

12 June 2015

Letter to Representatives of Member States to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa:

Ensuring Transparency and Open Data for better Financing for Development Outcomes

Your Excellency,

There is one month to go before the Third International Conference on Financing for Development takes place in Addis Ababa. In this crucial time in the negotiations, **we, the undersigned agencies, networks and organisations, call strongly on you to support transparency and open data commitments in the Addis Ababa outcome document.**

As we have learned from the MDGs and past Financing for Development agreements, without a comprehensive picture of all the resources dedicated to sustainable development, and to supporting the least developed countries, it will be impossible to monitor whether commitments are achieving their purpose. The lack of public and accessible information about aid, revenue flows and other public expenditures is a systemic issue in many countries.

Transparency and open data can address this issue by ensuring that governments and all development stakeholders have a complete picture of the resources going into sustainable development and how they are spent. We once more urge you to ensure that the outcome document includes specific and action-oriented commitments to:

- **Provide timely, comprehensive and forward-looking information** on all development activities in a common, open, electronic format, based on strengthening existing initiatives and encourage all other development actors follow this lead. Governments should commit to supporting different transparency initiatives, including the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, Open Contracting Partnership and EITI, and mandatory extractives payment reporting by companies in home states, and help to ensure that open data standards can be joined up and compared.
- **Ensure inclusive and meaningful public participation at all stages of financing and governance processes.** Inclusive and unrestricted civic space at all levels, and provision of timely, quality data and information will enable all citizens to engage meaningfully in budgetary discussions.
- **Invest in equipping citizens, legislators, public servants, entrepreneurs, and civil society to understand and use financial and development data effectively.** Capacity building must be strengthened for empowering all relevant stakeholders to understand and utilise open data.

Your support in including and promoting these recommendations internationally will be vital during this last round of FfD3 negotiations. Many of the required structural reforms are already in place or underway and must be recognised in order to help achieve the FfD3 objectives.

Yours sincerely,

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