

07.08.09

Dear Prime Minister,

As international development agencies working in over 50 countries, we are writing to remind you of the importance of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) to the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Sweden holds the EU Presidency at a crucial time for UNCAC. Urgent action is needed in preparation for agreement of a review mechanism for the Convention at the Conference of the State Parties to be held in Doha in November this year.

UNCAC's global reach is unprecedented. Its strength lies in the balance it achieves between actions needed within a state and those required between states. It is rightly ambitious in its aims, and expectations are therefore high that it will succeed in reducing corruption both domestically and internationally.

Corruption and poverty reinforce each other. Corruption undermines equitable economic growth and sustainable development. The diversion of public funds, loss of investment and the reduction in tax revenues hits the poorest and most vulnerable hardest. Put simply corruption is at the heart of people's experience of poverty.

The success of UNCAC in reducing corruption will hinge on the commitment of State Parties to fully implement its provisions and on the establishment of an effective review mechanism to monitor implementation. **For a review mechanism to be robust and credible two elements are fundamental: transparency and the participation of civil society.**

We therefore call on you as EU President to ensure that:

- the EU takes political leadership in negotiating a robust and transparent review mechanism at the Conference of States parties meeting in November
- the EU develop a common position on the review mechanism and communicate this publicly as soon as possible
- EU member states that have not ratified UNCAC do so immediately
- EU member states become fully compliant with UNCAC without delay and conduct participatory and transparent public reviews of their implementation of their UNCAC obligations
- civil society participation in domestic and international UNCAC processes is supported and encouraged

A strong review mechanism, founded upon the principles of transparency and civil society participation, will send a clear signal to the world's poorest communities that those to whom they have entrusted power and

Copied to:
Mr. Håkan Friman, Minister of Justice, Sweden
Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, UNODC
Mr. Jacques Barrot, Vice President, European Commission

responsibility are committed to ending the corruption that helps keep them in poverty.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Bain, Director, CAFOD



Marius WANDERS, Secretary General, Caritas Europa



Antoine MALAFOSSE, Director, CCFD-Terre Solidaire



Daleep Mukarji, Director, Christian Aid



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