

REPORT ON GHANA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EITI CONFERENCE IN OSLO, NORWAY, 16TH - 17TH OCTOBER 2006

1.0 GHANA'S REPRESENTATION

Ghana participated in third EITI Conference held in Oslo, Norway from 16th -17th October, 2006.

2. Ghana's representation at conference was from government, private sector and civil society. The government delegation was led the Deputy Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines. Other members of the government delegation were, Mr. Franklin Ashiadey , Senior Economics Officer (MOFEP) , Mr. Amponsah Tawiah, Director Monitoring and Evaluation (Ghana Minerals Commission).

3. The private sector was represented by the Chief Executive of the Chamber of Mines, Miss Joyce Aryee and Mr Sulamanu Koney, Director Research, Finance and Administration, while Civil Society was represented by the Coordinator of Forest watch Ghana, Mr Al-Hassan ADAM and Dr Stephen Asare Manteaw (ISODEC).

4. The Conference was also attended by delegates from the World Bank, IMF, United Nations Agencies, representatives from the private sector, NGOs and Civil Society Groups.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

5. The objectives of the conference were to:

expand the number of countries participating in the process
increase the awareness of EITI among countries with major emerging economies;
improve standards for the implementation of EITI, by building on experiences gained so far; and to
welcome the recommendations of the EITI International Advisory Group on the future policy and governance arrangements for the Initiative.

3.0 Ghana Government Statement

6. Ghana Government's statement on **"the implementation of EITI in Ghana"** was read by the Deputy Minister for Lands, Forestry and Mines. The

presentation highlighted the relevance of the initiative to the Ghanaian economy, the Ghana EITI Implementation Structure and strategies, components of the implementation plan and the way forward for Ghana (***Copy of Statement attached.***)

7. The Deputy Minister assured the international community committee of Ghana Government's commitment to the EITI process and hoped that a transparent Extractive Industry in Ghana will bring about an improved investment climate by providing a clear signal to investors and the international community, especially financial institutions that the Government of Ghana is committed to a greater transparency. She also expressed the hope that EITI will help in strengthening accountability and good governance, as well as promote greater economic and political stability. This, in turn, will contribute to the prevention of conflict in mining communities.

8. She also announced to the international community that Ghana Government has just received a Grant from the World Bank EITI Trust Fund for the implementation of the Initiative.

Ghana EITI, a Sub-Regional Model

9 Ghana has made a significant progress in implementing the initiative since it was launched in 2003. At the Oslo conference, the country received a lot of commendations on the implementation of the initiative. Ghana's EITI is to become the sub-regional "Model" for new countries like Liberia and Sierra Leone in the West Africa sub-region signing up to the initiative to adopt.

10. At a West African sub-regional EITI parallel meeting on the 17th October, 2006 in Oslo, the two countries expressed strong interest in adopting Ghana's implementation model. The meeting was arranged by the World Bank for the West African EITI implementing countries to share experience.

11 In this regard a sub-regional EITI Conference involving all West African EITI implementing countries i.e Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone is to be organized in Abuja , Nigeria as soon as practicable to enable the countries share their experience.

4.0 The New EITI Board

12. Participants at the conference agreed to the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Board to oversee the future operation of EITI, supported by a Secretariat. The Oslo Conference therefore selected the first board of the EITI. The members of the first Board were drawn from governments, companies and civil society groups. EITI supporting countries represented on the new board are

Germany, United States and United Kingdom while France, Norway and Australia serve as alternates.

13 The EITI implementing countries represented on the board are, Azerbaijan, Gabon, Guinea, Kryrgyz Republic and Nigeria, while Ghana, Cameroun and Kazakhstan were selected to serve in an alternative capacity.

14. Also represented on the Board are extractive companies of British Petroleum (BP), Chevron, Anglo-American, International Council on Mining and Metals and Pemex with Exxon Mobil, Shell and Petrobras as alternates.

15 Delegates welcomed the offers of the Governments of Germany and Norway to host the Secretariat. They proposed the establishment of a small group representing the various EITI constituencies to hold further consultations on the Secretariat location and to come up with a consensus proposal for a decision by the Board at its first meeting.

16 Delegates also urged the Board and the Secretariat to take forward the other recommendations contained in the Report, drawing where appropriate on the guidance provided by the Report. In summary these are that:

EITI is a multi-stakeholder initiative. The governments of implementing countries should ensure that implementation is in accordance with the EITI Principles and Criteria, with the full contribution of all stakeholders.

EITI should develop clearer evidence of the benefits of implementing EITI as part of broader governance reform; and other benefits, such as improved energy security and a better business climate.

EITI should pay more attention to the specific context of the mining sector.

EITI and EITI-implementing countries should identify appropriate opportunities to work with other transparency, anti-corruption, development and energy security programs.

EITI should undertake further work on the possibility of sub-national implementation.

EITI should work with emerging market economy governments to encourage their greater engagement with EITI.

Support for implementing EITI should be country driven and sustainable, while focusing on results and working in partnership.

5.0 FUTURE OF EITI

17. Delegates identified a number of issues for the Board to consider and on which the next Conference should take a view. These included:

Strategies to address the future challenges for EITI set out in the IAG Report.

How to engage with the governments of the major emerging economies where a number of oil, gas and mining companies are headquartered.

How the principle of transparency might be extended to a sub-national level;

A strategy, with concrete steps, as to how the EITI Principles and Criteria should become the normal way of working in all the relevant extractive industries within three to five years;

Consideration of what additional steps could be taken to ensure effective civil society engagement in EITI implementation.

Participants also noted the interest of some governments to sponsor a UN General Assembly resolution to reinforce the legitimacy of the Initiative.

6.0 CONCLUSION

18. In the four years since its launch, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) has made significant progress towards setting a global standard for revenue transparency in the oil, gas and mining sectors. Many of the countries in the world in which the extractives sector plays a significant economic role have signaled their intention to increasing transparency over payments and revenues in line with the EITI Principles and Criteria and the Initiative is encouraging them to take meaningful steps to meet their commitments. EITI has succeeded so far through the efforts of resource rich country governments themselves, working with extractive industry companies, national and international civil society, investors, other supporting governments and international organizations.

19. Delegates agreed to meet again in two years time.