

UN International Anti-Corruption Day applauded by TI-Canada and CCIB

Ottawa – December 9, 2004. Transparency International Canada (TI-Canada) and the Canadian Council for International Business (CCIB) today marked the first anniversary of the *UN Convention against Corruption*. To date, 106 countries have signed on to the treaty. Sixteen countries, including Canada, must still proceed with ratification before the *Convention* comes into effect.

The *Convention* is a culmination of three years of international negotiations and establishes high international standards of public sector and corporate integrity, transparency and accountability.

It is intended to be a model for domestic legislation and covers public service staffing principles, transparency in procurement, application of conflict of interest codes, provisions for asset recovery and confiscation of illicit gains. It also addresses compensation to victims and measures to prevent private sector corruption.

“The instrument provides a comprehensive framework for dealing with corruption in the public and private sector and is particularly significant because it includes many countries not party to other existing anti-corruption initiatives,” said Errol Mendes, TI-Canada board member and professor of law at the University of Ottawa.

The *UN Convention* also provides new measures for the recovery of illicitly acquired assets that have been transferred outside a country and seeks to criminalize influence peddling and bribery in commercial transactions. Extradition mechanisms and cooperation between states in asset recovery and removal of "safe havens" are encouraged.

“This *Convention* is part of a global attempt to respond to investors’, aid donors’ and the public’s concerns to improve the standards for ethical behaviour and to establish controls to minimize the use of public office for personal gain,” said Bob Keyes, President and CEO of the CCIB.

Canada has been very active in a number of other anti-corruption initiatives such as the *OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions* and the *Inter-American Convention against Corruption*. TI-Canada and the CCIB encourage the federal government to proceed with ratification of the *UN Convention* as expeditiously as possible. For further information on TI-Canada, contact Bronwyn Best, 416-488-3939; on CCIB, contact Bob Keyes, 613-238-4000 ext. 223.