



27 June, 2013

Excellency,

We are writing to ask you to follow through on the landmark commitment the international community and Afghan government made at the Tokyo conference to create a Framework for the Extractive Industries “that governs Afghanistan’s natural wealth through an accountable, efficient and transparent mechanism which builds upon and surpasses international best practices.” We ask you to ensure the upcoming Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) helps realise the full potential of the Framework.

We warmly welcome the creation of a draft for the Framework by the Afghan Ministry of Mines. However, we believe there are three key elements that will be critical in helping produce a robust Framework that will fulfil the Tokyo commitment and be of greatest possible benefit to Afghanistan.

- A clear restatement of the commitment to produce a comprehensive and effective Framework in time for the next inter-ministerial meeting on Afghanistan, due to take place in 2014 or early 2015.
- A commitment to a Framework that is both robust and comprehensive, covering the full range of potential issues across the value chain. We believe these should include:

- *Transparency and Accountability* Including the open publication of all rules and regulations, contracts and related documents, and the beneficial owners of companies – as well as publication of resource-related revenues through EITI.
- *Community Empowerment* Including mechanisms for grievance resolution, for free, prior and informed consultation, for community involvement in oversight, and for local benefit from exploitation projects – from before contracts are signed through the life of a project.
- *Minimizing Negative Social and Environmental Impacts* Including mechanisms for open and independent assessment of environmental, cultural/heritage, human rights, and local economic impacts before the awarding of concessions, and for such issues to be properly taken into account in any decision to exploit.
- *Security* Including ensuring that protection of mine sites and personnel reflect international best practice guidelines, such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights; that military or para-military units are not involved in mining activities; and that there is a mechanism to monitor and respond to violence around mining sites.
- A commitment to creating the Framework through an open and consultative process that makes full use of the expertise and experience of civil society as well as other bodies, by making the draft Framework public and allowing adequate time so that any interested party can input meaningfully into the proposals, and be able to feed in as the process moves forward.

We particularly ask that the international community work with the Afghan government to ensure that the final statement of the Senior Officials Meeting reflects these points, with a clear reiteration of the commitment to a fully comprehensive and robust Framework, created through an open and consultative process in time for the next inter-ministerial meeting. We believe that such a statement will send a clear signal of the determination of the Afghan government and its international partners to act on this crucial issue.

The creation of a robust extractives Framework is an invaluable opportunity to create an important and lasting legacy for the Afghan people, and to ensure natural resources help rather than hinder Afghanistan’s development. We look forward to working with the Afghan government and international community towards that shared goal.

Sincerely,

Afgana	Foundation of Solidarity for	Relief International
Afghan Development	Justice	Revenue Watch
Association	Global Witness	Shuhada Organization
Afghanistan Civil Society	Green Wave	Socio-Economic
Forum	Hajigak Council	Development &
Afghanistan Watch	Heinrich Böll Stiftung	Environmental Protection
All Afghan Women Union	HRRAC	Organization
ARCSO	Human Rights and	SWABAC
AYWCBO	Eradication of Violence	Tearfund
British and Irish Agencies	Organization	The Liaison Office
Afghanistan Group (BAAG)	Integrity Watch Afghanistan	TORAN
Christian Aid	Khorasan	
Civil Society Natural	Logar Civil Society	
Resource Monitoring	Association	
Network	MADERA	
ENNA	MONDO	
Equal Access	Norwegian Afghanistan	
Foundation for Culture and	Committee	
Civil Society	OXFAM	
	People in Peril	