



PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPARENCY FUND

May 27, 2014

President Kim
World Bank Group
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433

Dear President Kim,

We are an international CSO and a Global Partner of WBG's Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA). Our mission is to help citizens promote good governance and fight corruption around the world.

We want to work with you to make GPSA a success. We deeply appreciate your remarks at the GPSA Partners Forum on May 15th and leadership for citizen engagement and GPSA. The format of the session did not allow you to hear directly from many partners such as ourselves. Hence we are writing this letter to bring to your attention a few noteworthy points regarding the strategic and historic achievements of GPSA and to express our concerns about one particular statement that you emphasized in your remarks.

We agree fully with your concluding statement that "the fact that we have [GPSA] at all is a miracle and it was an amazing political success" to get unanimous Board approval for it. We would like to add that what has been accomplished in the short period of two years since the GPSA approval is also miraculous.

When the Board endorsed GPSA no one was certain how many countries would 'opt-in'. As you know the number of countries that have "opted-in" has grown to 39 or over a quarter of the Bank's borrowers. This is truly an outstanding achievement as "opting-in" is evidence that a significant and growing number of member governments are allowing the WBG to directly fund the CSOs that hold them accountable. This is a great mandate for the Bank to go beyond its support to public and private sectors and establish 'the third leg' for direct funding of civil society in line with new development partnership paradigm established by the Busan declaration.

Another miracle of the GPSA is that 160 partners from developed and developing countries have voluntarily joined the partnership. The partners include international organizations, funding agencies, CSOs, Foundations and academia. We are not aware of any other WBG initiative that has received such wide spread civil society support in such a short time. This unique platform can be leveraged by the WBG to continue the dialogue, not only on social accountability, but also citizen engagement and open government agendas.



PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPARENCY FUND

You heard a chorus of support at the Forum for scaling up funding. As you know in the first two call for proposals over 650 proposals were received and only 22 could be funded. The current GPSA 'opt-in' countries, countries considering 'opt-in,' CSOs, and Global Partners are watching the funding situation for GPSA very closely. There is growing concern among GPSA partners that these groups are likely to lose interest unless they see significant scaling up of GPSA. Such scaling up requires your leadership. That is why you heard these pleas at the Forum.

This brings us to the one statement that you made at the Forum that makes us concerned. We heard you say that you will 'wait for impact evidence from the 22 grant funded project before considering a scaling up of the GPSA'. We understand that you want to see progress but discernable impact of these specific grants will not be known for several years in future. As you yourself said there is sufficient evidence that context appropriate social accountability interventions improve development effectiveness. The Board debated the issue during GPSA approval and a go ahead given. We are therefore puzzled that you want to wait for results from 22 GPSA grants. This would involve costly and may be even fatal delay in scaling up GPSA.

We would like to conclude by urging you to support a scaling up of GPSA funding, operations and knowledge work on an urgent and immediate basis. For all reasons mentioned above time to act is now to maintain the momentum of 'opt-in'; member governments, global partners, and CSOs that want to work on social accountability in their countries. We assure you of our full support.

Mr. President, when you were asked what do you expect from Partners you urged partners to develop a detailed understanding of how the WBG works and to be understanding of the WBG as an inter-governmental organization. Please note that PTF is a volunteer's organization, which includes retirees with over 400 years of experience working at the WBG, and who collectively devote more than 10 person years each year as free technical assistance to CSOs we fund.

We enclose two of our recent studies for your information and use. The first is a "*Stimulating the Demand for Good Governance: Eight Strategic Recommendations for Intensifying the Role of the World Bank*". The second is a book published by PTF titled "*Citizens Against Corruption: A Report from the Front Line*". Not only is the latter a good read, but it gives ample evidence of the substantial impact that well designed and executed efforts by civil society can have on improving government accountability and reducing corrupt practices.

We are available to discuss our ideas and experiences with you and your colleagues at your convenience.

With best regards,

Richard Stern
President



PARTNERSHIP FOR
TRANSPARENCY FUND

CC. Vice President Sanjay Pradhan, Vice President Cyril Muller, and GPSA Manager Roby Senderowitsch