



Transparency International Canada Inc.
MEMORANDUM

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 14 April 1999

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Chairman
 Committee of Government Representatives on Civil Society Participation
 c/o Tripartite Committee (Ref. Civil Society)
 1825 K St. N. W., Suite 1120
 Washington, DC 20006 USA

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Dear Chairman:

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair and President of Transparency International Canada (TI-Canada). TI-Canada is a voluntary not-for-profit organization, affiliated with more than 70 other national chapters, formed or forming, across the world, of Transparency International. TI-Canada's purpose is to inform the business community, the government, and the general public (all of which form the membership of TI-Canada) of the effects of corruption in the international marketplace, and to provide support and resources for public and private sector initiatives to prevent corrupt business practices.

In light of this mandate, the anti-corruption issue is a top priority to TI-Canada. Building anti-bribery elements into the FTAA process, in its early stages, is, in our view, a high-priority task. We would particularly like to see early action taken in the area of openness and transparency of government procurement processes, as stipulated in the San Jose Ministerial Declaration. Such openness and transparency is imperative for legitimate, fair, effective and beneficial trade in the Americas. We would, therefore, ask that the Trade Negotiation Committee conclude a regional agreement on transparency in government procurement, to be implemented by 2000, and that the Committee also promote ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, including effective implementation as part of its agenda, by all OAS members by 2000.

We thank you for your kind attention and look forward to the opportunity for increased public participation in the FTAA process.

Sincerely yours,


 Wesley Cragg, D. Phil (Oxon)
 Chair and President

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