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Communiqué: Agreement between ESSO Exploration and Production Chad Inc. (EPPCI) and NGOs representing Local Communities from the Doba oilfield development area

Washington DC, February 8, 2017 – Representatives of the NGOs mandated by communities in Chad's oil producing region and Esso Exploration and Production Chad (EPPCI), met on January 16, 2017 to sign an agreement addressing a series of community concerns filed with the World Bank Group's Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) in October 2011. The agreement is the result of a dialogue process convened by the CAO since 2013.

CAO is the independent accountability mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. IFC supported the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline through a US\$100 million loan for its own account and a \$100 million loan syndicated to over 15 commercial banks. In 2011, CAO received complaints regarding the project's impacts on local communities in both Chad and Cameroon. While IFC's involvement in the project concluded in 2012, CAO continued to address the complaints.

The complaint from Chad was filed by a number of regional and national NGOs (ADICAM, CPPL, CPPN, EPOZOP and GRAMPT/TC) on behalf of local communities and individuals impacted by the project.

In 2012, the representatives of the communities and EPPCI agreed to engage in a CAO dialogue process to address the concerns raised in the complaint. CAO worked extensively with the parties to strengthen their mediation capacities in an effort to facilitate their dialogue. In 2013, the parties agreed to a list of priority issues to discuss and seek consensual decisions. Since 2013, the parties have convened regular plenary sessions and two sub-committees were created to conduct field work and collect necessary data to address the identified issues.

As a result of the signed agreement, a number of agreed points will be implemented through a Platform comprising representatives of the parties. The Agreement launches the practical implementation of the agreed points and, importantly, will ensure the consensual nature of the parties' relationship. This regular channel of communication will also deal with any new issues which might arise in the future.

Further details on the CAO dialogue process are available at www.cao-ombudsman.org.

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About CAO:

The Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) is the independent grievance mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), members of the World Bank Group. Reporting to the President of the World Bank Group, CAO addresses complaints from people affected by IFC and MIGA projects in a manner that is fair, objective, and constructive with the goal of enhancing social and environmental outcomes on the ground. www.cao-ombudsman.org.

Note: The NGOs involved in the complaint are : Association pour le développement et la défense des intérêts du canton Miandoum (ADICAM), Commission Permanente Pétrole Local (CPPL), Commission Permanente Pétrole de N'Djamena (CPPN), Entente des populations de la zone pétrolière (EPOZOP) and Group de Recherches Alternatives et de Monitoring du projet pétrole Tchad-Cameroun (GRAMPT/TC).