



# TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL | USA

## **TI-USA Statement on Affiliation with Transparency International**

January 23, 2017 -- Transparency International-USA (TI-USA), a U.S.-based anti-corruption organization established in 1993, is no longer institutionally affiliated with Transparency International based in Berlin. While the organizations share a commitment to fight corruption, differences in their philosophies, strategies and priorities have emerged. The TI Membership Accreditation Committee, which studied TI-USA's activities, accomplishments and plans, recommended TI-USA for reaccreditation, but the international board of directors took a different decision. The process has confirmed that TI is pursuing a fundamentally different strategy and approach to combatting bribery and corruption than that being followed by TI-USA. We therefore have decided it is in our interest to pursue our mission independently.

The Chairman of TI-USA, Alan Larson, said, "During the last 23 years, TI-USA has worked in a non-partisan manner to be the premier U.S. anti-corruption organization leading the fight for policies that promote integrity in government and business in the United States and around the world. Going forward, we will pour even greater energy into this task. We are converting our structure to become a national membership organization that will be a broadly based coalition dedicated to fighting against corruption wherever it occurs, locally, nationally and internationally. We are going to deepen and expand our strong relationships with a variety of organizations and individuals, at home and abroad, including other civil society organizations, businesses, labor union representatives, academics, youth and professional groups."

President and CEO Claudia Dumas said, "As a committed civil society organization, we will continue in the U.S. to advocate for public sector integrity, greater politician integrity and reform of electoral financing at all levels of government, and ending anonymous shell companies which allow corruption to flourish, among other issues. We will continue our work at the international level where U.S. interests are implicated. "

Founders of TI-USA Fritz Heimann and Michael Hershman, who also are among the founders of TI based in Berlin, stressed, "We have been and will continue to be an organization committed to building coalitions, including with responsible business organizations. We believe the private sector has an indispensable role in creating a corruption-free economy."

Director Lucinda Low added, "We have a strong commitment to the rule of law as an essential tool in fighting corruption. We will continue to advocate for strong and vigorously enforced anti-corruption and pro-transparency laws and regulations, both domestically and internationally."

TI-USA has been active and impactful in furthering policy reforms since its early efforts in driving the establishment of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and its long-standing advocacy to ensure that the United States effectively enforces U.S. anti-corruption commitments, including

the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. As part of its well-publicized work to combat money laundering, corruption and other illicit activities that often are facilitated by anonymous shell companies, a priority before and since the release of the Panama Papers, TI-USA successfully pushed the Department of the Treasury to close certain loopholes that allow corrupt individuals to launder money in the U.S. through anonymous real estate transactions, working with other non-government organizations. The U.S. pilot project for identifying and tracking secret buyers of high-end real estate also followed. TI-USA is pushing for greater integrity in government in the United States at the federal and state levels, urging specific actions to combat conflicts of interest, including blind trusts, asset and tax return disclosures by candidates and public officials, and strong rules governing the acceptance of gifts. A proponent of transparency in the extractives sector, TI-USA submitted letters to the SEC in 2014, 2015 and 2016 promoting strong implementing rules under Section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Act and has contributed to the work of the multi-stakeholder group established for the implementation of the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative in the United States. Among its internationally focused activities, TI-USA organized a letter in 2015 signed by 107 civil society organizations urging the World Bank to collect and publish beneficial ownership information for bidders on Bank financed procurements, after which the Bank announced a new procurement framework committing the Bank to taking actions on several of TI-USA's recommendations.