

## **Africa Steering Committee meeting**

**Douala, Cameroon**

**23 - 24 January 2018**

### **Participants**

#### *Africa Steering Committee members*

Sangare Tiemoko, Vice President and representative for Francophone West Africa

Erisa Danladi, representative for Anglophone West Africa

Faith Nwadishi, representative from the EITI International board

Dupleix Kuenzob, representative for Central Africa

Brice Mackosso, representative from the EITI International board

#### *International Secretariat*

Stephanie Rochford, Director of Member Engagement

Demba Seydi, Francophone West Africa Regional Coordinator

#### *Observers*

Evelyne Tsague, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)

#### *Apologies*

Mutuso Dhiwayo, Chair and representative for East and Southern Africa

Moses Kulaba, representative from the EITI International board

Elisa Peter, Executive Director

### **Decisions**

- The ASC will adopt methods of work to improve their efficacy and accountability to the PWYP members in Africa
- The application from the coalition in Gabon was approved and a mission will be undertaken by the sub-regional representative to formally inaugurate the coalition

### **Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>By who</b>	<b>By when</b>
Develop a draft Methods of Work document and circulate to ASC for further input	SR and DS	End February 2018
Adopt the Methods of Work document	ASC	End March 2018

Circulate the final version of the Africa Charter to the ASC	SR and DS	End January 2018
Draft a document to capture lessons learned from the experience of addressing governance challenges with PWYP national coalitions	SR and DS, with further input by the ASC	By next meeting
Circulate a doodle poll to identify dates for the joint ASC and Global Council meeting in autumn 2018	PWYP Secretariat	May 2018

## **Day 1**

### **Welcome and introductions**

The Vice-Chair, TS, acting as the Chair, welcomed participants and opened the meeting, encouraging the new Africa Steering Committee members who were elected in Livingstone in July 2018 to rise to the challenge of their role. The Chair noted that the agenda is very ambitious, requiring diligence over the coming two days in order to complete the objectives. The Chair invited comments on the agenda. No comments were made and the agenda was adopted.

Participants were invited to introduce themselves and their respective constituencies. The International Secretariat thanked DK and the coalition in Cameroon for their willingness to host the meeting and their support in the organisation and planning.

### **Review of actions**

The International Secretariat presented an overview of the actions from the two previous in-person meetings in Conakry (January 2017) and Zambia (July 2017); as well as the actions from two teleconference calls held in August and November 2017. The Secretariat highlighted some of the key points, including:

- the agreement to prioritise re-engagement in Anglophone West Africa. Following feedback on the approach from the ASC, the International Secretariat is supporting the sub-regional representative to prepare to implement the re-engagement approach. The wider ASC will continue to be kept informed as plans are made more concrete.
- funding secured for a pilot project in West Africa on gender and the EITI. It was noted that while the project will focus principally on three Francophone countries (Guinea, Burkina Faso and Senegal) it will also include work in Anglophone countries on gender through a co-funding arrangement with Oxfam.

- A formal application to re-affiliate to PWYP from a civil society coalition in Gabon (to be discussed further during this ASC meeting as per the agenda).
- The ongoing consultation process with all PWYP members to input into the strategic plan for the global coalition for 2020 to 2025. The International Secretariat thanked the ASC for their support in helping to disseminate a survey on this topic to members in 2017, and it was noted that the ASC will continue to have an important leadership role to play in 2018 to ensure that PWYP members on the continent are engaged in the ongoing consultations on the draft strategy.

FN thanked the Secretariat for the improved reporting which helps the ASC to take decisions. She noted that with the departure of the East and Southern Africa (ESA) Regional Coordinator from the International Secretariat there is a gap in coordination of the Anglophone coalitions. The Secretariat acknowledged the gap and clarified that there is an intention to recruit a replacement for the ESA Regional Coordinator in Q2 of 2018; while the support for Anglophone coalitions in West Africa is ongoing, as noted above, through the re-engagement strategy. FN proposed that the Secretariat could consider extending the mandate of the Regional Coordinators to cover all Francophone and all Anglophone countries.

#### **Objectives for the current ASC term (2017 to 2020)**

The ASC were invited to brainstorm in groups on the high level objectives for their three year term, on which they would be able to report back to the wider membership at the next Africa Conference in 2020; as well as identifying specific priorities for 2018 and for 2019. The ASC agreed the following objectives:

- 1. Strategy and advocacy: The ASC will play a leadership role in advancing PWYP's advocacy agenda at the regional and international level**
  - 2018 goal: All PWYP members in Africa are aware of and input into the PWYP global strategy planning process 2020-2025, including on questions relating to gender and the extractive sector
  - 2019 goal: PWYP ASC members actively advocate for regional mining, oil and gas code revisions to be in line with the Africa Mining Vision (AMV)
- 2. Membership consolidation and outreach: the ASC will ensure consolidation among PWYP coalitions in West Africa and in other sub-regions**
  - 2018 goal: The ASC will lead a re-engagement strategy with PWYP coalitions in Anglophone West Africa and in other sub-regions
  - 2019 goal: The ASC will continue the re-engagement in Anglophone West Africa and will support potential new coalitions to join the movement across the continent
- 3. Governance: The ASC will support PWYP coalitions in Africa to uphold the PWYP Operating Principles**
  - 2018 goal: The ASC will engage actively on preparations for the 2019 Global Assembly, including supporting the dissemination of PWYP's Operating Principles among PWYP coalitions in Africa

- 2019 goal: The ASC will provide in-person support to PWYP coalitions to support their institutional development, in particular at AGMs.

The ASC discussed opportunities and strategic approaches to influencing the uptake of the AMV at the national level. It was noted that there is currently not a large movement calling for AMV domestication among the wider PWYP membership, although there is work being done at the national level for example in the revision of national mining, oil and gas codes.. The ASC reflected on their unique value they could add to the goal of advancing AMV domestication. ED proposed an approach focused at the regional level, via ECOWAS etc, rather than at the national level. The issue of gender was also proposed as a strategic priority for the mandate of the current ASC.

### **Methods of work**

The ASC welcomed the proposal to develop specific methods of work. TS noted that it is important that information is shared with members by the ASC representatives themselves, both before and after meetings to get input and provide feedback. A number of suggestions were made on how the methods of work could be developed for the ASC and a draft version will be circulated to the ASC for adoption, including clarity on who is the main contact point at the International Secretariat to support the ASC in their work. It was noted that one of the main challenges of the former ASC was communication and this should be reflected in the ASC's methods of work. DK proposed three levels of communication: national, sub-regional and at the level of the committee itself, noting that communication should be targeted for each level to make sure that the most relevant and pertinent information is being shared and that members are not overloaded with communication which would not be strategic.

### **Report back: EITI International Board members (FN and BM) and Africa Steering Committee representative on the Global Council (DK)**

FN noted that there are currently three PWYP Africa members on the International Board (FN, BM and MK) all of whom serve on a sub-committee. FN noted key decisions taken since the adoption of the Standard in 2013, including the suspension of Azerbaijan (which subsequently left the initiative in 2017). FN provided background on the evolution of the EITI, from the rules adopted in 2011, to the Standard adopted in 2013 (when FN joined the board) to the revised Standard adopted in 2016 (including the Civil Society protocol). No country was validated between 2013 and 2016 on the 2013 Standard, and in the meantime many countries were struggling to meet the 2013 Standard. In the context of Africa, FN noted that Niger failed its validation in October 2017, based on the assessment of the safeguarded provision 1.3 relating to civil society participation in the EITI. FN noted the push on beneficial ownership which is of relevance to PWYP members in Africa, as well as a potential new avenue to explore transparency in relation to commodity trading. Finally, a campaign initiated by civil society in Latin America to include environmental and social disclosures in EITI is also of relevance to PWYP members in Africa who can add their voice.

BM noted a change in the process of validation, where the EITI Secretariat undertakes the initial information collection rather than the independent validator (as was previously the case). The system has proven to be challenging and requires further reflection on the part of the civil society board members. Both FN and BM raised the issue of mainstreaming. This is a relatively new aspect of the EITI and there are still many unanswered questions about the role of civil society in that process. BM encouraged the ASC to reflect on the potential to use beneficial ownership information, and indeed the disclosure of other data including revenues and contracts, and how it relates to poverty reduction in the long term.

It was also noted that the EITI is currently reviewing the constituency guidelines which determine the nomination and election process of board members for each constituency. In the case of civil society, an independent third party will facilitate an in-depth review of the current constituency guidelines and propose a way forward ahead of the next EITI Board nominations round for the 2019-2021 Board term. It is expected that the involvement of a third party with relevant experience and expertise will contribute towards further strengthening the civil society constituency guidelines and governance processes.

DK noted that he had participated in his first Global Council (GC) meeting in October 2017 as the ASC representative. Of particular note for PWYP in Africa is the ongoing development of the global PWYP strategy from 2020-2025. The GC meeting included an extensive reflection on PWYP's theory of change, including reflection on the priorities and challenges of each region. DK noted that the issues faced in Africa are similar to those faced across the global network, including how to ensure that the EITI is effective in leading to change. The Global Council provided feedback on the Secretariat's plans for 2018, and also engaged in a strategic reflection on how to use the platform of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) effectively to advance our agenda. DK noted that there are a number of sub-committees composed of members of both the GC and the board (on Governance, Civic Space and Strategic Development). DK noted the discussion relating to the PWYP Global Assembly which will take place in 2019. Finally, DK noted the collective goals for the Global Council in 2018, being: to contribute to successful preparations for the Global Assembly 2019; Practising What We Preach and supporting the good governance of national coalitions; assuring a wide consultation with PWYP members on the development of the strategic plan for 2020-2025.

### **Feedback from Regional Coordinators**

Given that there is no Regional Coordinator in Anglophone West Africa, ED presented an overview of the situation with the coalitions in Anglophone West Africa, and the plans being developed to re-engage with Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana. In addition, ED noted that there is interest from civil society in Gambia to become involved in PWYP activities. ED also noted that the Ford Foundation is supporting PWYP in Nigeria via a project on EITI implementation which will conclude at the end of this quarter (by March 2018). Finally, ED highlighted the importance of gender and encouraged further reflection on that at the sub-regional and regional level; as well as how to maximise PWYP's input into regional mining code revisions in ECOWAS. ED noted that she had been invited in her capacity as a Steering Committee member

of PWYP Nigeria to participate in the first day of the PWYP Data Extractor's workshop that was being held in Lagos in October 2017.

DS presented the report prepared by the former ESA Regional Coordinator and well as his own report on Francophone West Africa. Given that the ASC representative for the ESA sub-region was not present, and in addition that the ESA Regional Coordinator has recently resigned, the ASC noted the issues requiring their input but decided to delay more detailed discussion until the next teleconference when the ESA representative would be present.

FN noted her supported for the consultative approach to regional engagement in Anglophone West Africa. In Francophone West Africa, FN also noted the need to ensure that representatives (whether EITI board members, Global Council members or ASC members) are informed about and invited to relevant meetings, to support better accountability of those representatives. FN took the opportunity to note the excellent work that Carol Kiangura undertook in her time as ESA Regional Coordinator.

It was noted that it will be important for the ASC to support coalitions in the coming months to engage with their national EITI Secretariat on the planning for the EITI International Conference, and to ensure that there is strong civil society representation among the national delegations. It was also suggested that the EITI International civil society board members could engage more proactively with other leaders in the PWYP movement (notably the three Africa representatives on the Global Council) to support them in sharing information after EITI board meetings.

#### **PWYP Secretariat programme of work 2018 and strategic planning process 2020-2025**

FN welcomed the programme of work and commended the Secretariat for the work it has done to put it together. Clarifications were asked about why certain countries are pursuing mandatory disclosure campaigns, how gender is reflected in the programme of work beyond the EITI. In relation to the strategic planning process, the ASC discussed the potential relevance of commodity trading transparency for the wider PWYP campaign, and also suggested that budget monitoring could play a more significant role, particularly as we continue to ensure that PWYP's work is of relevance to extractive communities.

#### **Sub-regional strategy development**

DS recalled the process begun in Livingstone, Zambia, to develop sub-regional advocacy strategies. A discussion ensued among the Africa Steering Committee and ET (invited as an observer) about how best to further develop the sub-regional strategies in order that they are both achievable and have impact. Given the limited human and financial resources available, this is an ongoing challenge which the ASC acknowledges requires further reflection, if the sub-regional strategies are going to be able to guide effective and high-impact work.

#### **Day 2**

### **Review of previous day's discussions**

TS presented a summary of the main discussion points and decisions from the previous day. The ASC agreed that the summary was an accurate reflection of the discussions.

### **Review and adoption of the Africa Charter**

The ASC discussed the revisions and suggestions proposed to the Charter during the Africa Conference. The ASC discussed the issue of sub-regions and agreed that for now the coalitions in Africa would reflect the political division of sub-regions since this supports effective sub-regional advocacy approaches. They also made some minor revisions to the language to ensure clarity of meaning between the French and English versions. The final version of the Charter was adopted and will be reviewed again in 2020.

### **Governance Manual review: development of a framework for the PWYP Operating Principles**

SR presented an overview of the work of the Governance sub-committee which is comprised of six members of the board and Global Council, including the ASC representative on the Global Council, DK. The sub-committee is reviewing the PWYP Governance Manual, including the election process for the Global Council members; and the development of a framework to monitor the application of the PWYP Operating Principles by national coalitions. The ASC offered their feedback on the approach to the framework, including the indicators and the proactive and reactive measures. The feedback included a number of practical and helpful suggestions, including developing templates for

### **Strategic partnerships**

ET was invited to present the work and strategic priorities of NRG1 on the continent. ET provided the ASC with a comprehensive overview of NRG1's work in Africa, including at national level (in Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, DRC and Guinea) and also at regional level via their capacity building programmes. ET emphasised the importance for civil society to build strategic relations with key stakeholders in the natural resource governance space, including journalists, academics, parliamentarians and students. This is particularly important to ensure that when good legislation or policy is approved, that it is actually effectively implemented as well. ET reiterated NRG1's commitment and willingness to work as a financial and technical partner with PWYP coalitions in their priority countries, while noting that it is increasingly important for their partners to be able to demonstrate excellent operational and organisational capacity to manage projects, as well as technical expertise. The ASC welcomed the opportunity to engage with a key, long-standing partner of the PWYP campaign and had a frank and productive discussion about how to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities together.

### **Membership engagement**

The ASC discussed the pending application to affiliate to PWYP from the coalition in Gabon. It was noted that there has been a challenging experience in Gabon in the past three years. Nevertheless, it was noted that the challenges in the past should not prevent the current ASC from taking a decision in relation to the application. The ASC reviewed the application, including the list of members, and noted that all

member organisations listed are credible and are known to the ASC members from the region. The ASC moved to approve the application and recommended that DK undertake a mission to the country for a formal inauguration. The ASC noted that the new coalition would also be asked to submit some further documentation, including an MOU signed by all members as well as evidence of recent financial and narrative reports for their activities.

In relation to Mauritania, it was agreed that further information is required to understand the challenges that the coalition is facing before the ASC can propose any actions.

### **PWYP Global Assembly 2019**

DS presented a proposal for the location and dates of the next PWYP Global Assembly, due to take place in 2019. DS outlined the criteria against which the proposal had been developed, including accessibility (visas), the cost and distance of travel routes, opportunities for fundraising and the strategic significance of the region in relation to extractive sector governance. The ASC discussed the proposal at length and agreed to recommend the proposal to the Global Council. In addition they recommended that the Global Council share the criteria for selection in advance of the next Global Assembly and develop a process for selecting the host country which is more inclusive. The ASC also noted that the Global Council should consider reviewing the proposed dates in February due to other events taking place in the region.

### **Close of the meeting**

As is customary, the ASC issued a communique to document their work at the close of their meeting, the substance of which was presented to journalists during a press conference.

Following the press conference, BM provided a closing summary of the discussions and decisions taken during the meeting.