

Jan O'Sullivan T.D.  
Minister of State for Trade and Development  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Government of the Irish Republic  
80 St Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2  
Republic of Ireland

18 March 2011

Dear Minister O'Sullivan,

**Subject: Delivering aid transparency for the Fourth High Level Forum in November in Busan**

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of State for Trade and Development. We look forward to working with you as part of our ongoing collaboration with Irish NGOs on the aid transparency agenda.

Ireland is one of a lead group of donors committed to implementing aid transparency, as demonstrated by its commitment to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). At the recent IATI meeting on 9 February 2011 an agreement of a common standard for aid information was reached.

This historic agreement will ensure that the wider goals on aid effectiveness are achievable, particularly those relating to accountability and results. 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, Ireland is 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 very much hope that you will be among those able to make a firm commitment to implementing IATI prior to HLF-4 at the end of November.**

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 working with you to ensure its success at HLF-4.

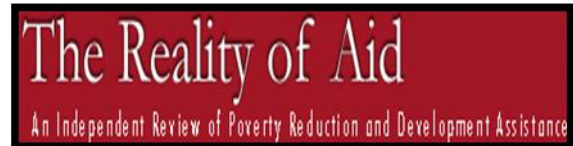
Yours sincerely,

**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 "BetterAid" in a bold, sans-serif font. "Better" is in black and "Aid" is in green.The logo for CCIC CCCI, featuring the text "CCIC CCCI" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it, in smaller text, is "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 a stylized font with a blue and orange color scheme. To the right, the text reads "INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP" and "Open Budgets. Transform Lives."The logo for the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, featuring a stylized icon of three overlapping circles in green and red. To the right, the text reads "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 a blue sans-serif font. Below it, the text reads "The Global Campaign for Aid Transparency".The logo for "The Reality of Aid", featuring the title "The Reality of Aid" in a white serif font on a dark red background. Below it, in smaller white text, is "An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance".The logo for Transparency International, featuring a stylized globe icon in blue and white. To the right, the text reads "TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL" in a bold, blue sans-serif font, and "the global coalition against corruption" in a smaller, blue sans-serif font below it.