

14 October 2019

To: Ms Helen Clark

Chair of the EITI International Board

Copy to: Executive Director of the EITI International Secretariat

Dear Ms Helen Clark,

Allow me to express sincere gratitude to you personally and to the leadership of the EITI International Board for your constant support in implementing the initiative in Tajikistan.

We have reviewed the draft evaluation by the EITI International Secretariat of the Tajikistan National EITI Report for the period 2016-2017 (dated September 6, 2019). The preliminary assessment of the International Secretariat is that Tajikistan has carried out 15 of the 17 corrective measures and made “meaningful progress” in meeting the relevant requirements.

As civil society organizations, we pay special attention to evaluation of the activities of CSOs in our country as part of the EITI. In the draft evaluation, the International Secretariat has assessed our work in all spheres as satisfactory, despite the problems that exist. This is indeed the case, and we present below some additional achievements of civil society in Tajikistan during the period from September 2018 to September 2019.

Examples:

- Public councils consisting of representatives of civil society, attached to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its sub-divisions, have been established in regions and districts of Tajikistan as part of the strategy for reform of the country’s police force. The councils work with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to help reduce crime levels through closer cooperation between the general public and the police and raising people’s awareness of existing legislation in various spheres (domestic violence, recruiting of young people to extremist and terrorist movements, etc.).

Link: <https://mvd.tj/index.php/ru/polozhenie-obshchestvo>, <https://mvd.tj/index.php/ru/telefon-doveriyam>

- CSOs are now actively involved in fostering closer cooperation between the police and the general public through the conduct of various joint events with Ministry of Internal Affairs bodies (as can be seen on the Community Policing page in Facebook).

Link:

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=%D2%B3%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%BA%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B8%20%D0%BC%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%82%D1%81%D0%B8%D1%8F%20%D0%B1%D0%BE%20%D2%B7%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%B0%20%2F%20community%20policing%20%2F...&epa=SEARCH_BOX

- Government agencies are reacting more to posts in social networks. This applies to problems connected with instances of violence in public places, in the family and in schools, traffic violations, corrupt practices of government officials, etc. So, government agencies are listening to our opinion and taking steps to address negative situations in Tajikistan. For example, there is now a Facebook page “NeMolchi.TJ” (“Don’t Stay Silent.TJ”), which discusses issues of violence against women and girls, and violence in public places, and police officers are called upon to provide information on such incidents and to take action. Relevant actions are reported on the website of the Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the city of Dushanbe (<http://dushanbepolice.tj>)

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/nemolchi.taj/posts/1029646427232085>.

- A Coalition of CSOs of Tajikistan to Combat Corruption has been set up, which, in parallel with the Government, has prepared several alternative civil society reports as part of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which have been submitted to the OECD.

Link: www.oecd.org/corruption/acn.

- Civil society organizations carried out a study entitled “Access to Information”, as a result of which regulatory legal acts have been designed for improving the process of access to information and making it more transparent. These acts have been sent to state bodies for approval, and a discussion has taken place with the participation of relevant state bodies.

CSOs have also carried out a number of studies and analytical works aimed at achieving transparency and accountability in government bodies, and have established close ties with government agencies. Support for our position at the international level, and particularly by the EITI, will strengthen the role of civil society in Tajikistan.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the members of the “Transparency for Development” Coalition of Tajik CSOs

Coordinator, Sh. Abdunabizoda

