
PRESS RELEASE

14th September 2023

For Immediate Release



A CALL FOR MORE GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT AS UGANDA LAUNCHES ITS SECOND EITI REPORT 2020/2021

On the 12th of August 2020, the EITI International Secretariat admitted the Republic of Uganda as the 54th member country of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). EITI requires governments and extractive companies to publish and reconcile data on oil, gas, and mining revenues as a mechanism for ensuring transparency, accountability, and subsequently, proper management of revenues that accrue from natural resources. Since 2020, a series of interventions have been undertaken to implement EITI in Uganda. Some of these include: the establishment of the Uganda Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG); engagement and consultative meetings; capacity-building sessions; and contribution to several policies, laws, and guidelines in the extractives sector.

Uganda has since developed and published two EITI reports. The first report (for the year 2019-2020) was published in February 2022, while the second report (2020-2021) was published on 30th June 2023.

Currently, Uganda is preparing for its first validation by the Global EITI Secretariat in October 2023, a process that will assess the extent to which the country is complying with the requirements of the EITI Standard. As part of the requirements for the validation process, the MSG is developing a 5-year strategic roadmap that focuses on fostering information disclosure, enhancing revenue management and accountability, and strengthening the operational capacity of the Multi-Stakeholder

Group and the Secretariat. The government of Uganda will be launching its second EITI report covering the financial year 2020/2021 tomorrow the 15th September 2023, at Sheraton Hotel Kampala.

The Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas in Uganda (CSCO), ACODE, and partners would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Uganda upon the publication of its second EITI report for FY 2020/2021.

We wish to extend our special gratitude to the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development (MFPED); the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD); the Uganda EITI Secretariat; and the EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group who worked tirelessly to achieve this milestone. We also appreciate the efforts of all other stakeholders including civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners.

As civil society, we continue to express our commitment to work with the government and all other stakeholders to ensure that EITI is implemented successfully in Uganda.

Given this landmark, we would like to draw the attention of government to the following issues:

1. Under requirement 2.4 (a) of the 2019 Standard, countries implementing EITI are required to disclose all contracts and licenses that have been granted, entered into, or amended as of 1st January 2021. We call upon the Government of Uganda to expedite the process of publicly disclosing contracts and licenses that provide the terms for the exploitation of oil, gas, and minerals.
2. The 2019 standard also encourages governments to integrate the impact of the extractives' operations on the environment in their EITI reports. The 2023 Global EITI conference also recommended governments to consider issues of energy transition and climate change in the implementation of EITI. Reporting on the impacts of extractive industries on nature and biodiversity will trigger actions that enhance sustainable exploitation of natural resources. We therefore call upon the government of Uganda to expand the scope of EITI reports to include, the impact

of extractive industries on the environment.

3. Given the prevalence of illicit financial flows in other mineral and petroleum-rich countries and the recent reports by the Office of the Auditor General regarding revenue leakages in the mining subsector, we call upon the government to plug all the loopholes that facilitate revenue leakages in the entire mineral supply chain.
4. Under requirement 2.5 of the EITI Standard, implementing countries and companies are required to publicly disclose beneficial ownership information. We are aware that Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) has established a Beneficial Ownership Register. We however call upon URSB to put in place an assurance and due diligence procedure to ensure reliability of the information declared by companies and develop an online database.
5. Finally, we call upon the government of Uganda to commit adequate financial resources to support the successful implementation of EITI activities.

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