



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

File Number: 13/1014

21 March 2013

Dr Kathleen Dermody  
Secretary of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to correct my evidence given to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Estimates hearing on 14 February 2013.

I refer to Hansard pages 44 (line 50), 45 (line 2) and 46 (lines 14 and 30) where I referred to an "interdepartmental committee" or "IDC" in relation to the Open Government Partnership. I propose that the references to "interdepartmental committee" and "IDC" identified above are replaced with "interagency process" which reflects the terminology I more accurately used on page 47 (line 16).

I additionally refer to Hansard page 46 (line 9) where I stated "The IDC has met several times." I would propose changing this to "The interagency group has met once." to more accurately reflect the facts. When giving evidence I was under the impression that the interagency group had met more than once. On page 46 (lines 19 and 20) I stated "I can inform you that to my knowledge the IDC has met most recently in January". I would propose changing this to "I can inform you that to my knowledge the interagency group has met most recently in August 2012." to more accurately reflect the facts.

I would also propose to amend the figures on Page 45 (line 39), which as Senator Faulkner noted, were not up-to-date. The revised sentence should read "At the moment, 47 countries have joined the initiative, and 11 have indicated their intention to join."

Yours sincerely

Richard Rowe  
First Assistant Secretary/Senior Legal Adviser  
International Organisations and Legal Division