



Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

Uganda EITI and Civil Society Engagement

Summary Report

8th December 2022,
UGEITI Secretariat Office,
Kampala – Uganda

Abbreviations & Acronyms.

CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency International
IS	International Secretariat
MSG	Multi Stakeholder Group
NRGI	Natural Resources Governance Institute
NC	National Coordinator
UGEITI	Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency International

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This was a capacity building activity organized by the IS to provide support to the MSG and Secretariat for the CSOs to better carryout their activities during EITI implementation. It was also held to provide clarification and guidance on a number of issues related to Civic Space in Uganda. The One-day training event was held on the 8th December 2022, at UGEITI Secretariat, Kampala, Uganda via Zoom.

The meeting was attended by a number of MSG members and staff of Secretariat. The general output of the training was to engage UGEITI to get a broad understanding of CSO participation in the EITI process, challenges faced and the critical considerations to be made for civic space in order for EITI to have an impact. It was organized by the IS. The facilitators were:

- a) Team from IS
- b) Mr. Paul Bagabo, NRGi
- c) Mr. Siragi Magara, MSG member, OXFAM

The training commenced with the Moderator Mr. Saul Ongaria taking participants through the Agenda of the event and introductions.

2.0 Opening Remarks

The first Opening Remarks were made by Mr. Michael Uzoigwe, Country Manager, EITI IS. He thanked Mr. Paul Bagabo, NRGi for the support rendered to UGEITI. He said the interaction would help UGEITI better understand the challenges to EITI implementation from the CSO perspective. It would also provide mechanisms of how to support civil society engagement in the country. Ms. Lydia Kilpi would provide more support in specific areas by presenting tools for addressing civil society related issues during the interaction.

The second Remarks were made by Mr.Saul Ongaria, National Coordinator,

UGEITI. He thanked the IS Team for the support rendered and said the MSG Chair would join the engagement later but asked him to make the opening remarks on his behalf.

3.0 Session 1

This Session was an overview of civil society engagement in the Uganda EITI implementation process including opportunities, key milestones and challenges. It was facilitated by Mr. Siragi Magara, CSO representative on UGEITI MSG. He said from his own assessment, joining EITI was a great opportunity for the country. In countries where there was corruption, poor governance, lack of accountability etc., these affect domestic revenue mobilization. When dealing with transparency especially in the management of the extractive sector, joining EITI was a great milestone for Uganda with benefits.

4.0 Session 2

This Session was NREGI's perspective on Civic Space in Uganda – what are the key issues and how they can be addressed? It was facilitated by Mr. Paul Bagabo, NREGI. He said, “When engaging with government, it says there's civic space. When engaging with CSOs, they say there isn't civic space in the country. When engaging with the Donors, they say they want to see civic space in the country before they can provide support.” So, this led to challenges when carrying out their duties.

5.0 Plenary

The NC UGEITI thanked the Session presenters for their insightful presentations about civic space in the country. He said they had clearly highlighted the key concerns of civil society engagements and provided opportunities, key milestones and challenges.

The IS thanked the presenters for the presentations on civic space in Uganda. It noted that it was the exact background to CSO participation in the country. Most of the issues highlighted were raised during the IS mission in the country earlier in the year. Some of the key issues raised were also noted with the EACOP project but there were sharp deviations in some key areas.

The IS said that during NREGI's presentation, it noted two key issues raised; CSOs should think more about corruption and the involvement of Parliament. It asked for more light to be shed on the issue and encouraged the Secretariat to engage more with the Parliament for support to EITI implementation as well as CSO engagement in the country.

The Secretariat raised issues as follows:

- It wanted to know the scope of CSOs in Uganda because they are drawn from the Media, Professional bodies, Religious organizations etc.
- What is the rate of CSO action in relation to EACOP since there are some for and against the project?
- Capacity building always came up during EITI implementation. How can it be accounted for and documented?
- The MSG's term is renewed once after completion of the first term. What should be done when new individuals join after the current team completes its second term?

An MSG member noted that among the challenges that should be noted is the limited knowledge of the revised/amended laws like the Mining and Minerals Act 2022 by the practitioners, CSOs etc. He made a suggestion for capacity building to be carried out in this area for all the stakeholders.

Response from NRG

Corruption: This was a huge challenge for the country with everybody involved and the cases include Police bribery etc. though mostly generalized. Some CSOs were also involved and this caused a limitation to the whole discussion during EITI implementation. The solution was to be more forward looking by creating institutions for fighting the vice while thinking about approaches on a case-by-case basis.

Shaping Disagreements: For EACOP, those against the project didn't provide enough evidence so there was need for a clear platform for advocacy by all stakeholders. It was not a good precedence for the EU Parliament to provide a resolution against the project which promoted divisions in the country.

Mining Laws: He agreed with MSG members and said most people didn't understand mining governance. There was need for more advocacy for better understanding of the sector and EITI could be used as a tool for these engagements.

Response from MSG Facilitator

Parliament: Members of Parliament's capacity needed to be built and was very critical during the process. He suggested that in future, UGEITI should consider producing the EITI report for Parliament or a simpler version could be produced for the purpose to support these engagements.

Scope of CSOs: There was need to widen the scope by carrying out research on CSOs participation while considering the different sectors including Media, Religious organizations, Academia etc. as well as looking at their constitutions.

Capacity Building: UGEITI shouldn't get tired of capacity building. This was good for shaping EITI and making it more relevant to the country.

The IS Secretariat responded and said there was ample opportunity for UGEITI to leverage capacity building challenges with the need for discussions on the areas. There was a lot being done with other countries. The IS was ready to provide support for different stakeholders in this area.

With the challenges noted as a result of CSO engagements, there was an opportunity to strengthen EITI implementation with the gaps identified. EITI should be used to identify gaps and provide solutions. The MSG needed to utilize the platform to address challenges related to EACOP.

6.0 Session 3

This Session was EITI IS's presentation on the tools for addressing civil society related issues including the EITI Civil Society Protocol and Country cases. It was facilitated by Ms. Lyydia Kilpi, Director Disclosure and Civil Society Engagement, IS. She asked members to share feelings about the discussions using Emojis. Feelings were shared ranging from relaxed to cheerful etc.

She noted that the MSG Chair's Remarks had touched on the CSO Protocol for EITI implementation and said there was an element of civic space in the country. The presentations in Sessions 1&2 were very balanced and insightful.

7.0 Plenary

IS asked UGEITI to look at the Validation Guide, the Section on CSO engagement and think of the most relevant questions for Uganda's context.

The UGEITI responded and said it got guidance from a CSO member who said there were no CSOs that were exclusively dealing with extractives. So this made it difficult to link their work to the extractive sector which was a challenge.

In response, the IS said when carrying out Validation in most countries, they found that some CSOs in the extractive sector were engaged in other activities including political activities. The MSG needed to make a decision on which CSOs are to be engaged with.

The Secretariat asked for broad definition of Civic Space in relation to EITI implementation because most of the CSOs whose licenses were revoked by government recently were considered to be carrying out political activities which was considered a security threat. Most CSOs were using this challenge to say there is lack of Civic Space.

NRGI: In response, it said when carrying out its duties, it tries to work with CSOs that are purely involved in the extractive sector and provide support where necessary. It also works with government institutions including Parliament with a clear message on extractives. It has tried to minimize the level of confusion in the sector in relation to EITI implementation and urged for more advocacy.

The IS responded to the definition of civic space by referring to the presentation under EITI Protocol, section 1&2. It said these challenges provided the MSG with an opportunity to identify challenges and provide solutions. It should not wait for Validation but take ownership. The MSG was encouraged to use the Validation Guide and reach out to CSO actors in the extractive sector for the challenges noted and come up with solutions. The challenge with civic space in relation to the kind of activities of CSOs in the country was noted and this would be considered during Validation.

8.0 Closing Remarks

Mr. Michael Uzoigwe of the IS thanked Mr. Siragi Magara and Mr. Paul Bagabo for the presentations and noted that they helped in providing a broad understanding of civic space in Uganda. He said UGEITI should not wait for Validation. Uganda was a young country in EITI. At every stage of implementation, CSOs were important.

For the production of the second report, he encouraged CSOs to participate and also provide support for the dissemination of the first report. The IS would always be available to provide support to the CSOs and the Secretariat in the areas and concerns noted to support CSO engagements for the improvement of civic space in the country.

The NC UGEITI thanked the IS, NRGI, CSOs for the support given and the MSG members for taking the time to attend the event. He said this was a sign of their commitment towards the EITI process. The CSO constituency was important for EITI implementation though there were challenges related to their activities. EITI was a process that could benefit all and everyone should aim to achieve the goals by promoting transparency and good revenue management. There were challenges with the mining sector but with EITI, there was hope that reforms would be brought to the sector thus improving domestic revenue mobilization.