



10 September 2014

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I refer to previous correspondence with you relating to the Open Government Partnership in which we joined with Transparency International.

A public announcement of Australia's confirmation to participate remains a priority and we continue to urge that such an announcement is made as soon as possible.

May I draw to your attention a speech made late last year at the OGP summit by the United Kingdom Prime Minister, Mr Cameron in which he identifies what he sees as the important economic benefits of the OGP's objectives and involvement with them. Herewith a link to that speech:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-at-open-government-partnership-2013> .

Having regard to the strong support given to the OGP by Mr Cameron, the fact that the USA is actively involved, and that our near neighbour Indonesia is both a founding member and was chair under President Yudhoyono of the recent meeting of the OGP, we believe it is a bad look for the nation most committed to OGP principles in our region not to be a member. We believe that Australia's commitment to the OGP would also give a strong lead to other countries in the region that we would like to share our commitment to openness and economic progress.

Yours sincerely

Hon Tim Smith QC
Chair
Accountability Round Table