

## *Communiqué*

### *National Discussion on Oil Revenue Management in São Tomé and Príncipe and Regional Coordination Meeting of Civil Society from Portuguese-speaking Countries in Africa*

*October 29-31 2007*

The National Discussion on Oil Revenue Management in Sao Tomé and Principe and Regional Coordination Meeting of Civil Society from Portuguese-speaking Countries in Africa was organized by Publish What You Pay, International Alert, UNDP and UNICEF. The Event was attended by civil society representatives from São Tomé and Príncipe (STP), Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria as well as international NGOs (Global Witness, Revenue Watch Institute, OSIWA and OSISA), the World Bank, the University of Columbia, the Joint Development Authority of Nigeria and Sao Tomé and Principe as well as the private sector.

Confirming their commitment to promote transparency in the management of natural resources, the *participants*:

**Welcome** the first steps the STP government has taken to adhere to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

**Recognise** that the implementation of the EITI in STP will represent a positive sign to the international community of the government's commitment to transparency at a time when STP is making efforts to obtain a reduction of its foreign debt and is preparing a licensing round for blocks in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

**Acknowledge** that, given the size of STP's economy, bonus payments received for the signature of exploration and development contracts represent an important source of revenue for the country.

**Advise** the government of STP that if it opts to merge the EITI committee with the Petroleum Oversight Commission, it should ensure that:

- There is adequate representation of all three stakeholder groups (government, civil society and private sector);
- The government is adequately represented in the committee by the relevant ministries (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Finance and Planning), National Petroleum Agency, and the Central Bank;
- Oil industry representation includes not only Chevron but also other companies present in the oil sector, such as Addax, Anadarko, and SINOPEC among others;
- Civil society is represented by national NGOs;
- Each stakeholder group freely nominates its representatives;

- Whatever the final size of the EITI Committee, a small working group (task force) with equal representation of the three stakeholder groups is formed to work for effective implementation of the action plan.

**Note** the need to devise and publish an action plan with clear objectives, a timetable for implementation, clearly identified capacity building needs, and a budget.

The aims of the action plan are:

- To promote collaboration with the Nigerian EITI Committee (NEITI) and address the issue of transparent management of oil operations in the Joint Development Zone (JDZ). In particular, the accounts of the Joint Development Authority (JDA) should be audited and published, as per the Abuja Declaration;
- To develop a public information campaign in anticipation of the forthcoming bidding round in the EEZ. Civil society members of the EITI committee should receive capacity building and spearhead this campaign as a way of monitoring the EITI process and managing public expectations;
- To devise effective training programmes for the government and civil society members of the STP EITI committee. These programmes must be implemented in parallel to the above actions. The World Bank, Chevron and international NGOs have expressed interest in providing financial and technical support for this training.

**Urge** stakeholders in Nigeria to ensure that:

- The Nigerian government proactively implements the provisions of the Abuja Declaration and ensures that they are respected;
- The Nigerian EITI (NEITI) supports the establishment of EITI oversight in the Joint Development Zone in close collaboration with the STP EITI committee;
- Nigerian civil society and the Nigerian Parliament monitor existing transparency efforts and support any necessary investigations, both nationally and internationally.

**Urge** stakeholders in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique to ensure that:

- Lusophone governments sign up to, and effectively implement, the EITI;
- Civil society in Lusophone countries effectively and proactively support their respective governments and each other to promote the EITI and other independent monitoring efforts;
- Lusophone civil society implements the mutual support strategies agreed in this workshop;
- A permanent Lusophone civil society coordination mechanism is established to monitor implementation of the mutual support strategies.

**Urge** international partners to:

- Provide technical and financial support to civil society efforts to promote transparency across lusophone Africa;

- Monitor the operations of the JDZ and ensure that the interests of both STP and Nigeria are fully respected.

Finally, we wish to thank his Excellency, the President of the Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Fradique Bandeira Melo de Menezes, for his leadership in both hosting and participating in this conference, and we also thank the organisers for providing this vital platform for dialogue on transparency in the extractive industries.