

Berlin, 24 February 2009

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY REPORT ON 4TH EITI GLOBAL CONFERENCE

The 4th EITI Global Conference in Doha, Qatar, on 16-18th February marked an historic moment for the EITI, with over 500 participants from 80 countries, 70 speakers, and with countless meetings taking place on the sidelines. The Conference marked the EITI's transformation from a start-up initiative to a global transparency standard. Furthermore, Azerbaijan has become the first country to achieve Compliant status. The level of interest and participation in the EITI continues to expand with pledges from new companies and countries to support the initiative, testifying to the growing consensus that the EITI yields genuine benefits in terms of improved financial management, accountability and business climate. The EITI Progress Report for 2007-2009 was presented to the Conference outlining the developments of the initiative since the last Conference.

Reflecting a widespread conclusion at the Conference, the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, highlighted in her opening statement that without strong political will in implementing countries, no EITI programme can be expected to succeed.

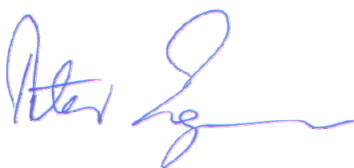
There was a general consensus at the conference among stakeholders that the current global economic downturn makes the EITI more important than ever. The steep reduction in international prices for oil, gas, metals and minerals translates into a sharp decline in government revenues in commodity dependent economies. The fundamental changes taking place in the international investment climate reinforce the need for transparency, as companies and investors have become increasingly risk-averse. As George Soros asserted, countries implementing the EITI have a competitive advantage over those outside the initiative in attracting greater investment in the current global climate. The high standards of accounting and reporting inherent in the EITI help to ensure greater openness and a more level playing field in the business environment. Royal Dutch Shell CEO, Jeroen van der Veer, also reminded us why the EITI is in the interests of businesses who want to behave transparently and honestly.

Norway's recent EITI candidacy as the first OECD country to implement the EITI is, together with last year's UN General Assembly resolution backing the EITI, an important step in widening the implementation of the EITI. There is hope that other developed and emerging economies will follow Norway's example in helping to boost the profile and legitimacy of the initiative.

I conclude with a broader reflection on the EITI. The current financial and economic crisis is ultimately one of governance, or lack thereof. At times, smarter regulations and improved government oversight is clearly required. This is not, however, the only way to improve governance. I believe that all of the statements at our Global Conference and in the Progress Report 2007-2009 confirm that a multi-stakeholder coalition like ours can strengthen the governance fabric. Let us therefore make sure that we continue to ensure that natural resource extraction really does lead to benefits for the citizens to whom the resources after all belong. Let us also make sure that we learn from the impact of the EITI when seeking to address the broader challenges of good governance.

You will find a couple of highlights from the Conference on the next page.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Peter Eigen
Chairman

HIGHLIGHTS FROM EITI GLOBAL CONFERENCE 16-18 FEBRUARY 2009, DOHA

- Azerbaijan was accepted as *EITI Compliant* – the first country to have passed an *EITI Validation*, the EITI quality assurance mechanism to assess whether the country has met the requirements in the EITI standard;
- Tanzania became the 26th *EITI Candidate* country (with Norway, as the first OECD country to implement the EITI, having gained Candidate status just before the Conference);
- Ministers from the governments of Mozambique, Ethiopia and Albania all officially declared their commitment to become EITI implementing countries and outlined the steps they are undertaking to achieve EITI Candidate Country status;
- Japan announced that it will become an EITI Supporting Country. Japan will seek to "assist in expanding the initiative's presence in the Asia-Pacific region". All members of the G7 group of industrialised countries now support the EITI;
- Qatar's Minister of State for Energy and Industry Affairs, H.E. Dr Mohammed Saleh Al-Sada, reiterated Qatar's strong support for the EITI and announced that Qatar Petroleum will become an EITI supporting company;
- The Arab League also welcomed the initiative and expressed its support for the principles of the EITI;
- During her opening statement, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, of Liberia, stated that the EITI has helped to move Liberia away from the corruption and misallocation of natural resources that helped to fuel decades of civil war in her country;
- EITI Chairman, Peter Eigen, emphasised the importance of protecting and respecting civil society in its efforts to combat corruption and hold governments and companies to account;
- Liberia was presented with an award for the rapid progress the country has made towards implementation of the EITI. Azerbaijan received an award for having come further than any other country and becoming the first EITI Compliant country. Kazakhstan received a special prize for its efforts to raise awareness of the EITI across their huge country.
- George Soros made clear his belief that the countries implementing the EITI would have a competitive advantage in attracting greater investment in a global economy that has become highly risk-averse. The high standards of accounting and reporting inherent in the EITI are attractive to investors seeking to minimise risk by ensuring greater openness and a more level playing field in the business environment;
- The EITI Members' Association was established under Norwegian law, thereby incorporating the whole EITI global structure, including the Board and International Secretariat. Under the new Articles of Association, a new Board was elected.
- The *EITI Progress Report 2007-2009* was launched. Many EITI stakeholders contributed to the creation of this report that outlines the key developments of the EITI since the last EITI Global Conference.
- Three EITI publications on how to further implementation and support were launched: an *EITI Guide for Legislators* co-developed by NDI, RWI and the EITI Secretariat, an *EITI Communications Guide* on how implementers can effectively communicate the EITI, and a publication on *Advancing EITI in the Mining Sector*.
- The short film *Making Resources Work for People* about the EITI premiered at the Conference. It can now be viewed at the EITI website.