

From: Partnership for Transparency Fund, Global Witness, Transparency International, Conciliation Resources, Wildlife Conservation Society, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Overseas Development Institute.

To: The Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, MP
Secretary of State for International Development
22 Whitehall,
London SW1A 2EG

25th July 2014

Dear Secretary of State,

Governance and Transparency Fund follow-up: making the case for a new multilateral governance and accountability programme

We write to you as a group of partner organisations that participated in DFID's Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF: 2008-2014). The Final Review found "many examples of convincing evidence of improvements in a very wide range of forms of governance" which together, "have contributed to reducing poverty" in target countries. We think this success urgently needs to be built upon in a new programme, and we are concerned that DFID is now missing an opportunity to capitalise on its experience, achievements and ideas for holding governments to account.

We would welcome the chance to meet you to discuss some concrete ideas we have for building on this important experience, rather than letting it be lost. For example, a GTF programme empowered over one million marginalised women in 17 countries to raise their voice, participate in decision-making and hold government to account. Now we want to scale up the successes and ensure women and girls' voices equally influence governance processes at all levels.

There is also need to scale up programmes tackling poor governance and corruption, as recognised in the post-2015 development framework and in the Prime Minister's address to the Open Government Partnership Summit last November, where he listed the rule of law, property rights, free speech, media, open political choice, access to justice and tackling corruption as targets for inclusion in the new framework. We feel strongly that unless donor support to government-led reforms is backed by comparable support for civil society efforts to demand transparency and hold governments and powerful organisations to account, then we will not see significant or sustainable advances towards equitable development and effective governance.

DFID is currently supporting a number of excellent initiatives in many countries to promote social accountability, including the Making All Voices Count initiative. However, we would point to some features of the GTF that were uniquely effective and are not found in other DFID funding instruments, including:

- reduced transaction costs to DFID by allowing for sub-grants to be made to partners in a very wide array of contexts, in particular those working with some of the most hard-to-reach community groups;
- multi-country programming allowed for thematic learning in widely different environments to be shared with counterparts and sustainable supportive networks to thus emerge;
- Strong partnerships between Northern and Southern NGOs were formed leading to joint advocacy on the world's most pressing governance challenges that have very real impacts on local livelihoods; and
- an efficient funding mechanism, allowing for multi-year projects through grant agreements lasting up to five years.

DFID's Final Review of the GTF recommends further work so that valuable experience is harvested; a DFID learning champion is appointed; and guidance is written for the design of future global funds, particularly to progress key issues of evidence, value for money and sustainability.

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet you to note the progress to date and discuss our concrete ideas for building on the experience and gains to date. We hope that you are able to find time in your busy schedule to meet with us and we look forward to hearing from you on this.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of:

John Clark
Chair, Board of Directors
Partnership for Transparency Fund



Andrew Simms
Chief Analyst
Global Witness



global witness

Ben Elers, Programmes Director



Jonathan Cohen
Director of Programmes



Jeremy Radachowsky
Assistant Director



Andres Gomez de la Torre,
Head of Programmes



Kevin Watkins: Executive Director,
Overseas Development Institute



Robin Greenwood
Head of Programme Delivery



Lead contact person: Charles Gay, Governance Advisor, Christian Aid, 290 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JR