STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS MEMBERS OF THE EITI CAMEROON COMMITTEE ON THE GLENCORE AFFAIR

Since the inception of legal proceedings before American and British courts, along with the admissions of corruption obtained from the Swiss conglomerate Glencore in the international sale of crude oil, Cameroonian civil society, dedicated to governance, transparency, and accountability in the extractive sector, has undertaken numerous interventions and declarations. These actions aimed to encourage the Cameroonian government's intervention in shedding light on this extensive corruption scandal and, on one hand, determining responsibilities, and on the other hand, seeking possible compensation from Glencore due to the loss of earnings resulting from questionable transactions involving staff from parastatal companies (SNH and SONARA) in the aforementioned case.

These collective efforts have yielded several notable outcomes and responses, most notably the convening of EITI Committee Sessions, primarily dedicated to dialogues between EITI Committee members and representatives from SNH, SONARA, and Glencore. These sessions also served to take stock of various actions already initiated by SNH and the Government of Cameroon.

At the conclusion of these deliberations, the following key points emerged:

✓ The highest hierarchy of the Cameroon government has created a commission of inquiry.
✓ The National Hydrocarbons Corporation (SNH) has chosen an administrative approach to the case, in place of the judicial option.
✓ SNH referred the matter to Glencore to obtain information regarding the identities of its staff members implicated in the aforementioned transactions.
✓ Glencore did not positively respond to SNH's request, citing the anonymity clause as the basis for refusal.
✓ SNH also claims to have referred the matter to the Prosecutor of the US Court, seeking the removal of the anonymity clause; however, this request has not yet been granted.
✓ Contrary to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), SNH has not gone in for negotiation, this completely ruling out the possibility of compensation and substantial resources for Cameroon.
✓ The National Refinery Corporation (SONARA) is still awaiting for concrete evidence of Glencore’s admissions before proceeding with legal action.
✓ The Glencore representative present at the EITI Committee meeting declined to provide a statement, citing her role as a mere observer.
✓ The EITI Committee clarified that neither SNH nor SONARA are directly accused in this scandal. According to Glencore’s admissions, these two companies are victims of the wrongful actions of their staff and the Swiss giant Glencore.
In light of the aforementioned developments, the undersigned Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) maintain their demands:

✓ The Cameroonian government, in addition to the efforts made by SNH, should take all necessary measures to fully investigate and establish accountability for this affair, which has not only tarnished Cameroon’s image but also resulted in significant revenue losses for the State.
✓ The Government should advocate for the Conclusion of contracts in the extractive industries without confidentiality and anonymity clauses moving forward.
✓ SONARA should emulate SNH by vigorously seeking the truth and identifying those responsible, while actively pursuing compensation rather than passively awaiting evidence.
✓ The Government of Cameroon should follow the example of the DRC government by engaging with Glencore to recover compensation and other damages, recognizing Cameroon’s pressing need for resources to fund its development.

Representatives of the following organizations have signed this statement:

1. Service National Justice et Paix de l’Eglise Catholique (SNJP)

2. Conseil des Eglises Protestantes du Cameroun (CEPCA)

3. Association Culturelle Islamique du Cameroun (ACIC)

4. Transparency International Cameroon (TI-Cameroon)

5. La Coalition Camerounaise Publish What You Pay (PWYP Cameroon)