



9 August 2010

Dear Karin Christiansen,

Thank you for your letters of 28 June and 28 July 2010, on behalf of the non-governmental organizations engaged in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

As a signatory and one of the founding organizations of IATI, as well as a member of its Secretariat in charge of outreach to programme countries, UNDP is committed to making IATI a success as demonstrated by our contributions so far, including at the last meeting of its Steering Committee on 7 July 2010.

IATI is a very important initiative which will deliver positive outcomes for developing countries in the lead up to the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in South Korea in 2011. Moreover, improving aid effectiveness, including through more predictable and transparent aid, is one of the requirements for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Making IATI a success will require the individual and collective efforts of all signatories. We are committed to continuing our constructive engagement in the development of the IATI standards; supporting the participation and maintenance of a strong voice of programme countries in IATI; and through further improving UNDP's own transparency.

With regard to the latter, UNDP has established an in-house task force to determine the implications of the IATI standards for UNDP's information management system and business processes and to ensure their implementation in line with the agreed timeline for all IATI signatories. In the second half of 2010, we also expect to host a technical assessment mission from IATI which will help us finalize the schedule for implementation of the standards. In the meantime, UNDP is moving forward on multiple fronts in order to be even more transparent and accountable to our partners.

Karin Christiansen
Director
Publish What You Fund
London



As part of an ongoing commitment to show how funds are spent and programs are delivered, UNDP, in collaboration with our partners, developed a set of criteria for demonstrating transparency in 2008. These are available online at: <http://www.undp.org/comtoolkit/web/#Scorecard>.

Additionally, UNDP is well underway to implement a web upgrade project which will improve transparency and accountability for all of UNDP's global operations by creating a consistent and automated approach to publishing spending and results information. The first components of this project will be delivered over the next 3-4 months.

I would also like to take this opportunity to solicit your support in ensuring that developing countries, including civil society organizations from the South, receive the assistance they require for using the standards. As we approach the Millennium Development Goals deadline of 2015, one of my priorities is for UNDP to support developing countries in establishing the right institutional frameworks while gaining the necessary skills and capacity to achieve the Goals, in collaboration with partners from within and outside the UN. In the area of aid transparency, this will require having the means and skills to use well the information provided by donors and other providers and for to disseminate to local communities. As we look beyond the 2011 horizon for IATI and past the High-Level Forum in South Korea, I hope that UNDP can count on your support in ensuring that capacity development is a priority for this important initiative.

My colleagues and I look forward to working closely with you in taking the IATI forward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Helen Clark