you for your letter of 14 February outlining your support for greater transparency on aid information further to the recent International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) meeting on 9 February 2011. **We would like to congratulate you on the agreement of a common standard for aid information at that meeting and thank you for all your hard work with this Initiative.**

This historic agreement will ensure that the wider goals on aid effectiveness are achievable, particularly those relating to deliveing on recipient country needs and donor division of labour. It also provides a consistent and coherent framework for meeting the aid transparency commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

In the run up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in Busan at the end of this year, donors have an opportunity to demonstrate where progress has been made. By agreeing and implementing a common aid transparency standard for HLF-4, you are at the forefront of efforts to achieve a new consensus on aid and development, underpinned by improved effectiveness and impact of aid.

With eight months to go until Busan, the focus on implementation is critical, starting with implementation schedules published by 31 March and ensuring that systems (financial, operational and IT) are made ready to deliver the information.

**We understand that your colleagues have indicated that you are unable to commit to implementing IATI prior to HLF-4 for internal reasons. Nevertheless, we hope that you will undertake the steps to begin implementation as soon as the systems are in place.**

We believe that aid transparency is an area in which donors will be able to demonstrate real progress at Busan, with implementation of IATI being crucial to that success. As a lead donor on aid transparency, we would like to enlist your support in promoting the topic as a key theme, and as a cross-cutting issue at HLF-4. In practice this means that:

- Aid transparency remains a **core principle** of further implementation of the Aid Effectiveness principles or political outcome document at Busan;
- The IATI standard is **recognised as the international common standard** for sharing timely, comprehensive and comparable aid information;
- The principles and standards developed by IATI are **actively promoted** as the best mechanism for stakeholders to deliver on improved aid transparency and greater aid effectiveness at Busan.

Once again we would like to thank you for your ongoing support of IATI and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure its success at HLF-4.

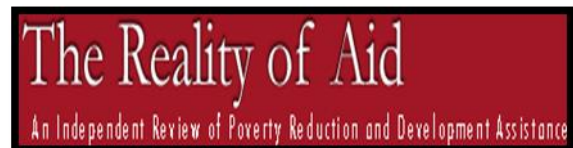
Yours sincerely,

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

**Karin Christiansen**, Director, Publish What You Fund and member of the IATI Steering Committee.

**Warren Krafchik**, Director, International Budget Partnership and member of the IATI Steering Committee.

**Cobus de Swardt**, Managing Director, Transparency International and member of the IATI Steering Committee and signatory of the International Non-Governmental Organisations Accountability Charter.

The logo for BetterAid, featuring the word "Better" in black and "Aid" in green.The logo for CCIC CCCI, featuring the text "CCIC CCCI" with a circular icon between them. Below it, the text reads "CANADA'S COALITION TO END GLOBAL POVERTY" and "ENSEMBLE POUR ÉLIMINER LA PAUVRETÉ DANS LE MONDE".The logo for IBP (International Budget Partnership), featuring the letters "IBP" in blue and orange, with the text "INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP" and "Open Budgets. Transform Lives." below it.The logo for the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, featuring a stylized icon of three overlapping circles in green and yellow, followed by the text "Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness".The logo for Publish What You Fund, featuring the word "Publish" in a blue speech bubble and "WhatYouFund" in blue, with the tagline "The Global Campaign for Aid Transparency" below it.The logo for "The Reality of Aid", featuring the title in white serif font on a red background, with the subtitle "An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance" below it.The logo for Transparency International, featuring a blue circular icon with a stylized figure, followed by the text "TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL" and "the global coalition against corruption" below it.