

Mr Alfredo Pires
Secretary of State for Natural Resources
Timor-Leste

18 February 2010

EITI ARRANGEMENTS FOR VALIDATION DEADLINE EXTENSIONS

Dear Mr Pires,

I am delighted that Manuel de Lemos was able to observe the EITI meeting in Oslo last week. I am sure that he has briefed you but I am writing to formally inform you of the EITI Board's agreed position regarding extending the validation deadline.

As you are aware, Timor Leste has a deadline of 9 March 2010 for completing EITI Validation. In Oslo, the Board welcomed the progress that countries have made with Validation. The Board noted that the validation process has taken longer than anticipated. It also noted that several countries had requested an extension.

Having considered the matter in some detail, the Board reaffirmed its intention to apply the process as set out in EITI Policy Note 3, agreed in May 2008. Accordingly, Validation will be considered complete when the final report has been agreed and endorsed by the multi-stakeholder group, the government and the EITI Board. The report should be published, and the payment of the Validator completed. **Countries that have not completed the Validation process by 9 March 2010 are advised to apply for an extension or risk being delisted from the EITI.**

I note that Timor Leste has lodged a draft validation report with the EITI Validation Committee and awaits the committee's comments. These should be available in early March. It may prove challenging to finalise the Validation process in such a short period of time. In previous cases, the process of agreeing a final validation report (including EITI Board approval) has taken several months. An extension would provide additional time to secure stakeholder support for the final report, including recommendations that will guide EITI implementation in the future.

The extension request should outline any challenges experienced in implementing the EITI and in completing validation by the agreed deadline. Extensions should be sent to the Board (via the International Secretariat) in advance of the deadline (i.e. before 9 March 2010). The extension should also have the backing of the multi-stakeholder group. If you intend to lodge an application for extension, I urge you to contact the International Secretariat as soon as possible to seek additional advice and support.

The Board has decided to consider all requests for extension together after the 9 March deadline. The decision on extensions will most likely be taken at the next Board meeting in Berlin on 15-16 April. Whether or not you are seeking an extension, I strongly urge you to continue your work toward completing validation with all due haste.

The Secretariat and the international community remain at your service to help continue the progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Eigen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Peter Eigen
Chairman

cc. Mr Manuel de Lemos
Timor Leste EITI National Coordinator