

REPORT

From the CSOs-EITICAM consultation workshop

THEME

FOR A SATISFACTORY 2023 EITI VALIDATION OF CAMEROON: CSOs COMMIT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND BEYOND

05 May in Yaoundé



June 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Cameroon's 2nd EITI Validation was crowned by an assessment of "significant progress" with 15 corrective measures to move towards satisfaction. The participation of civil society, in a consensual manner with other stakeholders such as the colleges of administrations and companies, is a fundamental element in achieving this objective. Thus, the CSOs of the Committee and outside the Committee held a consultation session under the theme "for a satisfactory 2023 EITI Validation of Cameroon: CSOs commit to national priorities and beyond".

The session was organised by CRADEC, as part of the implementation of the project "*Strengthening Tax Justice in Cameroon*", supported by Tax Justice Network-Africa and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (TJNA/NORAD).

2. MAIN OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the workshop was to advocate for the inclusion of national priorities and beyond in the 2022-2023 work plan for a more effective and satisfactory 3rd validation of Cameroon in 2023.

3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives were to:

- Consolidate CSOs' contributions into the work plan proposed by the EITI Permanent Secretariat;
- Identify the capacity building needs of CSOs to take advantage of and address the requirements of the Standard;
- Examine and validate a proposal for a mechanism and tools for collecting data to monitor the performance of the implementation of EITI work and action plans in Cameroon.

4. RESULTS

Results: (i) work and action plans are consolidated; (ii) a CSOs capacity building plan is developed and (iii) tools for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the work and action plans are validated.

II. POINTS OF CONSULTATION

This workshop was organised by CRADEC, under the patronage of the EITI Permanent Secretary, with the financial support of the Norwegian Agency for International Development Cooperation and the technical support of Tax Justice Network-Africa.

This workshop was attended by some thirty citizens from a wide range of backgrounds and professional affiliations, including:

- The EITI permanent secretariat;
- State institutions, namely: MINFI, MINJUSTICE, MINMIDT;
- CSOs: CRADEC, DMJ, FNC, PNG, FEMME RURAL, CVC, Scoop Artisans Miniers RECTRAD, SEP, CEPEDIC, CEO AGNR, AGGR, FODER DMJ, GAD, CAFAGB, RELUFA, SNJP, AFEMIC;
- The Ngoura City Council;
- The media, such as Integration.

The work was carried out in three stages:

- The opening ceremony ;
- The technical phase;
- The closing ceremony.

1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

(1) Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance, President of the EITI-Cameroon Committee, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the EITI, **Agnès Solange ONDIGUI ONANA**, assisted by Mr. **Jean MBALLA MBALLA**, Executive Director of CRADEC, the opening ceremony was marked by (i) The playing of the national anthem; The opening speeches:

- Welcoming address by the Director of CRADEC.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. MBALLA MBALLA Jean, Executive Director of CRADEC, after having greeted the assembly, stressed that this day, which is meant to be a day of consultation, should also and above all be a day of production work for a satisfactory validation of the EITI in Cameroon. He ended with the wish to have the documentation of the proposals formulated by the CSOs, the local residents, the honourable ones who daily work on the issues of governance in the extractive sector

- Message from the EITI Permanent Secretary.

Agnès Solange ONDIGUI ONANA, Permanent Secretary of the EITI, after expressing her pleasure at presiding over the opening ceremony, went on to welcome the presence of EITI members, CSO representatives to the EITI and CSOs that do not sit on the EITI committee. She particularly congratulated and appreciated the participation of CSOs that are not members of the EITI committee in the CSO-EITIAM consultation. She pointed out that the aim of the meeting is to promote transparency in the extractive industries. She also specified that "the success of the EITI depends on the involvement of all stakeholders, the consideration of gender, social and environmental aspects, etc... She expressed the wish to see CSOs have a better consideration of gender, to have a representation of the latter in the EITI bodies.

- (2) The family photo



Family photo of the CSO-ITIECAM consultation workshop on the theme "For a satisfactory 2023 EITI Validation of Cameroon": CSOs commit to national priorities and beyond".

2. TECHNICAL PHASE OF THE WORK

The work was done in plenary panel sessions and in group work followed by exchanges and discussions.

The plenary panel sessions revolved around:

- **EITI requirements:** It became clear here that the EITI rules are not standard. Each country adopts them according to its context. Each country internalises the Standard. It was mentioned that the 2020-2021 work plan has not yet been adopted.
- **The brief definition of the EITI Work Plan and the notion of Validation. The EITI Work Plan** is a framework document for all countries to determine the EITI Standard. This comes after 3 years of implementation. Validation, on the other hand, is, according to the presenters, a system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the EITI process in member countries.

The crossroads exercise consisted of setting up four groups to work on the four axes of the EITI action plan on the one hand and on the proposed organisation of the Committee on the other.

On the four (4) axes of the work plan, the groups aimed to:

Consolidate CSOs' contributions to the work and action plans. The terms of reference of the groups are formulated as follows:

"Based on the presentation and understanding of the 2021 Validation and the 2022-2024 Work Plan; you are asked to:

- 1. Strengthen the strategic focus of your group. This means formulating additional relevant activities or removing those that are inconsistent;*
- 2. Identify capacity constraint points or issues for your understanding and commitment in monitoring the implementation of the Work Plan."*

- Axis 1 : Administration and governance of the Multi-stakeholder Group;
- Axis 2: Transparency and accountability of the extractive sector;
- Axis 3: Implementation of the National Communication Strategy;
- Axis 4: Implementation of the corrective measures of the Validation as well as the recommendations of the Independent Administrator.

Following the exchanges and discussions in plenary on the results of the group work, the participants made the following main recommendations:

AXIS 1: Administration and governance of the Multi-Stakeholder Group

- Assessment of additional HR needs within the EITI Secretariat including an Administrative and Financial Manager and a translator;

- Participation of CSOs in the select committee for monitoring the implementation of the EITI action plan;
- Activities to be withdrawn:
 - **Collection and archiving of supporting documents** due to lack of fairness;
- **Participation of the civil society college in the supervision of the reporting process of the 2020, 2021 and 2022 EITI Reports** due to the fact that civil society cannot be an actor and supervisor of the reporting process.

AXIS 2: Extractive Sector Transparency and Accountability

Here the participants felt that activities 5 (*Capacity building of Committee members, Secretariat staff and focal points on filling in the EITI 2020, 2021 and 2022 reporting forms*) to 26 (*Transmission to the competent Authorities of the Committee's proposals for implementing provisions of the Mining Code in terms of EITI transparency*) are very relevant and should therefore be carried out in a precise manner. However, they considered that activities 1 to 4 are not relevant because they have no direct link with the main objective of axis 1.

AXIS 3: Implementation of the EITI National Communication Strategy

- The principle of decentralisation should be more apparent in the communication strategy;
- Communication with the local level is very weak and should be increased;
- The EITI platform should capitalise on communication so that it has the desired effect of influencing reforms;
- The action plan should involve local elected officials in communication to maximise the effectiveness of decentralisation;
- Train or recruit communication officers;
- Organise mass meetings to ensure proximity communication;
- Design and produce communication materials in local languages according to the target areas and publish the reports of these meetings and public debates;
- Conduct a perception survey and set up a toll-free number.

Axis 4: Implementation of the corrective measures of the Validation and the recommendations of the Independent Administrator

- Integrate capacity building on gender into the action plan;
- Train women for effective participation;
- CSOs should contribute to the validation of the action plan;
- EITI should train local people and media to be key players in public debates and meetings;

- Support civil society in sensitising non-state actors
- Develop well-developed TORs and roadmaps to ensure proper monitoring of requirements;
- Enable all stakeholders to have a good understanding of the issues, categories and requirements of the EITI in order to better engage in the processes of developing and implementing action plans and other strategic guidance
- Consolidate all recommendations and take them into account in the reforms related to:
 - The EITI Work Plan (Update) ;
 - The legal framework and all other links in the value chain.

Regarding capacity building, the participants identified the following points:

Organisation of capacity building sessions for committee members on understanding:

- Reading contracts;
- Licensing processes;
- Transactions related to state-owned enterprises;
- Sale and distribution of revenues from industries;
- Quasi-budgetary expenditure.

Secondly, the participants examined the EITI Committee's organisational proposals for better supervision of the GMP, formulated by the college within the Committee, according to the following terms of reference:

"Based on the presentation and understanding of the implementation strategy of the 2022-2024 Work Plan proposed by the CSO-EITI members, you are asked to assess the relevance and coherence between the proposed Commissions and the Work Plan. If possible, formulate proposals for commissions that are consistent with the Work Plan"

The following proposals were therefore adopted:

- 1) A proposal for working commissions within the Committee, namely: (i) the Committee's Governance Activities Commission; (ii) the EITI Reporting Commission; (iii) the Communication Commission; and (iv) the Monitoring and Evaluation Commission for EITI implementation in Cameroon;
- 2) The development of the ToR and roadmap for each of the Commissions;
- 3) The adoption of measures to remove the issue of incompatibility (judge and party) in the validation of the work of each commission. For example - that the members of each commission are not eligible to participate in the validation sessions of the results of their commission's work;
- 4) The establishment and implementation of a strategy for mobilising financial resources outside the MINFI budget or the State budget;

The systematic budgeting of the activities of the Work Plan and Action Plan with a precise deadline and accountability;

5 The institutionalisation and establishment of consultation of the Committee's stakeholder colleges before the development of the Work Plan and Action Plan and other major activities of the Committee.

- 6) **The Gender, Inclusion and Stakeholder Capacity Building Committee.** These topics also formed major discussions by all stakeholders. Capacity building on gender in the action plan, training of women on EITI issues, statistics of women responding to Validator questions, status of publication of beneficial ownership contracts, were major topics proposed to the EITI committee.
- 7) **Civil society funding** contributed to the discussions. It was mentioned that governance within CSOs needs to be improved in order to promote increased funding from international donors or autonomously.

3. CLOSING OF THE CSOs-EITICAM CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

The closing of the CSOs-EITICAM consultation workshop was marked by the announcement in the next few days of the national workshop for the launch of the effective ownership roadmap. It also included speeches by:

- President of the Management Committee of the Cooperative Society of Artisanal Miners in Bateng by Bétaré Oya (Mr. **Salihou**). He thanked CRADEC for the sacrifices and efforts made in organising and holding the CSOs-EITICAM consultation workshop with the contribution of local residents;
- **The Honorable TASSI spouse AYISSI**, who thanked the organizers and all the participants of the workshop and was pleased with all the lessons she had learnt. She made it clear that the network of parliamentarians for good governance of extractive resources in Cameroon, which she represents, will not fail and urged the CSOs to strengthen their actions in the framework of the implementation of the EITI actions before closing the session.