

Mr. Robert P. Zoellick
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
USA

20 July 2007

Dear President Zoellick,

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on your selection as President of the World Bank. Your dynamic leadership and consensus-building skills will be fundamental to reinvigorating the Bank's poverty reduction work and reinforcing its anti-corruption efforts. We recognise that you face many challenges as you assume this office, and are heartened by your public statements committing to continue the work of your predecessors on this important subject.

The Bank has long recognised that corruption is the most significant obstacle to poverty reduction and has taken steps to strengthen accountability in its lending and to support the efforts of recipient countries to improve governance.

Yet, despite such efforts, millions are still deprived of the basic necessities of life as their incomes and donor assistance are diverted through corruption. An intensified effort to integrate the fight against corruption across the breadth of the Bank's work is critical to reducing poverty.

Therefore, I hope you will make it a priority to develop an effective implementation programme for the recently approved Governance and Anti-corruption Strategy. Transparency International has urged the Bank to commit the necessary financial and human resources, to engage more broadly with civil society, to insist on borrower transparency and, when evidence of corruption emerges, to ensure the poor do not suffer when loans are halted. Focusing on risk prevention and retaining a strong and independent Department of Institutional Integrity will help create a balanced programme.

It is clear that much remains to be done to fully institutionalise a comprehensive strategy and there will be many views within the Board, management and staff on how best to move forward. Reducing corruption in the Bank's operations and within its borrowing countries will also require the support of a wide range of external stakeholders, including governments, the private sector and broader civil society.

Your leadership will be critical to ensuring the strategy's long-term success. We would also urge you send an unmistakable signal, early in your tenure, to all stakeholders that every Bank employee will be held accountable for respecting the highest ethical standards.

Since its inception in 1993, Transparency International has had a long and constructive history of cooperation with the leadership of the Bank. We look forward to continuing this engagement and to working with you to achieve our shared objectives.

Yours sincerely



Huguette Labelle
Chair