

The Ghanaian Independent daily newspaper

This is your role:

You are a journalist at a Ghanaian newspaper, the *Ghanaian Independent*. You regularly report on the development status of the oil fields. You also of course reported on the Chinese loan offer.

Your newspaper is - as the name says - independent. You also report on what civil society thinks and on controversial positions. However, a slight bias towards the government can be seen in your publications.

The government has instructed you to conduct a hearing on planned oil production in Ghana. The Finance Minister, the Economics Minister, the spokesperson in the non-governmental organisation *Ghanaian Network on Debt and Development*, a spokesperson from the fishermen and women in Takoradi, and the chairperson of the *Christian Council* will participate.

It is true that the final decision on accepting the offer is up to the government. In the interests of democracy, however, it is important that the decision is transparent. Following the discussion, it will therefore be voted whether or not to accept the loan from China for oil production in order to create public understanding.

These are your group's tasks:

1. Select an editor-in-chief from the work group. This person will lead the hearing.
2. As a journalist, during the group phase you will ask representatives of the other groups for short interviews in order to be able to prepare better for their positions. Research the central arguments of the individual groups. Also ask who will represent the group on the podium.
3. Together you plan the course of the hearing and consider suitable questions for the various participants in the discussion. Information on the hearing process can be found below.

4. All journalists from your group assist the editor-in-chief with critical questions from the audience.

Information on the conduct of the hearing:

- At the end of the group phase, you will lead the conversion for the hearing: Build a podium with six seats for this. The audience sits in rows in front of it.
- The editor-in-chief will moderate the event:
 - First, introduce the topic and explain the aim of the event.
 - Introduce the discussion participants.
 - Allow each discussion participant to state their position in 2-3 minutes.
 - Then ask the previously prepared questions.
 - After approx. 30 minutes, you open the discussion for questions from the audience. After approx. 45 minutes, you end the discussion.
 - Finally, ask for a vote by show of hands: Who is in favour of accepting the Chinese offer? And who is against?