

MEETING OF EITI COORDINATORS OF AFRICA

Minutes

Malabo, 14, 15 and 16 September 2015

From September 14 to 15, 2015, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the meeting of National Coordinators of the EITI African countries, on invitation of the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and its EITI multi-stakeholder group. Participants came from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Representatives of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon attended the meeting as observers. The representatives of Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Sao Tome and Principe could not participate for various reasons and apologized to the organizers and wished success in the work.

Prior to the start of work his excellency Fidel Marcos Mañé Ncogo, Deputy Minister of Energy of Equatorial Guinea, on behalf of the Minister of Mines, Industry and Energy, opened the meeting of National Coordinators of the EITI African countries in a solemn speech in which he expressed the satisfaction of Equatorial Guinea to host this meeting and asked the participants to work in order for Africa to speak with one voice at the next World Conference EITI to be held in Lima, Peru, in February 2016. The Minister recalled all the commitment of President of the Republic and the Government to make the mining sector a key driver of economic and social development of the country. He stressed that the country is actively making all arrangements to enter the circle of countries implementing EITI across the continent and all the support that can provide friendly countries. He ended his remarks by expressing the hope that his country could again host a meeting of the EITI for the benefit of all African countries and declared open the proceedings of the meeting.

The meeting in Malabo comes in the wake of the following meetings:

- The meeting of the National Coordinators of the Francophone countries of Africa and Madagascar held on 29 and June 30, 2015 in Yamoussoukro (Ivory Coast) which gathered about twenty representatives from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central Africa, of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Chad and Togo; representatives of Equatorial

Guinea and Gabon had taken part as observers share. The representatives of Madagascar, Mauritania and Democratic Republic of Congo had been unable to participate because of busy schedules and respectively had apologized to the organizers and wished success in the work.

- The meeting of the National Coordinators of the EITI African Anglophone countries in Accra (Ghana) from 18 to 20 August 2015 which brought together national coordinators from Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zambia.

In both meetings, it was for the participants to prepare the next important deadlines of the EITI, namely:

- The session of the Board planned in Bern (Switzerland) October 2015 and that of Kiev (Ukraine) in December 2015;
- The World Conference in Lima (Peru) in February 2016.

Speaking on behalf of the invited National Coordinators of the EITI, Abdul Aziz ASKIA, National Coordinator of Niger and EITI Board member, expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea who kindly organized the meeting to enable the finalization of the work of Yamoussoukro and the integration of the resolutions and recommendations of Accra. He thanked the Government of Equatorial Guinea for its warm welcome and the quality of its hospitality.

The participants unanimously designated the following to steer the deliberations:

President /Moderator	Mr. Kokou Didier AGBEMADON, National Coordinator Togo, EITI Board member
Rapporteurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mrs. Agnès Solange ONDIGUI OWONA, National Coordinator Cameroon,- Mr. René Maurice SYLLA, Delegation member Guinea- Mr. Ireland KOFI Delegation member Liberia- Mr. Anacleto OLO FERNANDES Delegation member Equatorial Guinea

The final agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1) Day one

- Constitution of the meeting Bureau
- Adoption of the Yamoussoukro minutes
- Update of the implementation in the different countries
- Lunch break
- Presentation of the Accra report
- Finalisation of the Yamoussoukro recommendations
- Proposals on the evolution of the EITI Standard

- a) Consultation on validation
 - b) Consultation on the TOR of the Independent Administrator
 - c) Introduction of EITI into national governance systems
- End of day one
 - Dinner

2) Day two

- Teleconference with Mrs Clare SHORT, EITI President
- Preparation of the election of new board members
- Proposals and recommendations of the Malabo meeting and adoption Yamoussoukro minutes

Launch break

- Workshop on : Sharing the Petroleum rent » by Jean Jacques IKAMA of the Republic of Congo
- Closing of the deliberations
- Official dinner

After rich discussions, frank and sincere, National Coordinators have adopted the following resolutions and recommendations:

The meeting of the EITI National Coordinators Africans is now institutionalized

The implementation modalities will be worked out by an ad hoc committee.

Consultation on the validation process

National Coordinators reaffirmed the strong determination of EITI African countries to continue the EITI implementation for consistent validation whose effects should lead to real constructive reforms that positively impact the lives of people.

• To achieve the National Coordinators of the African countries of EITI request that the EITI standard is stabilized for a minimum of five (5) years, up to ten (10) years, to allow:

- a) real ownership of the EITI by countries implementing the Initiative;
- b) the implementation of the necessary reforms;
- c) Evaluation of the impact of the Standard adopted in May 2013;
- d) the definition of a consensus-based model that is appropriate for a fair evaluation of countries implementing the EITI.

Given the above, the EITI National Coordinators of African countries meeting in Malabo require the postponement of the planned validation process in 2015 and 2016, until there has been extensive discussion on the issue in the International Board of EITI followed by the adoption of a new format validation, specifying the practical arrangements relating to enable these countries to better preparation for this step.

• Validation must move beyond a binary scoring model and recognize the variety of situations where countries implement the initiative.

This may require the introduction of a progressive validation model including a disaggregated assessment of progress for each requirement.

• Participants also suggested the removal of the suspension and cancellation in connection with the forthcoming review of the EITI standard.

Indeed, insofar as each of these two decisions is apparent, at least to an insufficient consideration by international bodies of EITI efforts made, it is likely to dissuade countries to continue developing EITI implementation.

The Standard has rendered the Initiative more « significant » as well as complex and demanding.

We are therefore proposing the establishment of an African regional office by the International Secretariat in order to bring it closer to the daily challenges faced by African countries in the implementation of the Initiative.

Consultation on the standard terms of reference the Independent Administrator

The participants expressed their non-objection to the adoption by the Board of the standard terms of reference for an independent administrator.

In general, they emphasised on the fact that all measures affecting the rules governing the EITI implementation (standard requirements, validation process, the terms of reference of the independent administrators, etc.) be henceforth decided in plenary sitting of the International Board, following a participatory consultation process involving the implementing countries and the multi-stakeholder groups.

Integration of EITI in national governance systems

National Coordinators confirm their interest in the ongoing debate on the integration of the EITI in the global systems of transparency in their countries, given the objectives of the Standard. However, they consider that the specificities of each country must be an exact manner considered.

While recognizing that governments must shoulder much responsibility for disclosure of the information currently endorsed by the EITI, particular emphasis has to be given to the improvement of the public administrations information systems.

In this context, the EITI Standard should take into account the different national circumstances and allow each country to adopt the format of disclosure of data best suited to its needs and possibilities.

Nevertheless, the reconciliation remains a necessity in African countries. EITI National Coordinators of African countries support that this need should not prevent the use of public systems in place, including the disclosure of data, which should improve reliability and credibility.

EITI governance

For the National Coordinators, the question must be considered on three levels: international bodies of EITI, the sub regional cooperation between the countries implementing the EITI multi-stakeholder groups and, together with their secretariats, technical or permanent, to national level.

- **With regard to the representation of African countries in the EITI Board**

The Coordinators, cognisant of the increase in the number of African countries implementing the Initiative since the last global conference, are asking for two additional seats in the Board to reflect this growth.

In fact, half of the 48 countries implementing the Initiative are from Africa. The composition and representation of the Board deserves to be reviewed accordingly.

- **On the mandate of Board members from Africa.**

National Coordinators have questioned the content of the terms of the mandate of board members representing their countries and on their rights and

obligations. An ad hoc committee has been set up for reviewing the statutes of the Association. On this basis, the Committee will enlighten National Coordinators and make proposals to enable the evolution of the current situation. This committee consists of Professor FALL (Senegal), Mr. MOIDOKANA (Central African Republic) and Mr. Karmo (Liberia). This committee is called upon to produce its report 16 October 2015 at the latest.

Another ad hoc group was established to examine the modalities for designating country representatives in the Board. It is made up of Mr. N'DRI KOFFI (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. DIABY (Guinea), Mr. KOFI (Liberia) and Mrs. MINA (Sierra Leone) and Mrs. ONDIGUI OWONA (Cameroon) and shall produce its report before 16 October 2015.

- **On the sharing of information between African board members and National Coordinators**

The participants examined the issue of the confidentiality clause on the documents from the Board and its committees. This clause cannot be invoked against them as they have to receive these documents before the Board meeting in order to have an opinion of the issues on the agenda and communicate them to their respective board members.

The national Coordinators called upon the board members to improve the sharing of all useful information with them.

Teleconference with Mrs Clare SHORT

African National Coordinators have had a teleconference with Ms Clare SHORT, Chair of the EITI Board accompanied with the International Secretariat, on issues currently being debated within the EITI : the validation process and draft standard terms of reference for an independent administrator.

Mrs. SHORT listened keenly to the National Coordinators especially on the issue of the stability of the Standard over a minimum period of 5 to 10 years, to make way for ownership and the satisfactory implementation of the necessary reforms.

While awaiting the decision of the Board on the new validation format, the Coordinators recommended the postponement of the upcoming 2015 and 2016 validation exercises. This would give time for countries to put in place the necessary measures for a successful validation.

African countries have also claimed their responsibility and will do in the future good quality EITI reports, capable of fostering improved governance and transparency.

For her part, Ms Clare SHORT encouraged participants to work to make their voices better heard in international bodies of EITI through decision-reasoned positions.

Workshop on: the sharing of oil revenues and the EITI requirements

Done by Mr. Jean Jacques IKAMA, Petroleum Economist from Congo, he enlightened the Coordinators on the definition and ownership of the petroleum revenues as well as the different ways of sharing it and the ensuing problems. He went on to edify them on the consequences of the sharing of the petroleum revenues in the work of multi-stakeholder groups on the implementation of EITI requirements.

The Coordinators expressed their entire satisfaction on the quality of the very useful presentation.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the African National Coordinators is planned after the EITI international EITI Board meeting in Bern. Proposals from countries wishing to host this meeting are expected. Each country has the opportunity to do so.

Done in Malabo on September 16, 2015

The EITI National Coordinators of African countries

Joint documents:

- Yamoussoukro report
- Accra declaration
- Presentation on Sharing the Petroleum rent and EITI requirements