

Uganda gets a moderate EITI score

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Uganda has scored 78.5 per cent in implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) standards.

The score is based on three areas of outcomes and impact. Uganda scored 85 per cent, stakeholder engagement 82.5 per cent and transparency 65.7 per cent.

Uganda joined EITI, a global standard group aimed at promoting the openness and accountable management of oil, gas, and mineral resources, in 2020. The country's application to join the EITI was approved by the organisation's board of directors, making it the 54th member state and the 26th in Africa.

Following its admission, Uganda was set a validation deadline of February 12, 2023, in accordance with the 2019 EITI Standard. Uganda commenced the validation exercise in October 2023 and embarked on the report document process, which was concluded in May 2024.

The report outlines the complete assessment by requirements, including collective actions to enhance the extractive sector for the country. According to Moses Kaggwa, the chairperson of the Uganda EITI multi-stakeholder group, Uganda made strides in improving transparency, stakeholder engagement, and accountability in the oil and mining sectors by establishing a robust multi-stakeholder platform and undertaking reforms to its Minerals Act.

He noted that more efforts are needed to disclose contracts and beneficial owners, and to ensure that civil society can freely participate in the EITI process.

“Uganda’s EITI membership is to strengthen efforts to ensure overall transparency in the extractive sector, enhance tax collection, promote public debate, improve investment in the climate, build trust, and create lasting value from these petroleum and mineral resources,” he said.

“I commend Uganda for establishing a robust multi-stakeholder platform that facilitates public engagement and data-driven debate,” EITI board chair Helen Clark said.

“Building on a strong foundation for sector governance, stakeholders should prioritise concrete measures to disclose oil, gas, and mining agreements and beneficial ownership information. Safeguarding the broader civic space will be crucial to sustaining transparent and accountable governance of natural resources in Uganda.”

The EITI board urged Uganda to publish financial data on company payments and government revenues disaggregated by company, revenue stream and government beneficiary, and project where payments are levied at a project level. The board further asked Uganda to use the EITI platform to strengthen local stakeholders’ understanding of mineral-royalty transfer mechanisms.