2 March 2016

HE Antonio Isa Conde
Minister of Energy and Mines
Dominican Republic
Santo Domingo

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DESIGNATED AS EITI CANDIDATE COUNTRY

Honourable Minister,

I am pleased to inform you that the EITI Board, at its meeting on 23 February 2016, designated the Dominican Republic an EITI Candidate country. The Board has asked me to congratulate you and your government for your commitment to the process leading up to the candidature application. I encourage you to continue this support, so that the EITI process in the Dominican Republic can reach its full potential as a tool to improve the management of natural resources, and increase trust and accountability.

The decision of the EITI Board reads as follows:

> *The EITI admits the Dominican Republic as an EITI candidate country on 23 February 2016. In accordance with the EITI Standard, the Dominican Republic is required to publish its first EITI Report within 18 months of becoming a candidate (i.e., by 23 August 2017). The Dominican Republic is required to publish an annual progress report for 2016 by 1 July 2017. Validation will commence within two and a half years of becoming a Candidate (i.e. by 23 August 2018).*

The Dominican Republic, with Germany, is the first country to be designated as an EITI Candidate under the 2016 EITI Standard that was approved at the same meeting. We encourage you to make full use of the EITI process, data and findings to strengthen governance and the fight against corruption.

We look forward to working with all stakeholders in supporting EITI implementation in accordance with the agreed work plan. The EITI International Secretariat stands ready to provide the necessary support.

Yours sincerely,

Jonas Moberg
Head of the International Secretary
Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

CC: Antonio Isa Conde, Minister of Energy and Mines and EITI Champion
Ernesto Vilalta, Deputy Minister of Hydrocarbons and EITI Deputy Champion
Vilma Arbaje, National Coordinator
ITIE-RD National Commission