



For Immediate Release

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ACTION BY MAJOR EXPORTING NATIONS NEEDED TO STEM FLOW OF BRIBES

Washington, DC - Major exporting nations - including Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom – need to do more to stop transnational business bribery, according to a report issued today in Berlin, Germany by Transparency International (TI). TI's second annual *Progress Report on Enforcement of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions* indicates that two-thirds of the 36 convention signatories have taken little or no action.

“Government officials must make clear that bribing foreign officials is not a business strategy, it’s a crime,” said Fritz Heimann, TI Senior Advisor on Conventions.

“More vigorous enforcement is essential for fair competition and to foster democracy and economic progress” said Transparency International-USA Chairman Alan Larson. “Strict monitoring and oversight is needed to make sure that governments take effective enforcement action.”

OECD Convention signatory countries comprise about two-thirds of world exports of goods and services. Twelve of 31 countries surveyed have taken significant enforcement action – including Belgium, France, Germany, Korea, Spain, Sweden, the US and five others – an increase from 2005. The Report indicates the most vigorous enforcement and corporate sector compliance is in the United States, which has imposed stringent requirements since enactment of the 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

TI-USA also strongly supports US ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption with a monitoring mechanism, which would extend anti-bribery disciplines to a much larger group of nations. Effective national enforcement of the OECD and UN agreements will reduce corruption as a factor in international business and development.

The TI Report is based on information provided by TI national experts in each country and follows extensive consultations with government officials and other qualified professionals. It is available online at www.transparency.org.

Transparency International-USA (TI-USA) is the US chapter of Transparency International, the Berlin-based anticorruption organization. It works with TI and national chapters in over 90 countries to mobilize leaders in government, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to reduce corruption and enhance transparency and accountability in the public and private sectors.