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# **Transparency International Liaison Office To The European Union AISBL**

**Statutory Auditor's Report** (Free translation)

Exercise 31.12.2023

Transparency International Liaison Office To The European Union AISBL Company number: BE0828.989.516

# Statutory Auditor's Report To The General Meeting Of Members Of The International Association (AISBL) Transparency International Liaison Office Of The European Union For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

(Free Translation)

In the context of the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the International Association (AISBL) **TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION** (the "Organisation"), we hereby present our statutory auditor's report. It includes our opinion on the audit of the annual accounts as well as our report on the other legal and regulatory requirements. These reports form part of an integrated whole and are indivisible.

We have been appointed as statutory auditor by the general meeting of members of 15 December 2022, following the proposal by the governing body. Our statutory auditor's mandate will expire on the date of the general meeting of members which will deliberate on the annual accounts closed on 31 December 2024. We have performed the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the Organisation for 8 consecutive years.

#### Report on the audit of the annual accounts

#### **Unqualified Opinion**

We have audited the annual accounts of the Organisation, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of EUR 914.220 and a profit and loss account showing a profit for the year of EUR 3.061.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the Organisation's net assets and financial position as at 31 December 2023, as well as of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

#### Basis for unqualified opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts' section in this report. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence.

We have obtained from the governing body and the officials of the Organisation the explanations and information necessary for performing our audit.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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#### Responsibilities of the governing body for the preparation of the annual accounts

The governing body is responsible for the preparation of annual accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium, and for such internal control as the governing body determines is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the governing body is responsible for assessing the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the governing body either intends to liquidate the Organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a statutory auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts.

During the execution of our control, we respect the legal, regulatory and normative framework applicable to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium. The scope of the statutory audit does not include an assurance on the future viability of the Company or on the efficiency and effectiveness with which the Governing body has conducted or will conduct the Company's operations. Our responsibilities relating to the application by the governing body of the going concern accounting principle are described below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud
  or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence
  that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material
  misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve
  collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organisation's internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the governing body;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the governing body ' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our statutory auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our statutory auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organisation to cease to continue as a going concern. The extent of the statutory audit does not include any assurance as to the future viability of the association or the efficiency or effectiveness with which the governing body has conducted or will conduct the affairs of the association;

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- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Our mission does not include the systematic examination of the use and justification of the subsidies received by your association both in terms of eligibility as well as other justification criteria.

We communicate with the governing body regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during our audit.

#### Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

#### Responsibilities of the governing body

The governing body is responsible for the compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements regarding bookkeeping, as well as for compliance with the Companies and Associations Code, and the Articles of Association.

#### Responsibilities of the statutory auditor

In the context of our mandate and in accordance with the Belgian standard (Revised version 2020) which is complementary to the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium, it is our responsibility to verify, in all material aspects, the compliance with certain provisions of the Companies and Associations Code and with the by-laws, as well as to report on these elements.

#### Aspects relating to the annual report

The association is not required to draft an annual report in accordance with article 3:48 of the companies' and associations' Code. At the date of the present report, we have no knowledge of an annual report or activity report which will be published by the Organisation.

#### Statement related to independence

Our audit firm and our network did not provide services which are incompatible with the statutory audit of annual accounts, and we remained independent of the Organisation throughout the course of our mandate.

#### Other statements

 Regarding the completeness and valuation of the off-balance sheet commitments, we rely on representations made by the management and third parties confirmations in the absence of systematic recording in this matter. For the rest, without prejudice to certain formal aspects of minor importance, the accounting records are maintained in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium;

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• There are no transactions undertaken or decisions taken in breach of the by-laws or of the companies' and associations' Code that we have to report to you.

Antwerp, April 19, 2024

Mazars Réviseurs d'Entreprises SRL

Statutory Auditor

Represented by

Koen Potters

Statutory Auditor