

Expression of Interest – Open Government Forum

Name: Ms Serena Lillywhite, Chief Executive Officer, Transparency International Australia

Motivation for Joining

With 15 years' experience in corporate accountability and responsible business conduct, I am committed to ensuring the OGP implements its commitments, develops ambitious plans, and builds a consortium of individuals and organisations focused on transparency and accountability in all sectors of industry, and in both private and public organisations. The Open Government Forum provides a platform to progress a transparency and accountability agenda that is fit for purpose and will position and equip Australian institutions. I am keen to bring my expertise and contribute to the Forum's success.

Selection Criteria

Demonstrated support of OGP's vision and the Open Government Declaration

Transparency International Australia – TIA (and internationally) has been a strong supporter of the OGP, and instrumental in the development of the current National Action Plan. TIA is actively engaged in current government inquiries into foreign bribery, beneficial ownership, whistleblower protection, the DFAT White Paper, deferred prosecution agreements and integrity institutions. Our policy reform agenda is directly linked to our support for access to information, openness in government, and civic participation in public affairs – key elements of the Declaration.

Expertise relevant to the Open Government Partnership, including existing or probable future Australian Open Government commitments

As the CEO of TIA I will have oversight of the EITI, our efforts to establish a public register of beneficial ownership and a national anti-corruption agency. Future Open Government commitments should address Australia's responsibility on the Sustainable Development Goals. My previous employment with Oxfam positions me well to contribute to this, as well as broader issues of civic participation, defending democracy, business and human rights, and mitigating the risks of financial crime and illicit financial flows. This is essential to help ensure all citizens can live with dignity and free from the impacts of corruption.

Ability to engage broad and diverse community networks

I have outstanding stakeholder engagement skills and ability to engage the private sector, government and community organisations. In the past 15 years I have worked with the extractives, infrastructure, manufacturing, financial services, and the garment and apparel sectors to foster responsible business conduct with a focus on good governance, transparency and accountability. I have held leadership positions in civil society and have a reputation for fostering diverse networks, including cross-culturally. This includes extensive work in Asia and several African countries.

Experience working with and influencing government

I have extensive experience in working with and influencing government. At a global level I have been an adviser to the OECD Investment Committee for more than 10 years, assisted in drafting the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and participated in related working groups. Within Australia I was active in the establishment of the EITI and a member of the EITI Pilot Multistakeholder Working Group. I was a member of the Treasury Tax Advisory Board (BEPS), the EFIC Advisory Board, and influential in Australia joining the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. I was active when Australia hosted the G20. I have participated in several multistakeholder initiatives and presented to the OECD on 'what makes a good MSI'. I am experienced in reaching agreed positions with on policy reform.

Continuity between successive Forums, balanced with the desirability of reaching new communities and reflecting emerging open government priorities

I am well placed to ensure both continuity and progress new opportunities. My existing relationships with individuals and organisations who have been active to date (PWYP, TJN, OGP Network) and my ability to understand and communicate emerging priorities will help ensure the Forum meets its full potential and National Action Plans are transformational and implemented.

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