

H. E. Teodoro Obiang
President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea

29 April 2010

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

Your Excellency,

As you know, the EITI Board met on 15-16 April to decide whether to grant your request of an extension to the EITI Validation deadline for Equatorial Guinea. The Board decided not to extend the deadline of 9 March 2010. Equatorial Guinea is therefore no longer considered an EITI implementing country.

In its deliberations, the Board applied the EITI rules, which permit an extension of the deadline for completing the Validation process only in exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances (where constraints in meeting the deadline arise that are beyond the control of the EITI Candidate country). The Board's decisions were based on an assessment of each country's circumstances. In assessing the circumstances of Equatorial Guinea and coming to its decision to grant an extension, the Board scrutinized Equatorial Guinea's extension request, dated 8 March 2010 and considered additional relevant information provided by the EITI International Secretariat. The Board did not consider that the circumstances in Equatorial Guinea had amounted to "exceptional and unforeseeable" beyond the control of the EITI Candidate country as required by the rules of the EITI.

I realise that this is a disappointment to you and your country, and the Board was keen to emphasize that it would welcome a reapplication by Equatorial Guinea with a renewed commitment and a clear outline of how the country will address the constraints that hampered the process first time. The requirements for re-entry are set out in our rules and can be discussed with our International Secretariat. Supporters of the EITI stand ready to provide assistance should Equatorial Guinea renew its efforts towards extractive industry transparency

Please note that in furtherance of its objective to be transparent about its decisions, I will make this letter publically available. I respectfully request that this letter be shared with the EITI multi-stakeholder group as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Peter Eigen
Chairman

Cc: H.E. Ignacio Milam Tang, Prime Minister
H.E. Melchor Esono Edjo, Minister of Finance and Budget
Ms Francisca Tatchouop Belobe, Vice Minister, EITI National Coordinator