

[EITI Cameroon - Committee, 11 March 2025]

Extractive Industries College

Excelencies,

Minister of Finances, President of EITI Committee

Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development, Vice-President of EITI Committee

Ministers Members of Government;

Honorable Senators and Members of Parliament,

Dear Representatives of Diplomatic Missions, Private Companies General Managers, Public entities

Directors, Council Mayors, Representatives of Civil Society and Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this ceremony !

Members of the Extractive Industries of the EITI Cameroon Committee, is through my humble person today conveying to the public their observations and suggestions to enhance the EITI process in the Sector at this presentation of the EITI Cameroon 2022 Annual Report.

Before we proceed, it is our wish to highlight here, that, our implication in this very important initiative is to ensure conformity with the international expectations of the Extractive Industries as stated in the standard I quote ***“The EITI Standard is designed to promote good governance by enhancing transparency, strengthening accountability and facilitating public debate about the management of natural resources. Since it was first launched ten years ago, the EITI Standard has established a common set of rules that govern what governments and companies should disclose and when.”****

That said, during the year 2022, the Extractive Industries contributed enormously in the enhancement and enforcement of the above standard alongside the Government who is committed to fulfill all the requirements outlined the previous years to meet up with the validation process. Our commitment in 2022 was to complement the State of Cameroon in fulfilling 15 requirements that was recommended by the International Secretariat after the 2019 suspension. Today, we are up to 20 requirements after the 2023 evaluation and all the formulated requirements must be taken into account. To achieve this objective, the Extractives Industries has participated fully in all the EITI Cameroon Committee sessions and made pertinent contributions for the well-being of the institution both in terms of Governance as well as Transparency in its functioning.

Concerning the working sessions to produce the required results to meet up with the recommendations that were given for the progresss of EITI Cameroon, the contributions of the Extractive Industries presented in the 2022

Report, produced in conformity with the 2023 standard, is a testament of our continuous support to enhance Governance, Transparency and accountability within the Sector and to revitalize the Socio-Economic growth of Cameroon. Conscious of this pivotal role, members of the Extractive Industry Sector are calling on the Government to be keen to ensure that their voices and proposals in Committee Sessions are given the attention it deserves as they continue to strive for the smooth functioning of the Committee.

Our commitment to continuously contribute to Government's objectives in promoting transparency in the Extractive Sector is extended to the Committee sessions that we attend under EITI Cameroon. Our active engagement in discussions during the different sessions have come up with the following observations and suggestions:

The Government of Cameroon should,

1. take its responsibility to appoint a Permanent Secretary of the Committee, who is ready to work with all the stakeholders in place for a healthy, constructive and convivial working environment in respect to the Decree signed on January 31st, 2024,
2. complete the long awaiting process of contractualisation of all the personels of the Committee, and recruit new staff to close the Committee's deficiencies,
3. make progress in fulfilling all the other requirements that was fomulated during the pre-validation period and most recently the 2023 validation process in compliance with the 2023 EITI requirements and standard,
4. take ample measures for the production of Cameroon's Annual Reports within the year not waiting for deadlines. This is a recommendation we hold close to our heart as our sector is compelled to abide to the EITI Standards,
5. take responsibility in producing its own yearly Report as is the case with other Countries like Senegal, this to avoid the inconveniences recently observed with the Independent Conciliation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to remind the audience here present that, the Extractive Industries' participation for the year 2022 was concentrated in preparing Cameroon for Validation in conformity with the EITI standard. We regret and is sad to observe that our engagements and interactions in the Committee has been in vain. Cameroon obtained another suspension which does not reflect our commitment.

This ultimate and critical decision has been the reason for our sleepless nights to produce the 2022 Report under the 2023 standard, which we are presenting today to enable the Cameroon fulfill the EITI recommendations and requirements that were outlined. We are committed to assisting the Government achieve this objective but the Government should be critical in addressing the real causes of this second failure. The contributions of the Extractive Industries, to achieve the publication of the Cameroon 2022 EITI Report today, is expressive of our cooperation and commitment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the 2022 Cameroon EITI Report, the Extractive Industries Sector's contribution to National Economy is very significant. A total transfer of 1,422.8Billion FCFA was made to the State of Cameroon with the Hydrocarbons Sector leading at 96.02%, followed by the Petroleum Transportation Sector at 3.41% and contributions from Mining and Quarry at 0.57%. The figures are not exhaustive but looking behind previous years, these payments have witnessed a substantial increase which needs to be commended. These payments have greatly impacted the State's budget revenues, GDP and exports. However, its contribution to employment and investment has declined, reflecting the sector's weak capacity to generate jobs and attract new financing. The Government should take measures to ensure that this phenomenon is reversed. New companies should be attracted to this Section to create employment for Cameroonians in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Extractive Sector alongside the Civil Society, will continue to uphold the reason for the creation of this Committee. We will ensure that Governance, Transparency and Accountability in the Extractive Industries Sector is a reality. We would encourage patriotism and solidarity amongst members of the Committee as they work in collaboration with one another to sail Cameroon through this initiative. We encourage the Government to be open to receive contributions and proposals from the members of the Committee for the betterment of EITI Cameroon. The Government should exercise patience and lend a listening ear to the worries of members in providing solutions for the enhancement of the EITI Standard in Cameroon and the Extractive Industries Sector in particular.

C'est notre souhait de voir le Cameroun rythmé avec la norme ITIE.

Thank you for your presence and interest in upholding good Governance, Transparency and accountability in the Extractive Industries Sector.

Thank You for your Kind Attention !

March 11th 2025

For the Extractives Industries

Mrs. Jessica LENGHA ABEGA

(Deputy General Manager, ADDAX PETROLEUM CAMEROON)