



Francophone Regional Workshop on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative January 26th to 28th

Ouagadougou Declaration

Civil Society representatives of Francophone Africa met in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on January 26-28, 2011 for a regional workshop to assess the country's implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to date. Participants, including many from the Publish What You Pay coalition, attended from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo.

After fruitful discussions on topics including national experiences in EITI implementation, analysis and dissemination of EITI reports, advocacy strategies for transparency and responsible management of extractive resources, and new EITI rules, participants identified key goals to be undertaken. These include the publication of number of EITI reports, improved dialogue between EITI stakeholders, continued public debate on transparency in extractive industries, technical and financial support for bilateral, multilateral and private partners, regular public financing of the EITI process by some governments and the continued engagement commitment of civil society.

However, many constraints and challenges to quality implementation of the EITI according to the initiative's principles and criteria remain. These include:

- The lack of public debate on the EITI reports;
- Dysfunction in some multi-stakeholder groups;
- Barriers to the right of the free participation for civil society representatives;
- The lack of audited and certified state accounts in almost all implementing countries;
- Interference and barriers created by of some donors in the recruiting process for Reconcilers and Validators, especially with reference to their procedures, in violation of the rules and principles of the Initiative;
- Partial implementation of National Action Plans;

- Limitations in financing for the EITI process;
- Weak political commitment of governments in some implementing countries;
- Weak ownership and dissemination of EITI reports;
- Lack of capacity among many stakeholders;
- Publication of data in aggregated, rather than disaggregated, form;
- Non-publication of mining, oil and gas contracts;
- Legal and regulatory barriers to the implementation of EITI

Recognizing the importance of transparency in the management of natural resources of our countries;

Anxious to see the revenues from extractive industries contribute to sustainable and harmonious development in African countries, especially those in Francophone Africa, where the issue of the "resource curse" is acute,

In the interest of respect for the rules and principles of the EITI, the effective implementation of the Initiative, "...and the adoption of measures to ensure ownership and sustainability of the initiative.

We recommend:

1. To leaders at the International EITI Conference:

- Consider all relevant recommendations for the adoption of consistent and mutually agreed rules that reinforce the credibility of the EITI globally;
- Review criteria 13 of the EITI in light of concerns expressed by implementing countries, particularly francophone countries;

2. To Governments

2.1. Francophone African countries

- Implement the EITI in order to avert the resources curse, improve governance and reduce poverty;
- Take appropriate financial and technical measure to ensure sustainability and national ownership of the process;
- Adopt laws and regulations to incorporate the principles and criteria of the EITI in the domestic legal system and determine the conditions for long-term implementation, as in Nigeria, Liberia and Niger;
- Ensure the free participation of civil society members in the process;
- Conduct regular audits and certifications of accounts through a State Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), with respect for legal procedures and in accordance with national guidelines, the accounting standards community (OHADA) and sub-national bodies (WAEMU, CEMAC);
- Adopt, through multi-stakeholder group, the selection process for the Reconciler and Validator in accordance with the EITI Source Book;
- Fully implement National Action Plans prepared in accordance with the EITI standards;
- Publish the mining oil and gas contracts signed with extractives companies;
- Establish a standard for the disaggregation of data.

2.2. Countries of origin of extractive companies

- Require multinational corporations to regularly publish their payments to host governments in accordance with the transparency requirements of their countries of origin;
- Adopt legislation similar to the Dodd-Frank financial reform law in the United States.
- Continue and strengthen technical, financial and material support to the implementation of the EITI;

3. To extractive companies:

- Publish regular disaggregated payments to governments ;
- Submit audited and certified data to the Reconciler;
- Participate effectively in the EITI process at the national level;

4. To technical and financial partners:

- Respect the selection process of the Reconciler and Validator as prescribed in the EITI Source Book
- Maintain technical, financial and material support for the implementation of the EITI;
- Strengthen technical and financial support for national coalitions, for EITI implementation in the field, as well as for their participation in the EITI Board;
- Support initiatives to strengthen the capacity of coalition members in the various areas critical to implementation of EITI principles and criteria;

5. To the International Organisation of La Francophonie

Increase and strengthen OIF support for the EITI in Francophone African countries.

Ouagadougou, January 28, 2011

Participants