

BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF ANGOLA AND SÃO TOMÉ

EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND MIGRATIONS

Angola and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative

The Catholic Church in Angola, in fulfilling its mission, also monitors social life even on issues related to transparency, be it of the State, in managing the *res publica*, be it of the extractive industries that operate in the country.

The Episcopal Commission for Justice, Peace and Migrations sees the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative as an opportunity to continue improving the transparency, which we have observed particularly in the oil sector in the last two years. We praise the initiatives taken in terms of publicizing the total revenues of the oil sector in 2004 and 2005, and of holding a workshop on oil revenues in May of this year, where information previously considered sensitive was shared in an open and transparent manner.

Many countries are already implementing the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative including the Republic of Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe and Nigeria. The initiative has the support of several companies and countries, among them Chevron, BP, ExxonMobil, Total, the United Kingdom, Norway and France. The efforts of the Initiative are being coordinated by an international advisory group, in which the Association of Central African Bishops Conferences also participates.

Angola's entry into the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative would reinforce this positive process and show the international community Angola's political will for a transparent, just and efficient management of the resources derived from our natural resources. Being the second largest producer of oil in Sub-Saharan Africa, and having an internationally significant economic growth rate, Angola has a responsibility to lead with transparency so that other countries with fewer natural resources may learn from its example.

This is why we, as an Episcopal Commission, strongly encourage our Government to subscribe to the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative and continue its implementation. Otherwise, we will leave the impression that Angola is concerned neither about transparency, nor the use of natural resources for poverty reduction, nor social equality or other issues that could contribute as much to development as to the consolidation of Peace not only in Angola but also in the entire continent.

Luanda August 22, 2006

The Episcopal Commission for Peace, Justice and Migration