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EITI applauds the commitment and resilience of implementing countries (Reproduced from EITI.org)



Figure 1 EITI Executive Director Mark Robinson (EITI.org photo)

Over the past year, EITI implementing countries have demonstrated enormous resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges.

This is according to EITI Executive Director Mark Robinson who was speaking in a statement on the launch of the latest EITI Progress Report for the year 2021.

“This report documents many of the emerging practices and innovative solutions for bringing extractives data into the public domain. These stories show that, in many countries, EITI implementation has persevered and thrived despite constraints on funding and mobility,” said Robinson.

He noted that several countries have embraced a new, flexible approach to reporting, publishing timely and relevant data on the impact of the pandemic on the sector. Flexible reports have included information on policies to support the extractive sector through the COVID-19 crisis, for example in the form of tax relief and production incentives, he stated.

Many countries, Robinson noted, have also been able to increase the systematic disclosures of data, with Afghanistan, Argentina and Mexico making notable progress.

“During the past year, we were fortunate to receive substantial funding for our work on beneficial ownership transparency. We hope to build on existing political commitment to take significant steps forward in this important area, working together with our partners in the Opening Extractives programme. The start of 2021 also saw a new requirement in the 2019 EITI Standard come into force on the publication of new or amended contracts between governments and extractive companies. These developments represent game-changers for extractives governance,” he said.

Robinson said that the lessons learned in 2021 will shape the organisation “as we move forward with our strategic priorities for the remainder of 2021 and in 2022.” He said they have identified six strategic shifts to help progress extractive governance, in a world where the energy transition is a prominent and pressing issue, and where the role of open data in addressing corruption risk is critical.

He said that recent developments have further underpinned their understanding of how the EITI can best create impact, “an area which we plan to advance with an independent evaluation of the EITI and increased focus on country measurement frameworks.”

Robinson said, “I would like to thank our Chair, Board, staff and all office holders in implementing countries for their commitment, ingenuity and resilience. On behalf of the International Secretariat, we look forward to working together to realise the EITI’s mission in our implementing countries and beyond.”

Flexible EITI reporting in response to COVID-19 (Reproduced from EITI.org)



Figure 2 Board Chair of EITI Helen Clark (EITI.org photo)

Recognising the ongoing challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the EITI Board has agreed the extension of measures to provide flexibility in EITI implementation and reporting. These measures allow implementing countries to retain the momentum of the EITI process while adapting to local circumstances and urgent information needs.

Communication and dissemination activities during COVID-19

The EITI Board recognizes that EITI communication and dissemination activities must take into account COVID-19 restrictions.

The Board encourages MSGs to prioritise online events and capacity-building efforts where possible, and in-person events that can be undertaken safely.

Validation of Requirement 7.1 relating to public debate will take into account the constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and reasonable measures agreed by the MSG.

“These measures aim to ensure that EITI implementation is safely contributing to global and national efforts to respond to the pandemic, while continuing to uphold the EITI’s commitment to transparency, accountability and multi-stakeholder dialogue.”

Figure 3 EITI Board Chair Helen Clark (EITI.org photo)

EITI Board Chair Helen Clark says the COVID-19 pandemic is having significant effects on the extractive industries and EITI implementation. “Core aspects of the EITI process, such as convening stakeholders and disseminating information, may be challenging under current circumstances. Alternative approaches may be required as countries undertake virtual ways of working Clark states on the EITI website.

She notes that opportunities for innovation may arise during this period, that can be sustained in future. “For example, the flexible measures can allow greater reliance to be placed on timelier data published by governments and companies, which can inform debate during this challenging time,” she states.

See you next edition!

Please note - printed copies of the Plain Language Summary of the FY 2018 Guyana EITI Report are now available. Please feel free to visit our 55 Main Street, Georgetown office and we will gladly give you a copy.

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