

Dr. Rajiv Shah
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20523

cc: Daniel Yohannes, Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation
Jack Lew, Director of the Office of Management and Budget
Thomas Nides, United States Deputy Secretary of State
Rob Goldberg, Deputy Director of Foreign Assistance at Department of State
Michael Froman, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs
Gayle Smith, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Global Development, Stabilization and Humanitarian Assistance, National Security Council
Jeremy Weinstein, Director for Democracy at the National Security Council

March 17, 2011

Dear Administrator Shah,

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

We are writing to **congratulate you and the U.S. Government for your continued support for aid transparency** and for your valuable contribution to the agreed common standard for aid information at the recent meeting of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) on February 9, 2011.

The use of this standard for publishing aid information will ensure wider goals on aid effectiveness are achievable, particularly those relating to results and value for money. It also provides a consistent and coherent framework for meeting the aid transparency commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action and delivering maximum impact for the Foreign Assistance Dashboard.

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

With eight months to go until Busan, the focus on implementation is critical, including ensuring that systems (financial, operational and IT) are made ready to deliver the information.

We very much hope that prior to HLF-4, it will be possible to use IATI as the cross-walk underlying the Foreign Assistance Dashboard and introduce the next version of the Dashboard, including disbursement information from all U.S. agencies.

We believe that aid transparency is an area in which the U.S. will be able to demonstrate real progress at Busan. As a lead donor on aid transparency, we would like to enlist your support in promoting aid transparency 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 **recognized as the international common standard** for sharing timely, comprehensive and comparable aid information;
- The principles and standards developed 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 continued 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 Organizations Accountability Charter.




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