

Need for a National Authority Transparency and EITI implementation in Peru

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While Peru has a Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information since 2002, our gap in the production and dissemination of public information is not yet comprehensive. As a country, **we are not yet fully aware of how valuable it is to have accurate and updated public information available to citizens in order to increase public confidence in the State and enterprises, and improve decision making processes.**

In this context, it is necessary to highlight the current government's initiative to establish a Working Group that will elaborate until October 21, 2016, the regulations proposal for the creation of a **National Authority of Transparency, Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal information.**

It is also necessary to note that the need to create this Authority has been prioritized at the request of the delegation of legislative powers made by the Executive to Congress. One of its objectives is to ensure, at the institutional level, the right of access to information.

During the last term, two bills were also presented with a similar objective. At the time, the Ombudsman supported these initiatives, noting that "Of the 8,880 complaints received in a period of twelve years by the Ombudsman, 97% claimed infringement of the right of access to public information and 3% in breach of the obligation to publish information on the websites of public entities."

These initiatives stand out even more on September 15th, when we commemorate the "**International Day of Democracy**", whose theme assigned for this year is "**Democracy and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development**", which seeks to achieve sustainable development in countries, through the generation of inclusive societies, promoting access to justice and the construction of efficient authorities that are transparent and accountable.

TRANSPARENCY AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

In order to continue promoting transparency in that line, the Permanent Multisectoral Commission, led by the Ministry of Energy and Mines, presented the "Systematization of the process of the Transparency Initiative for Extractive Industries (EITI) in Peru".

EITI is a strategic alliance that brings together at the global level governments, extractive companies, and civil society, among other stakeholders, to use transparency criteria in payments made by mining, oil and gas companies to governments and the revenues that governments receive from these companies, so that these resources are used to promote development.

The following are the results on the implementation of EITI in Peru:

- Peru was considered "compliant country" under international EITI standard, since February 2012, which is based on the concept that wealth from natural resources such as minerals and hydrocarbons, must benefit the entire population, for which it is

essential to encourage transparency. Peru was the first country in the Americas to obtain this recognition.

- **There is a Permanent Multisectoral Commission composed of representatives of the State, businesses and civil society, who are responsible for developing and implementing action plans to monitor compliance with the EITI commitments.**

- To date, we have developed five National Conciliation Studies (ECN), which have contributed to more transparent tax information from extractive companies exhibiting payments to the State and the distribution of such income to the areas in which natural resources are extracted.

- **EITI Peru has been implemented nationally, and three Regional Transparency Studies have been prepared in Cajamarca, Moquegua and Piura, there are EITI Regional Commissions in the latter two regions.**

In addition to this progress, is the increasing participation of companies and broaden participation at a decentralized level.

The representatives of civil society which are also part of the Permanent Multisectoral Commission claimed that these mechanisms of transparency should also apply to environmental and social issues as well as improve the detail of the information made available.

All these efforts are directly linked to the ongoing negotiation process of the regional instrument that will regulate the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and that will also regulate the content and implementation of access rights in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

You may review the document entitles, "Systematization of EITI process in Peru" at the following link: <http://goo.gl/iNP7ya>