

February 6, 2017

Shahmar Movsumov
Public Finance CEO
State Oil Fund of the Azerbaijan Republic
Heydar Aliyev Avenue 165
Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
AZ1029

Sent via email: info@oilfund.az

Dear Mr. Movsumov,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing in advance of the meeting hosted by the national Azerbaijan EITI Secretariat with members of the Azerbaijan Civil Society Coalition on February 7. We urge you, as chair, to ensure that the meeting and its outcomes are fully compliant with EITI Standard Requirement 1.3, concerning oversight of the multi-stakeholder group.

As you know, the EITI Standards establish that “the government is required to commit to work with civil society and companies” through the multi-stakeholder group to oversee implementation. As a fundamental and non-negotiable component of this, we note the EITI requirements that “each stakeholder group must have the right to appoint its own representatives, bearing in mind the desirability of pluralistic and diverse representation,” and that “the nomination process must be independent and free from any suggestion of coercion.” As you also know, according to the EITI Standard, “Civil society groups involved in the EITI as members of the multi-stakeholder group must be operationally, and in policy terms, independent of government and/or companies.”

As we understand, on January 20 the Azerbaijan Civil Society Coalition independently elected three new representatives to the MSG and three alternates, but their full participation in the MSG was not ensured at the February 2 MSG meeting.

We urge you to ensure that the February 7 meeting takes place in full compliance with EITI Standards, and does not intervene with an independent selection of civil society representatives to participate in the MSG, an essential element of Azerbaijan’s implementation of EITI in full compliance with EITI Standards.

We will also share this letter with the EITI Secretariat and EITI Board Members, for their information.

Sincerely,

Article 19

Human Rights Watch

International Media Support

CC: EITI Secretariat; Board Members