



Summary Report for the Earthquake and Environmental Working Group Meeting #7

4th October 2017 – Hotel Fieri

CAO Facilitators

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This report summarizes discussions from the CAO facilitated Dialogue Roundtable #7 involving community members from Patos-Marinza, representatives of Bankers Petroleum Ltd – A Geo-Jade Company. The meeting was attended by a representative from the CAO Office in Washington DC, Anne-Claire Olivera, Research Analyst, and three shadow mediators.

The meeting was preceded by preparatory bilateral meetings with the parties, held on 3 October (with community members) and 4 October (with the company reps). The bilateral meetings focused on exploring options to better understand the causes of earth movements and discuss on the ways to interpret the findings of the AUTH report. In the bilateral meetings, CAO introduced the parties with the methodology of a joint-fact finding process, which has been used in some CAO cases.

Additionally, prior to the joint meeting, the CAO team had meetings with state institutions (MEI, AKBN and Albpetrol, regarding their opinion on the AUTH report and the steps undertaken by the government regarding this issue).

This report was drafted by the CAO facilitators. The meeting participants were invited to review this summary report and provide feedback, suggestions, and corrections.

AGENDA

1. Explore options and discuss on next steps towards resolution of the issue related to seismic activity
2. Discuss and agree on the list of E&E issues
3. Agreement on potential field trip for environmental investments
4. Next steps

1. Explore options and discuss on next steps towards resolution of the issue related to seismic activity

The main goal of this E&E working group meeting was to explore options, discuss and jointly agree on next steps the working group can undertake towards resolution of the issue related to seismic activity given that it is the main concern raised in the complaint lodged with the CAO.

The CAO team invited the participants to share their opinions on the way forward, since both the community and company are interested in having more information on the causes of earthquakes. The community members were also interested in the compensation process, which is under process by the government.

The discussion on options was interlinked with information sharing on the situation with regard to earth movements, the potential causes pretended by community members, the AUTH report findings, the compensation process, the lack of governmental will to resolve the issue, the contract of the company with the state, relocation, the role of the company and the role of the government in investments, etc.

The community members noted that since last December there had not been earth movements, at least ones that can be felt by humans, except one in September, adding that they would be happy with the outcome as long as the company will continue to operate as they did in the last 10 months. The Company noted that the seismometer instrumentation installed in the oilfield continues to show earthquakes are occurring every month but they are generally not felt at the surface. Based on recorded seismic activity the company's opinion was that they do not believe the earthquake activity stopped or that suspending disposal operations in Zharreza has had any significant effect on occurrences of seismic activity in the area although the Company remain very interested in knowing the causes. They mentioned that the company has no immediate plans to start operating the three disposal wells in Zharreza or make any significant changes to current operations at least not before another decision from the Albanian Government.

Various options on the way forward were suggested including:

- Invite experts, upon the consensus of parties, from relevant institutions to share information and interpret the data received by the seismometers since their connection with the national grid; Invite experts to comment on the AUTH report findings;
- Both parties communicate with the inter-governmental working group seeking to be part of the group, thus having a tripartite undertaking: government-company-community;
- Conduct another study on behalf of the Dialogue Group, funded by independent sources;
- Wait for the Government report and compare the findings with the AUTH report;
- Both parties work together to address the government to receive information from the inter-governmental working group on the status of the governmental process.

Following the discussion on options, the parties agreed on the way forward, as following:

- The working group will send a joint letter to the relevant public institutions, requesting information on the status of the governmental process regarding the identification of the earthquake causes.
- The letter will be published on the CAO website.
- The CAO Dialogue Process on joint actions to identify the causes of earth movements will be suspended until the reply from state institutions regarding the parallel process and steps undertaken by Government to clarify the situation.
- The E&E working group will continue discussing other environmental issues in the respective list of issues, while the issue of earthquakes will be placed on pause.

2. Discuss and agree on the list of E&E issues

The discussion was focused on the seismic activity and the other issues in the E&E list were not discussed in detail. The list will be discussed in the next meeting of the E&E wgroup meeting.

3. Agreement on potential field trip for environmental investments

As discussed on the last joint meeting in July 2017, the community and company agreed to have a field trip to see the latest environmental investments. The field trip will be organized by the end of October or beginning of November 2017.

4. Next steps

- The working group will send a joint letter to the relevant public institutions, requesting information on the status of the governmental process regarding the identification of the earthquake causes:
 - The letter will be drafted by a joint community-company group, composed of Adriatik Golemi (BPAL) Nevila Naka (community members), Qani Rredhi (Head of Zharreza NGO for Environment Protection). Adriatik will coordinate the letter drafting process. The final draft of the letter will be completed by the end of week commencing in 2 October.
 - The letter will be circulated to other wgroup members by CAO for comments/suggestions and be signed by all the meeting participants. The letter will be delivered in October.
 - The letter will be delivered to the Office of the Prime Minister with a copy to the Ministry of Energy and Industry, IGewe, AKBN, Albpetrol.
 - CAO will follow-up with the institutions regarding the letter.
 - In case there is no reply within two weeks, a complaint letter will be sent to the Information and Data Protection Commissioner.
 - The letter will be published on the CAO website.
- The CAO Dialogue Process on joint actions to identify the causes of earth movements will be suspended until the reply from state institutions regarding the parallel process and steps undertaken by Government to clarify the situation;
- The E&E working group will continue discussing other environmental issues in the respective list of issues, while the issue of earthquakes will be placed on pause;
- A field visit to see the environmental investments will be conducted in the end of October or beginning of November. CAO will coordinate with the company on the time and other arrangements.
- The next E&E wgroup meeting will be held in November.