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Communique of the PWYP Global Council

11 October 2017, For immediate release

We, the members of the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Global Council, met in Brussels, Belgium on 10 to 11 October 2017 to discuss matters pertaining to the strategic priorities of our global coalition.

The meeting discussed issues related to the challenges and opportunities of advancing the good governance of natural resources across the world. We have made good progress towards advancing a new draft strategic plan and articulating an updated theory of change for the period 2020-2025. We are considering members' needs and priorities, based on feedback received via an online survey completed by 171 members from 49 countries, as well as in person consultations in Africa and Eurasia. PWYP members will continue to be consulted throughout the coming year in order to ensure that the final strategy draws on PWYP's unique added value to foster accountability from governments and companies in their exploitation, or not, of natural resources. We will continue the strategy development process, with the close involvement of members, with a view to seeking endorsement of a new global strategy at the PWYP Global Assembly which is anticipated in April 2019.

We remain concerned about the shrinking civic space in many resource-rich countries and how increasingly difficult it can be for citizens to hold their governments to account for the management of the revenues generated by natural resource exploitation. Many PWYP members face harassment and intimidation when they highlight corruption and opaque financial transactions in the extractive sector. We urge all EITI implementing countries to uphold the principles embedded in the EITI Civil Society Protocol. We also call on countries participating in the Open Government Partnership such as Mexico and Azerbaijan, to ensure that civil society is able to freely and openly engage in a co-creation and implementation process on issues related to natural resource governance.

In 2018, PWYP will increase its capacity to support civil society's strategic engagement with the EITI at both global and country levels. For the past several years, the Global Council has sought to improve the independent civil society constituency selection process to the EITI International Board. As part of the current review of the constituency guidelines, the Global Council is considering options, including but not limited to third party facilitation, modifications to the election process, and overhaul of the membership criteria. Any proposed changes will be made after an inclusive review phase building on previous consultations and to ensure that the most qualified candidates serve on the Board. The ambition is to have a process in place by July 2018. We encourage all EITI constituencies to emulate the civil society constituency's commitment to best practice in upholding the values of transparency and accountability in line with the EITI's Articles of Association.

In 2018, PWYP will also continue to support the adoption of mandatory disclosure laws on payments from extractive companies to governments, most notably in Australia, while



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participating in the review of the European Commission's Accounting and Transparency Directives and calling on the US Securities and Exchange Commission to issue a stringent new rule to implement section 1504 of the Dodd Frank Act. We remain committed to working with partners to highlight how the data coming out of mandatory disclosure legislation on companies' payments to governments (as well as EITI data) is being used by citizens to promote better governance of the sector. To this end, PWYP will develop and implement a data strategy for the global coalition.

Our members across the world will continue to engage with national and sub-regional policy and legislative processes related to the good governance of the mining, oil and gas sector. We will also support capacity building on issues related to tax and extractives, gender, contract transparency as well as financial disclosures linked to climate risks.

Mindful of the many competing demands placed on the PWYP Secretariat and considering the lack of expertise among PWYP members on conflict mineral supply chains, the Global Council recommended that PWYP membership in the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) be discussed with those members most interested in the issue, such as in the DRC and Indonesia.

The Global Council welcomed the efforts made by the Governance sub-committee to develop a framework to support national coalitions to uphold the PWYP membership operating principles and made a series of thoughtful recommendations about how to streamline the process in order to ensure maximum take-up. The Global council also committed to monitoring the effectiveness of its own members and integrate lessons learned into the election process for the new Global Council in 2019.

The Council members agreed to the following three collective objectives for 2018:

- 1- Contribute to the successful preparation of the 2019 Global Assembly, including through the finalization of a new draft global PWYP strategy before the end of 2018;
- 2- Practise What We Preach, including through the development and piloting of the draft governance framework;
- 3- Leverage respective individual and organisational strengths to deliver PWYP's mandate and 2018 expected outcomes, which include a more strategic engagement with and use of the EITI; protection and promotion of mandatory disclosure legislation including in US, EU, India, South Africa and Australia; a more deliberate approach to our use of extractives data; and, more effective and accountable revenue collection by government, including through publication of extractives agreements.

Finally, the Global Council recommended that the next PWYP Global Assembly take place in late April 2019 at a location yet to be decided.



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PWYP Global Council*

Maryati Abdullah, Asia Pacific

Aroa de la Fuente, Latin America (GC/Board Liaison)

Ibrahima Sory Diallo, Francophone Africa

Suneeta Kaimal, Global Reach

Dupleix Kuenzop, Africa Steering Committee

Tur-Od Lkhagvajav, Eurasia

Jana Morgan, North America and Europe

Camilo Nhancale, Anglophone Africa

Simon Taylor, Global Reach

*Note that due to visa reasons, MENA representative Sihem Bouazza was unable to attend.