Dear Refaat and Richard:

We would like to congratulate both of you on the recent adoption of the 2010 Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) by the International Hydropower Association (IHA). Transparency International (TI) has appreciated the opportunity to work with IHA and the other stakeholders of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum (HSAF) to measure and improve the sustainability of hydropower projects. Over the 30 months of so that were devoted to the development of the HSAP, we have come to appreciate the leadership role that the hydro industry has taken on the journey to more sustainable hydropower.

For TI, we believe that the HSAP is strengthened through its explicit acknowledgement of the need to address governance and anticorruption issues at the national, sectoral, institutional, and project levels for public sector, private sector and joint public and private sector initiatives. We have appreciated the opportunity to be involved in a detailed multistakeholder dialogue on these issues and to have helped design the Protocol components that address these issues.

In taking note and endorsing the letters of support of the Protocol by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the World Wildlife Fund, we believe that it is very timely to roll out the Protocol for broad application to gauge its effectiveness on real projects. TI and its partner the Water Integrity Network (WIN) is prepared to work with IHA and other stakeholders to achieve this. In this regard, our expectations for future collaboration are as follows:

• Any public claims of a particular sustainability performance need to be supported by a credible system. Bringing the Protocol system into full compliance with ISEAL guidelines, and creating a functional and balanced governance structure would go a long way toward ensuring this.

• The Protocol should be used by a multitude of organizations in a variety of ways, which needs to be reflected in the terms and conditions of use.

• We would expect TI and the other Forum member organizations who have contributed to the documents to have unrestricted access and rights of use; and would prefer the IHA to share intellectual property rights with Forum members, or to transfer them to an independent joint entity. This would assist with the public perception that the Protocol is governed and applied in an impartial way.

• Ultimately, all projects should meet acceptable standards of performance. We would therefore hope for an explicit expression of intent from the IHA to eventually move the Protocol toward a system of assessment against a sustainability standard.

We anticipate continued cooperation in the upcoming discussions, and encourage TI Chapters and TI partners to work with you and your membership, as well as other Forum members and stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Donal O’Leary
TI representative to the HSAF Secretariat

Miklos Marschall
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