

Oslo, 22 April 2019

H.E. Thamir Ghadhban
Deputy Prime Minister for Energy and Minister of Oil
Republic of Iraq

IRAQ PRE-VALIDATION MISSION, 6-10 APRIL 2019

Your Excellency,

We look forward to welcoming the Iraqi delegation to Paris for the EITI Global Conference on 18-19 June 2019. I am writing to offer our support to Iraq's preparations to use the Conference to showcase Iraq's efforts to improve the transparency of its state-owned enterprises and transition towards systematic disclosures of EITI data.

I was impressed to hear from my colleagues report back from their mission to Baghdad this month of the strong government commitment to the implementation of the EITI in Iraq. It will be good for Iraq in Paris to demonstrate its leadership on moving swiftly towards systematic disclosures of information required by the EITI Standard through routine government and company systems. The publication of unaudited financial statements by state-owned enterprises in the oil and gas sector is a robust signal reflecting this commitment to embedding the transparency required by the EITI in the government's routine operations.

As discussed during the recent mission to Baghdad, Iraq's second Validation under the EITI Standard will commence on 24 April 2019. We will keep you updated the EITI Board's progress in reviewing Iraq's progress and expect a decision on Iraq's second Validation over the course of the summer. You will be pleased to hear that the EITI Board has agreed to grant Iraq's request for adapted implementation related to Iraqi Kurdistan for the 2016-2018 EITI Reports, in recognition of the challenges in coordination with the Kurdistan Regional Government. The full EITI Board decision is available here: <https://eiti.org/BD/2019-30>.

As always, the EITI International Secretariat and I stand ready to support further steps in moving towards better management of extractive sector in Iraq. I look forward to more collaboration with the Government of Iraq.

Sincerely,



Mark Robinson
Executive Director
Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

CC: *Mr Alaa Mohie El-Deen, Iraq EITI National Coordinator*