



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2009

Contact:

Kathy Gest
kgest@ndi.org
202-728-5535

Matteo Pellegrini
mpellegrini@revenuewatch.org
+44 (0) 7500 805 486

Anders Krakenes
akrakenes@eitransparency.org
+47 22242108

**GUIDE FOR LEGISLATORS PROVIDES TOOLS FOR PROMOTING
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY TRANSPARENCY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Democratic Institute (NDI), Revenue Watch Institute (RWI) and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) have released a new publication for legislators on how they can help stem the frequent misuse and mismanagement of revenues from oil, gas and mining.

The *EITI Guide for Legislators: How to Support and Strengthen Resource Transparency* is a concise, simple-to-use resource for parliamentarians to learn how they can promote the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative – a set of established mechanisms that leads to companies and governments making public the funds they pay and receive in these sectors.

Currently being implemented in 26 countries, the EITI standards require the involvement of government, civil society and industry representatives. The EITI methodology does not require an explicit role for legislators. Nevertheless, legislators have an important role to play in an EITI process by safeguarding citizens' interests, developing policies, and holding government to account.

The guide provides legislators with information about the EITI process and offers specific legislative tools and strategies for contributing to and strengthening the EITI program. It is designed for legislators, legislative staff and all those who support their efforts to engage more effectively in EITI and contribute to better governance of the extractive industries.

Additional funding for the guide was provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Electronic copies of the guide are available in Arabic, English and French on the EITI website (www.eitranparency.org/document/mpguide), the RWI website (www.revenuewatch.org/mpguide), and the NDI website (<http://www.ndi.org/node/15255>). Hard copies are available by request.

The Revenue Watch Institute is a non-profit policy institute and grantmaking organization that promotes the responsible management of oil, gas and mineral resources for the public good. With effective revenue management, citizen engagement and real government accountability, natural resource wealth can drive development and national growth. RWI provides the expertise, funding and technical assistance to help countries realize these benefits. More information is available at www.revenuewatch.org.

The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide by promoting citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. NDI has supported legislative institutions in more than 65 countries, working to make legislatures more responsive to the needs of the countries they serve and more accountable to the populations they represent. More information is available at www.ndi.org.

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a coalition of governments, companies, civil society groups, investors and international organizations that aims to strengthen governance by improving transparency and accountability in the extractives sector. EITI supports improved governance in resource-rich countries through the verification and full publication of company payments and government revenues from oil, gas and mining. More information is available at www.eitransparency.org.