



Statement of support for the civil society coalition “Oil Revenues - Under the Public Oversight” in Kazakhstan

March 2004

The Publish What You Pay (PWYP) international coalition of NGOs warmly welcomes the launch of the “Oil Revenues - Under the Public Oversight” coalition in Kazakhstan. It marks an important step forward in civil society’s efforts to hold the Kazakh government accountable for the management of revenues from the country’s valuable natural resource industries. Transparency is a necessary condition for good governance and corporate accountability, and is essential so that revenues serve as an engine for economic growth and poverty alleviation in Kazakhstan and in all resource-rich but poor countries.

The PWYP coalition, formed in 2002 and comprised of over 200 members worldwide, calls for the mandatory disclosure of the payments made by oil, gas and mining companies to governments for the extraction of natural resources. The NGO coalition also calls for parallel moves to ensure transparency over government revenues, which will allow civil society groups, such as this Kazakh coalition, to monitor how the government uses and distributes this money. In this way, PWYP looks forward to supporting the efforts of the Kazakh coalition and working effectively together in pursuit of our common aspirations.

The Kazakh coalition will play an important role by engaging with relevant stakeholders, including the companies operating in Kazakhstan, international donors and financial institutions, the media, the government and other members of civil society, to pressure for effective legal mechanisms to be implemented that will require the disclosure of company payments and government revenues information. The coalition will also provide an independent voice on how revenues could be spent in line with development goals.

In light of the significant support for transparency in the extractive sectors in various international fora, Publish What You Pay will follow the coalition’s progress in Kazakhstan to incite real change with immense interest. Their efforts will go a long way to ensure that natural resource wealth is managed with the best interests of all Kazakh citizens in mind.

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