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*Rights & Accountability
in Development*



Reply Address: The Corner House, Station Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1YJ

Rt. Hon Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

12th July 2006

Dear Prime Minister,

Combat Corruption: Commit to the Conventions

We are writing in advance of the forthcoming annual Summit of G8 Heads of State and Government in St. Petersburg, Russia, to urge you and your G8 partners to deliver on, reaffirm and strengthen promises made at Gleneagles on the international anti-corruption conventions.

The 2005 Communiqué issued at last year's G8 Summit at Gleneagles includes commitments to "*work vigorously for early ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption and start discussions on mechanisms to ensure its effective implementation*" and to reduce private sector bribery by "*rigorously enforcing the laws against the bribery of foreign public officials, including prosecuting those engaged in bribery... and continuing our support for peer review, in line with the OECD Convention*".

Yet, with just five months left before the first session of the Conference of the States Parties, only three G8 member states (UK, France and Russia) have ratified the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Furthermore, although discussions on the UNCAC review process are already underway, we are extremely concerned that the failure at St Petersburg of G8 member states to renew existing commitments to monitoring would serve to undermine negotiations at the forthcoming Conference of the States Parties.

We welcome the new anti-corruption measures announced by the UK Government and urge you to show leadership and ambition at the G8 this year to secure strengthened commitments of member states to:

- ratifying UNCAC as soon as possible and before the first session of the Conference of the States Parties in December 2006;
- supporting rigorous enforcement of the OECD Anti-bribery Convention, including maintaining political and financial support for rigorous monitoring based on peer review;
- establishing an effective monitoring system for UNCAC, built around the pillars of transparency and civil society participation;
- providing financial support and assistance for UNCAC implementation in developing countries.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Tibbett, Head of Policy and Campaigns, ActionAid UK
George Gelber, Head of Public Policy, CAFOD
Babatunde Olugboji, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Christian Aid
Gavin Hayman, Campaigns Coordinator, Global Witness
Barbara Stocking, Executive Director, Oxfam GB
Patricia Feeney, Executive Director, RAID
John Christensen, Director, Tax Justice Network
Nicholas Hildyard, The Corner House
Chandrashekhhar Krishnan, Executive Director, Transparency International (UK)
John Hilary, Director, Campaigns & Policy, War on Want

(Listed in Alphabetical Order)

cc. Rt. Hon Gordon Brown, MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt. Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development and Minister responsible for addressing International Corruption