

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the call for submissions into the administration, management and objective of Australia's overseas development programs in Afghanistan in the 'Transition Decade'. Specifically, i would like to draw your attention to the central role that Afghanistan's oil and mining sector could play in stabilizing the country in the future.

Global Witness is a non-governmental organisation which works to address the links between conflict, corruption and natural resources. For the past two years we have been working alongside national and international civil society to improve the governance of the sector - with a view to ensuring that Afghanistan's resources benefit the wider population. Unfortunately, the experience of other resource-rich countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, Iraq, Libya and Sierra Leone cautions that resource exploitation can exacerbate existing conditions of conflict, corruption, environmental degradation, unemployment and poverty.

As such, we believe that Australian aid should emphasise governance and anti-corruption safeguards for the sector as a strategic priority. With this in mind, we would like to bring the following attached papers to your attention.

- 1) A joint CSO statement on the extractives sector for the June 2012 Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan
- 2) The response to the CSO letter from Nerida Dalton of Ausaid
- 3) The joint CSO response to the Tokyo Conference outcome
- 4) A joint letter from UK NGOs to the UK government which raises concerns around whether the aid Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks established at the Tokyo Conference are 'fit for purpose'.
- 4) A Global Witness statement reacting to a recent Presidential anti-corruption decree mandating contract transparency for the extractives sector.

We hope these are useful as background documents to inform your enquiry. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Eleanor Nichol  
Campaigns Leader  
Global Witness