



Opinion of the three Civil Society members representing the MSG on the draft report on Validation of Azerbaijan¹

1. It would be helpful to establish a link between recommendations and progress table for future monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations.
2. It is suggested to group the recommendations as “required” and “encouraged” for its systematic presentation”.
3. It is suggested to submit the „Civil Society Engagement in EITI” not as an Annex to the report but as an integral part of it.
4. The working group is established to prepare the rules on political and operational independence of the civil society, as well as governance of the Coalition and initial version of the rules was presented to the Coalition Council for the discussion.
5. It is requested from the Validator to provide a special opinion on the reason of not joining of AIMROC (which signed the PSA with the government for the exploration of the Chovdar gold field) to the EITI process and to keep the issue in focus.

¹ *This opinion prepared by MSG members, Mr. Azer Mextiyev (primary member), Sabit Bagirov (primary member) and Gubad Ibadoghlu (alternative member), was discussed and agreed 160th session of the Council of NGO Coalition “ For improving transparency in extractive industries” on 20 September 2016.*

6. It is highly appreciated if the Validator gives special opinion on ensuring the public availability of the MSG meetings minutes, instead of publishing just summaries,
7. It is highly appreciated if the Validator gives special opinion on ensuring of disclosing and publishing of all PSAs on appropriate websites and making it publicly available.
8. It is highly appreciated if the Validator gives more specific recommendations on capacities for the structure improvement of the 2016 Work Plan's structure and adaptation of the Work Plan's objectives to the national priorities.
9. Taking into consideration the comprehensive assessment of the Civil Society situation in the draft report, the Civil Society representatives at the MSG suggest that the Validator gives specific opinion on the level of execution of the corrective actions plan.