VALIDATION COMMITTEE

EITI International Secretariat

Oslo, 27 May 2016

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1 Background

The EITI Board has agreed to establish a Validation Committee to oversee the Validation process (Board Circular 210).

Validation is the EITI’s quality assurance mechanism and an essential feature of the EITI process. It serves to assess performance and promotes dialogue and learning at the country level. It also safeguards the integrity of the EITI by holding all EITI implementing countries to the same global standard.

On 15 February 2016, the EITI Board approved the 2016 EITI Standard including a revised Validation procedure (section 4 of the 2016 EITI Standard). The Validation procedure has three phases:

1. **Initial data collection and stakeholder consultation** are undertaken by the EITI International Secretariat. The International Secretariat reviews the relevant documentation, visits the country and consults stakeholders. This will include meetings with the multi-stakeholder group, the Independent Administrator and other key stakeholders, including stakeholders that are represented on, but not directly participating in, the multi-stakeholder group. The Board maintains a standardised procedure for data collection.

   Based on these consultations, the International Secretariat will prepare a report making an initial evaluation of progress against requirements in accordance with the Validation Guide. The report will not include an overall assessment of compliance. The report is submitted to the Validator. The multi-stakeholder group will be invited to comment on the report.

2. **Independent Validation.** The EITI Board will appoint Independent Validators, who will report to the Board via the Validation Committee. The Board will appoint Validators to review batches of validations in accordance with a schedule to be agreed by the EITI Board.

   In accordance with the Validator’s terms of reference, the Validator assesses whether the Secretariat’s initial validation has been carried out in accordance with the Validation Guide. This will include: a detailed desk review of the relevant documentation for each requirement and the Secretariat’s initial evaluation for each requirement, and a risk-based approach for spot checks, and further consultations with stakeholders. The Board may request that the Validator undertake spot checks on specific requirements. The Validator will amend or comment on the Secretariat’s report as needed. The Validator then prepares a short summary (the Validation Report) for submission to the Board.

   This will include the Validator’s assessment of compliance with each provision, but not an overall assessment of compliance. The multi-stakeholder group will be invited to comment on the Validation Report.

3. **Board Review.** The Validation Committee will review the Validator’s assessment and any feedback from the multi-stakeholder group. The Validation Committee will then make a recommendation to the EITI Board on the country’s compliance with the EITI Requirements.
The EITI Board will make the final determination of whether the requirements are met or unmet, and on the country’s overall compliance in accordance with provision 8.3.a.ii of the EITI Standard.

2 Responsibilities

With support from the EITI International Secretariat, the Validation Committee shall:

1. Make recommendations to the EITI Board on the elaboration of the Validation procedures in accordance with the EITI Standard, including: (1) a standardised procedure for data collection and stakeholder consultation by the EITI International Secretariat, and (2) Procedure for the procurement of Validators, including standardised terms of reference.

2. Oversee the Secretariat’s data collection and stakeholder consultation activities.

3. Oversee the procurement of Validators.

4. Review validation Reports, including any feedback from multi-stakeholder groups, and make recommendations to the EITI Board on implementing countries’ compliance with the EITI Standard.

5. Review the effectiveness of the Validation process and, where necessary, make recommendations to the Board regarding changes to these procedures.

3 Committee Composition

The members of the Committee were confirmed through Board Circular 212. The members are:

Countries
Mr. Mark Pearson
Mr. Didier Kokou Agbemadon
Ms. Maria Isabel Ulloa Cruz
Mr. Mack Dumba Jérémy
Mr. Bazarbay Nurabaev

Companies/ Investors
Mr. Alan McLean
Mr. Jim Miller

Civil Society
Mr. Gubad Ibadoglu
Mr. Brice Mackosso
Mr. Cesar Gamboa

On 14 April 2016 the Validation Committee agreed to appoint Mark Pearson as Chair of the Validation Committee.

The Committee will be supported by the EITI International Secretariat to fulfil its terms of reference. The contact person at the International Secretariat is Sam Bartlett (sbartlett@eiti.org).