

28th November 2024

Report for the Launch of the Third EITI Report

Location:
SHERATON KAMPALA HOTEL

AUTHOR: GERTRUDE ANGOM

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACODE:	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
ASMs:	Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners
BO:	Beneficial Ownership
CSO:	Civil Society Organizations
DGSM:	Department of Geological Survey and Mines
EITI:	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
FY:	Financial Year
GRA:	Global Rights Alert
IOCs:	International Oil Companies
MEMD:	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MOFPED:	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MSG:	Multi-Stakeholder Group
NEMA:	National Environment Management Authority
NRGI:	Natural Resource Governance Institute
PAU:	Petroleum Authority of Uganda
PSAs:	Production Sharing Agreements
SEATINI:	Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
SOEs:	State-Owned Enterprises
UBOS:	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UGEITI:	Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
UNOC:	Uganda National Oil Company
URA:	Uganda Revenue Authority
URSB:	Uganda Registration Services Bureau

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	2
1.0 Introduction	4
1.1 Uganda EITI: Overview and Recent Developments	4
1.2 Workshop to Launch and Discuss the Third EITI Report	4
2.0 Welcome and Opening Remarks by MSG Chairperson	5
3.0 Presentation of the Findings and Key Recommendations of the 3rd EITI Report	6
3.1 Introduction	6
3.2 The Evolution and Highlights of Uganda’s First Three EITI Reports	6
3.3 Key Findings in the 3rd Report	7
3.4 Recommendations 2019-2022	7
3.4.1 Financial Year 2019/2020	7
3.4.2 Financial Year 2020/2021	8
3.4.3 Financial Year 2021/2022	8
3.5 Benefits, Progress, and Key Focus Areas of EITI Implementation	9
3.5.1. Benefits of EITI	9
3.5.2. Areas for Further Progress	10
3.5.3 Key Focus Areas for Greater Scrutiny	10
3.6 Plenary Session (Q&A)	10
4.0 Official Launch of the Report	12
Remarks of the Hon. Minister of Finance Planning and Economic Development	12
4.2 Digital Launch of the Report	13
5.0 Presentation on the 2023 EITI Standard	14
5.1 Key Changes (Thematic Areas) in the 2023 EITI Standard	14
5.2 Transitional Arrangements and New Validation Schedule	15
5.3 Support and Training Opportunities	15
6.0 Panel Session	16
7.0 Closing Remarks	18
8.0 Annexes	19

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Uganda EITI: Overview and Recent Developments

Uganda joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in August 2020 and is required to publish an annual EITI report detailing the extractive sector's state during the reporting period. These reports reconcile payments made by oil, gas, and mining entities with revenues received by government agencies, along with other material benefits to the government. They also provide an overview of the sector, including legal frameworks, fiscal regimes, contributions to the economy, production data, license allocations, and more.

Uganda's first EITI report (FY 2019/2020) was published in June 2022, the second (FY 2020/2021) in September 2023, and the third (FY 2021/2022) on 11th October 2024. All reports recommend improvements in governance, management, and oversight of the sector for the benefit of Ugandans.

From October 2023 to May 2024, Uganda underwent a validation assessment by the International EITI Secretariat, scoring 78.5% overall. While Uganda excelled in outcomes, impacts, and stakeholder engagement, moderate performance in transparency stemmed from non-disclosure of government-industry contracts and discrepancies in mineral production and export data. Efforts are underway to address these issues.

The 2023 EITI Standard highlights four key thematic areas: energy transition, anti-corruption, gender, social and environmental issues, and revenue collection. Uganda's fourth EITI report will explore developments in these areas.

1.2 Workshop to Launch and Discuss the Third EITI Report

On Thursday, 28th November 2024, the Uganda EITI Secretariat launched its third EITI report in a workshop at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel.

a) The objectives included:

- Launch and disseminate findings from Uganda's third EITI report.
- Discuss key transparency issues from the validation assessment and mitigation measures.
- Present and update recommendations from previous reports.
- Introduce the 2023 EITI Standard and its focus areas.

b) The expected outcomes included:

- Increased awareness of the EITI process, reports, findings, and actions.
- Enhanced debate on transparency and disclosure of extractive data.

- Improved understanding of the implementation status of past recommendations.
- Greater appreciation of the 2023 EITI Standard's new focus areas.

c) Participants

The workshop hosted approximately 100 participants, including representatives from MSG, government agencies, private sector actors, CSOs, development partners, and media practitioners.

The organizers of the event were: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MOFPED), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and the Uganda National EITI Secretariat (UGEITI) with support from Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Global Rights Alert (GRA) and Planet Gold/ Impact Transform

2.0 Welcome and Opening Remarks by MSG Chairperson

The Chairperson of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), Mr. Moses Kaggwa, welcomed all the guests and participants to the event. He began by thanking all stakeholders who contributed to the report's production, including Government ministries, agencies, the private sector, development partners, and Civil Society Organizations. Mr. Kaggwa acknowledged their commitment to strengthening transparency and accountability in Uganda's extractive sector.

He also recognized the support of Moore Insight, the Independent Administrator, and the International EITI Secretariat for their capacity-building and training during the implementation process.

Mr. Kaggwa highlighted Uganda's significant progress since joining EITI in 2020, particularly the successful preparation of three reports. He noted that the third report reflected Uganda's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, providing critical data and recommendations for the financial year 2021/2022. He emphasized that the report aligned with the principles of the EITI Standard.

He further stated that transparency was essential for building trust, as the EITI process enabled stakeholders to engage constructively, address concerns, and ensure responsible management of resources. Mr. Kaggwa stressed the need for continued efforts to combat corruption, improve revenue management, and build capacity at all levels to monitor resource use.

The Chairperson assured participants that the MSG remained committed to ensuring inclusivity in the extractive sector. He encouraged all stakeholders to view EITI as a starting point for further engagement and to use the report's findings to drive positive action in policy, decision-making, industry practices, and grassroots advocacy.

He thanked everyone for attending and officially declared the event open.

3.0 Presentation of the Findings and Key Recommendations of the 3rd EITI Report

3.1 Introduction

The presentation was delivered by Mrs. Gloria Mugambe, the Head of the EITI Secretariat. She emphasized that the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) revolves around the "3 D's," which are Data, Disclosure, and Debate which work together to promote accountability, reduce corruption, and ensure that natural resource wealth contributes meaningfully to national development.

Data involves collecting accurate information on the extractive sector, Disclosure ensured that data is made publicly accessible for transparency, and Debate fostered open dialogue among stakeholder on the pertinent issues affecting the sector.

3.2 The Evolution and Highlights of Uganda's First Three EITI Reports.

Uganda's EITI reports had evolved significantly, with with expansion in scope and coverage:

- a) First Report (2019/2020):
This focused exclusively on reconciling payments from oil and gas companies, laying the groundwork for transparency in the extractive sector.
- b) Second Report (2020/2021):
The scope was expanded to include the top 8 revenue-paying mining companies with active mining licenses for 2020/2021. Companies included Tororo Cement, Hima Cement, National Cement, and others, reflecting a broader coverage of the sector.
- c) Third Report (2021/2022):

Further expanded to cover the top 20 revenue-paying mining companies for 2021/2022, adding 12 new companies like Diamond Steel Uganda and Namekara, among others. These 20 companies represented 98.82% of all mining revenues, demonstrating a more comprehensive capture of the sector's financial flows.

The materiality threshold for both the second and third reports was set at 6 billion UGX by the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG). The reports also noted a decrease in active mining licenses, from 688 in the second report to 558 in the third, indicating a changing landscape in the sector.

3.3 Key Findings in the 3rd Report

a) Revenue Insights:

Mining revenues reached UGX 250.48 billion, with the top streams being VAT (33%), Customs (24%), Withholding Tax (17%), and PAYE (16%). Only UGX 1.3 billion of UGX 6.49 billion in royalties was remitted to local governments.

b) Mineral Production and Exports:

Total production value soared to UGX 202 billion, led by Limestone (UGX 93 billion) and Iron Ore (UGX 72 billion). Exports included Vermiculite (UGX 12 billion) and Iron Ore (UGX 919 million), though discrepancies in gold data were noted.

c) Licensing:

The number of active mining licenses dropped, and the 2022 Mining Act introduced new licensing types, including artisanal and large-scale licenses.

d) Contextual Developments:

Key changes included a revised royalty-sharing formula, increasing landowners' share to 5%, and the formulation of the National Petroleum Policy and Energy Transition Plan.

3.4 Recommendations 2019-2022

The Head of Secretariat shared the recommendations for the last 3 EITI reports as follows:

3.4.1 Financial Year 2019/2020

a) Mainstreaming and Systematic Disclosure of EITI Data

- Publish relevant links to EITI-required information on the UGEITI website and establish an open EITI database in government systems.
- Responsible Institutions: Government Agencies.

b) Public Disclosure of the Register of Mining Licenses

- Make the full text of mining licenses publicly accessible.
- Responsible Institution: Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines (DGSM).

c) Public Disclosure of Contracts and Licenses

- Develop a roadmap for publishing agreements in the extractive sector, including Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs).
 - Responsible Institution: UGEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG).
- d) Data Quality and Assurance
- Ensure compliance with assurance processes, including proper signature and certification of reporting templates by auditors.
 - Responsible Institution: UGEITI MSG.
- e) Accuracy of Export Data
- Implement automated controls for comprehensive and accurate export data and develop analytical tools for better mineral trading oversight.
 - Responsible Institutions: DGSM and Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).
- f) Beneficial Ownership Information
- Develop a roadmap for the disclosure of beneficial ownership information for companies in mining, oil, and gas.
 - Responsible Institutions: UGEITI MSG and Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB).

3.4.2 Financial Year 2020/2021

- a) Updating Data on Informal Mining
- Conduct studies on the informal mining sector's economic contribution.
 - Responsible Institutions: DGSM and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).
- b) Production and Export Data of Gold
- Analyze gold quantities in production, refining, and export to minimize value chain discrepancies.
 - Responsible Institutions: MEMD and URA.
- c) Awarding Licenses
- Conduct an independent audit of mining license awards to enhance the licensing process.
 - Responsible Institution: MEMD.
- d) Mainstreaming EITI Data
- Create a roadmap for implementing an open data platform for centralized EITI data.
 - Responsible Institution: UGEITI MSG.

3.4.3 Financial Year 2021/2022

- a) Establishing a Legal Basis for Reporting
- Advocate for legal reforms to mandate transparency reporting and ensure participation from companies and government entities.
 - Responsible Institutions: UGEITI MSG, Extractive Companies, and Government Entities.
- b) Enhancing Revenue Identification
- Improve payment flow categorization and provide targeted training for URA officials.
 - Responsible Institution: URA.
- c) Updating Mining Cadastre

- Include license holder identification numbers and detailed license histories.
 - Responsible Institution: DGSM.
- d) Beneficial Ownership Data
- Expedite creating a beneficial ownership register with assurance processes and online submission systems.
 - Responsible Institutions: URSB and MSG.
- e) Disclosure of Financial Statements
- Require SOEs and material-paying companies to disclose financial statements or key financial metrics if audited statements are unavailable.
 - Responsible Institutions: UNOC, Kilembe Mines, MSG, and MoFPED.
- f) Disclosure of Project Costs
- Ensure timely disclosure of CAPEX and OPEX for petroleum projects.
 - Responsible Institution: Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU).
- g) Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Develop a GHG emissions disclosure framework for extractive industries aligned with international best practices.
 - Responsible Institutions: MEMD, Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and URA.

3.5 Benefits, Progress, and Key Focus Areas of EITI Implementation

3.5.1. Benefits of EITI

The benefits of EITI implementation to Uganda included:

- a) Sector Transparency and Accountability
 - Opened the extractive sector to scrutiny.
 - Enabled debates and decisions based on credible, data-driven insights.
 - Highlighted trends in production, exports, and revenue classifications for better sector evaluation.
- b) Community Involvement and Awareness
 - Dissemination of reports enhances community awareness of local extractive activities.
 - Empowers communities to hold duty bearers and companies accountable using factual evidence.
- c) Enhanced Sectoral Understanding
 - Promotes international best practices in transparency, license management, and legal frameworks.
 - Strengthened cooperation among stakeholders through the MSG's knowledge and institutional synergies.

3.5.2. Areas for Further Progress

- a) Timeliness of Reporting
 - Reports are two financial years behind due to stringent data authenticity requirements.
 - A suggested solution is to extend report preparation timelines to improve data timeliness.
- b) EITI Data Platform Development
 - Establish a centralized platform for systematic and real-time disclosure of EITI data.
 - Facilitate impactful decision-making and improve future reporting cycles.
- c) Adherence to Data Assurance Standards
 - Engage extractive companies to comply with EITI's strict assurance requirements.

3.5.3 Key Focus Areas for Greater Scrutiny

- a) Ongoing Focus
 - Documentation of royalties' receipt and use by local governments.
 - Rationalization of mineral production and export figures.
 - Capturing and analysing contributions from the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector.
- b) Forward-looking Preparations
 - Evaluate government readiness for oil revenue inflows and optimal revenue calculations.
 - Ensure revenue received aligns with the potential value of the extractive sector.
 - Highlight local content opportunities to benefit communities and stimulate local business engagement.

3.6 Plenary Session (Q&A)

- a) Mr. Gard Benda, a Civil Society Organization (CSO) representative on the MSG, highlighted a sharp discrepancy in the report between the production and export figures for gold. He raised concerns about the possibility of under-declaration in reporting or whether Uganda was exporting gold that was not domestically produced. He inquired whether there was data available to identify the source of the additional gold.
- b) Still concerning gold production, Dr. Henry Bazira, a CSO representative on the MSG, questioned whether Uganda had a clear understanding of its internal production levels. He emphasized the importance of distinguishing between resources produced domestically and those sourced externally.
- c) He also inquired about the proportion of the population relying on electricity versus biomass for energy needs. Dr. Bazira further sought clarification from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD)

on the specific parameters used to measure access to electricity. He also inquired whether the gold data recorded by URA was synchronised with that captured by DGSM.

In response to questions regarding mineral discrepancies, Eng. David Sebagala from the DGSM explained that a dedicated unit had been established within the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) to address issues related to discrepancies in mineral export data. He clarified that these discrepancies were primarily due to historical data included in the past EITI reports, covering the period from 2019 to 2022. He assured participants that such discrepancies should not appear in the next report for the FY 2022/2023. Eng. David Sebagala also mentioned that DGSM had engaged in discussions with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), resulting in an agreement that URA Customs would not permit the export of minerals unless they were accompanied by an exit permit issued by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).

- d) Ms. Rose Nakawuma, representing Planet Gold/Impact Transform, highlighted the critical role of Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners (ASMs) in Uganda, emphasizing their impact in society and the importance of including their contributions in EITI reports. She urged the Government to strengthen engagements with ASMs to avoid significant revenue losses and maximise their potential. She also stated that miners often served as pathfinders and could play a vital role in identifying the origins of gold.
- e) Mr. Emmanuel Kibirige, a representative of ASMs on the MSG, highlighted that the majority of gold producers in Uganda were ASMs working without licenses. He further refuted the claim that gold was sourced from Congo, stressing that the gold in question was actually produced within Uganda and not from outside the country.
- f) Mr. Michael Wambi from Uganda Radio Network highlighted that the presentation by the Head of Secretariat did not address environmental issues. He also noted that the Attorney General had advised that Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs) could be disclosed since industry players had consented to their publication. He questioned why these PSAs had not yet been made public. The Secretariat informed participants that all questions regarding contract disclosure would be addressed later during the panel discussion by representatives from PAU and MEMD. Regarding the absence of data on environmental issues in the presentation, the EITI Head of Secretariat clarified that environmental matters were adequately addressed in the report. She explained that their exclusion from her presentation was due to the absence of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) during the reporting period. Mr. Isaac Ntujju from NEMA emphasized the Government's strong commitment to environmental protection. He acknowledged that while information on ESIAs for the financial year was unavailable, the report comprehensively covered environmental issues in the extractive sector. He encouraged participants to refer to the full EITI report for detailed information on these aspects.
- g) Another journalist inquired whether gold miners were collecting taxes on behalf of the Government. In response, Eng. David Sebagala clarified that gold miners were not collecting taxes for the Government.

- h) Mr. William Anguyo from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) emphasized the need for greater transparency and high-quality data from the Department of Geological Surveys and Mines (DGSM), noting that mining sector data directly impacts GDP calculations. He also highlighted the importance of educating the public on the gold value chain and questioned the reduction in the number of licenses during the reporting period.

In response, the EITI Head of Secretariat raised a query with DGSM regarding companies like Virat Alloys, which held exploration licenses in Bushenyi but were reportedly manufacturing steel. Eng. David Sebagala explained that the reduction in licenses was due to the presence of non-performing projects, which often resulted from funding challenges. He noted that many investors relied on seasonal funding, with a significant portion of financing sourced from stock exchanges.

- i) Eng. David Sebagala explained that the significant increase in mineral production was attributed to several factors. He noted that some minerals, previously restricted from export, had been granted export permits, influencing the reported figures. Additionally, he emphasized that government policies played a crucial role in these changes.

For instance, companies like Namekara, which had been impacted by the government ban on the export of raw minerals, had to adapt by finding alternative solutions, such as increasing local production to manage the minerals they already had on hand.

4.0 Official Launch of the Report

Remarks of the Hon. Minister of Finance Planning and Economic Development

Mr. Moses Kaggwa, speaking on behalf of the Hon. Minister, began by expressing gratitude to everyone for participating in the launch of Uganda's third EITI Report. He emphasized that each EITI report marked a crucial step forward in promoting transparency and good governance within the country's extractive sector.

He explained that the EITI was a key tool identified in Uganda's Domestic Revenue Mobilization Strategy to enhance transparency and accountability in the extractive sector, with the ultimate goal of supporting revenue mobilization. In 2019, the Government took decisive steps to adopt EITI as the standard for managing extractive industries, aiming to improve governance, reduce corruption, increase accountability, support revenue mobilization, and provide essential information to businesses. As

a result, the EITI platform had enabled stakeholders to access data that supports informed decision-making.

He stated that in August 2024, Mr. Mark Robinson, the Executive Director of the EITI International Secretariat, visited Uganda following the country's EITI Validation exercise. He conveyed that Mr. Robinson had praised Uganda's commitment to EITI implementation, citing the country's impressive validation score of 78.5%.

He also stated that Government was following up on recommendations regarding contract disclosure. He stated that, after discussions with the Attorney General, it was clarified that with the consent of industry players, Government would be able to disclose Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs). He expressed confidence that this matter would be resolved successfully.

Mr. Kaggwa also highlighted that Uganda's achievement of producing three EITI reports was a significant milestone for the country. He noted that the EITI reports provided valuable recommendations to strengthen the management of Uganda's extractive sector, especially in areas of revenue transparency and accountability. He reassured participants that the MSG was actively working with both Government and private sector stakeholders to address these recommendations.

In conclusion, He reaffirmed Government's commitment to transforming the extractive sector by adopting best practices to ensure Uganda maximizes the benefits from its extractive sector for sustainable socio-economic development.

4.2 Digital Launch of the Report

Following the above remarks, the MSG Chairperson, Mr. Moses Kaggwa, officially launched the third EITI report with the following key representatives:



5.0 Presentation on the 2023 EITI Standard

The presentation was made by Mr. Edwin Wuadom Warden, Country Manager, Anglophone Africa, EITI International Secretariat. His submission included the following:

5.1 Key Changes (Thematic Areas) in the 2023 EITI Standard

The 2023 EITI Standard introduces key thematic areas which include several changes to improve the transparency and governance of extractive industries. They include:

a) **Anti-corruption:**

There is now a stronger emphasis on anti-corruption mechanisms, with clearer guidelines for monitoring, reporting, and addressing corruption in the extractive sector. This includes measures for identifying potential risks and taking corrective actions.

b) **Energy Transition:**

The new standard introduces specific requirements for the extractive industries to demonstrate how they are contributing to global energy transition efforts. This includes reporting on their environmental impact,

the adoption of cleaner technologies, and investments in sustainable energy.

c) Gender, Social & Environmental:

The updated standard pushes for greater focus on inclusive development, with specific requirements on gender equality, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. It asks companies to provide detailed reports on their social and environmental impacts and how they are addressing these challenges.

d) Revenue Collection:

There is an increased focus on the accuracy and completeness of revenue collection data. The standard requires more detailed disclosures on how revenues from oil, gas, and minerals are collected, how they are allocated, and how they contribute to public finances.

5.2 Transitional Arrangements and New Validation Schedule

- a) The EITI Board recognized the need to adjust the validation schedule in response to the evolving needs of implementing countries, including Uganda. This adjustment ensures that countries can meet the updated requirements of the 2023 Standard while addressing any pending issues.
- b) Uganda's new validation commencement date was set for 1st October 2026, giving the country sufficient time to fully implement the changes required under the updated Standard.
- c) The Board had acknowledged the need to resolve several outstanding issues, such as the approval of Terms of Reference for reporting and finalizing the disclosure of contracts, among other matters. He stated that the new schedule allows for addressing these issues comprehensively before the next validation.

5.3 Support and Training Opportunities

- a) The EITI International Secretariat offered a wide range of support and training opportunities to help countries implement the updated standard effectively. This included targeted regional training sessions and customized support to address specific needs.
- b) By participating in these trainings, stakeholders in Uganda can better understand the new EITI requirements, improve their reporting processes, and learn best practices from other countries implementing the Standard.
- c) EITI also provides guidance through comprehensive resources and tools available on its website, helping stakeholders to navigate the complexities of implementing the new standards and ensuring that they are meeting the latest expectations.

6.0 Panel Session

6.1 The panel session consisted of the following representatives:

- a) Mr. Saul Ongaria – Uganda EITI National Coordinator
- b) Mr. Frank Mugisha – Assistant Commissioner, MEMD
- c) Mr. Clovice Irumba – Petroleum Authority of Uganda
- d) Mr. Siragi Magara – CSO representative on the MSG
- e) Mr. Onesmus Mugenyi – CSO representative on the MSG

6.2 The session was moderated by Mr. James Muhindo, who highlighted that Uganda's score of 78.5% during the last validation exercise was partly due to the non-disclosure of Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs). He then invited each panelist to explain what measures their respective institutions were undertaking to address the issue of contract disclosure:

- a) Mr. Clovice Irumba, the Chairperson of the MSG Committee on contract disclosure stated that the Cabinet had assented to contract disclosure as part of their endorsement of Uganda's EITI membership application in 2019. Contract disclosure was an integral part of the commitment to enhance transparency and accountability within the extractive sector. He also stated that the committee had held several engagements with key stakeholders. They had also benchmarked with other EITI countries and found that many of them did not display their contracts on their websites. Following the Attorney General's opinion that the Government should disclose PSAs, only administrative requirements remained before disclosure could happen.
- b) Mr. Frank Mugisha, the Assistant Commissioner from MEMD, explained that MEMD produces annual reports on the country's natural resources, which are then made publicly available on the MEMD website. He further addressed the issue of contract disclosure, emphasizing that while International Oil Companies (IOCs) had no objections to disclosing their contracts, the Ministry was still evaluating how best to implement it. This evaluation process was meant to ensure that disclosure could be done in a way that was consistent with Uganda's legal and regulatory frameworks. The Ministry was exploring the most effective methods to make these contracts transparent, considering both internal processes and the broader implications for the sector.
- c) Mr. Saul Ongaria, the National Coordinator at the Uganda EITI Secretariat, emphasized that EITI was an ongoing process, and contract disclosure was only one of several issues that need to be addressed. He acknowledged that achieving full disclosure cannot be done overnight. Uganda EITI was actively working towards reducing discrepancies in the mineral sector, achieving full beneficial ownership disclosure, and ensuring complete contract transparency. Mr. Ongaria also pointed out that a deeper examination of the contracts would allow the public to identify areas where the Government can improve, thereby enhancing accountability and transparency in the sector.

- d) Mr. Siragi Magara, a CSO representative on the MSG, highlighted that EITI operated on four key principles - Data, Disclosure, Dissemination, and Debate. He emphasized that natural resources belong to the citizens, and it was crucial for the Government to involve them in the decisions and deals made regarding these resources, regardless of Uganda's membership in EITI. He stressed that involving citizens in these processes could help curb corruption.
- e) Mr. Onesmus Mugenyi another CSO representative on the MSG argued that discussing contract disclosure without linking it to service delivery would not catch the attention of the *wanaichi* (people). He advised that contract disclosure needed to be linked to tangible outcomes so that citizens can be able to ask questions. He also pointed out that Ugandans needed to be informed about the financial losses caused by these contracts. He also criticized the lack of adequate information on the cadastre, noting that it was unfair for locals to pay administrative fees just to monitor who was being granted licenses for extractive activities in their local communities.
- f) He further emphasized that the government needed to focus on mainstreaming all relevant information in the extractive sector, ensuring that it is accessible to the public. While he commended the ongoing discussions and progress on contract disclosure, Mr. Mugenyi stressed that the process should be expedited. He highlighted the urgency of making this information available to Ugandans who had the capacity to effectively analyse issues in the management of their natural resources.

6.3 Plenary Discussions

- a) Dr. Henry Bazira, a CSO representative on the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), questioned why contracts that were already being shared internationally by companies listed on the stock exchange were not made available to the public in Uganda. This underscored the inconsistency in transparency practices because while companies were required to disclose contracts globally due to their listing on international stock markets, they seemed to withhold the same information locally. This lack of local transparency prevented Ugandans from fully understanding the terms and implications of contracts made by companies operating in their country.
- b) Mr. James Opito from CSCO/ACODE raised a concern about the security measures around mining operations. He inquired about how the Government could balance the need for security on mines with the need for effective monitoring by citizens. He stated that the overly strict security measures hindered public oversight and the ability of local communities to track mining activities, which was essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in the sector. It was important for Government to find a balance between safeguarding the interests of mining companies and enabling citizen participation in monitoring the extractive industry.

7.0 Closing Remarks

- 7.1** The event moderator, Mr. James Muhindo, expressed his gratitude to the EITI Secretariat and the Multi-Stakeholder Group for organizing the event. He also extended special thanks to the Natural Resource Governance Institute for their invaluable support, which contributed significantly to the success of the event.
- 7.2** The closing remarks of the Hon. State Minister of Minerals at MEMD were delivered by Mr. Frank Mugisha. He congratulated all participants on the successful launch of Uganda's third EITI report and acknowledged the collective efforts in achieving this milestone.

He encouraged stakeholders, particularly Uganda EITI, to take note of the identified areas for improvement and work towards addressing them. He emphasized the importance of open and constructive debate on all issues in the extractive sector and reiterated that MEMD was internally evaluating the modalities for disclosing contracts.

He highlighted the significance of leveraging the EITI platform to align with principles of transparency and accountability, which were critical for driving sustainable development in the sector. With those remarks, he officially declared the event closed.

8.0 Annexes

8.1 Annex I: List of Participants

- 1) Moses Kagawa - Chairperson MSG - MoFPED
- 2) Joseph Hiryra - Director of Audit - Office of the Auditor General
- 3) Mr. Clovice Bright Irumba – Petroleum Authority of Uganda
- 4) Dr. Bazira Henry Mugisha (PhD) - Executive Director - Water Governance Institute
- 5) Isaac I.G. Ntujju - Manager - Oil, Gas & Minerals - NEMA
- 6) Obad Noah - Country Representative - Country Representative
- 7) David Sebagala - Senior Inspector of Mines - Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
- 8) Magara Siragi - EI Coordinator - Oxfam
- 9) Onesmus Mugenyi - Research Fellow - (ACODE)
- 10) Kibirige Emmanuel - National Coordinator - UGAASM
- 11) Kenneth Asiimwe - Head of Projects and Research - Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum
- 12) Sandra Mwesigye - DHod Legal and Commercial - CNOOC Uganda Ltd
- 13) Jonan Kandwanaho - Senior Planner-Chemical Industry - National Planning Authority
- 14) Bukya John Bosco - Chairperson – UGAASM
- 15) Gard Benda - Country Director - World Voices Uganda
- 16) Mucunguzi Sam - Deputy ED - Citizens' Concern Africa
- 17) Winston Mugumya - Senior Engineer - MEMD-Upstream
- 18) Jane Rose Atwongyeire - Senior Environment Inspector Oil & Gas – NEMA
- 19) Frank Mugisha - Assistant Commissioner – MEMD
- 20) Frank Byaruhanga - Senior Specialist Law - Office of the Auditor General
- 21) Babirye Magdalene - Senior Auditor - Office of the Auditor General
- 22) Anguyo William - Principal Statistician - UBOS
- 23) Racheal Betenga - TotalEnergies EP Uganda
- 24) Jimmy Muhangi Bakesi - Communications - GRA
- 25) Nakagolo Racheal - Communications Manager - Climate Action Network Uganda
- 26) Robert Wamulimah - Senior Officer PSDU - MOFPED
- 27) Ronald Atuhairwe - Technical Monitoring Officer-Energy – BMAU - MOFPED
- 28) Samuel Kiyingi - Principal Economist - MOFPED
- 29) Gilbert Matabi – RTI International
- 30) James Opito - National Coordinator CSCO - (ACODE)
- 31) Phionah Nakitende - Legal Personnel - CNOOC Uganda Limited
- 32) David Kizito Wolugunga - Program Officer - Transparency International Uganda
- 33) Mukunda Julius - Executive Director - Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
- 34) Martin Tugume - Manager Planning - Financial Intelligence Authority
- 35) Charlotte Mudoola - Senior Registration Officer - URSB
- 36) Namubiru Jane - Communication - ACODE
- 37) Susan Nakagolo - Principal Economist - MOFPED
- 38) Ham Mubinga - Accountant - Department of Geological Surveys and Mines
- 39) Apio Christine Patience - Gender and Inclusion Officer - Impact Transform/PlanetGOLD
- 40) Ann Mary Kusiima - Project Associate - Natural Resource Governance Institute
- 41) Wamunga Moses - TPD Officer - MOFPED
- 42) Musana Nice - M&E Officer - SEATINI
- 43) Ashabahebwa Edson Serve - Manager Treasury and Project Finance - UNOC
- 44) Diana Nyakato - Head of Legal - Hima Cement Limited
- 45) Muhairwe Polly - Director - Inspectorate of Government
- 46) Kafeero Farouk - R/A - EOC
- 47) Imam Mugisha - Executive Director - YCED
- 48) Kisa Emmanuel Deogracious - Logistics Officer - Goodwill Ceramics Co. Ltd
- 49) Asadu Luyimbazi - Driver - ACODE
- 50) Nakawuma Rose - Asam Asso & Coop Officer - IMPACT TRANSFORM/planetGOLD
- 51) James Okiria – Refinery

Journalists:

- 52) Collins Muhwezi - Reporter – NTV
- 53) Ronald Musoke - Senior Reporter - The Independent Magazine
- 54) Rose Nalubega - Journalist - Delta TV
- 55) Christopher Kisekka - Journalist - Uganda Radio Network
- 56) Wambi Michael - Journalist - Uganda Radio Network
- 57) Ahumuza John Baptist - Kampala - COU Family TV
- 58) Kidandi Moses - Journalist - Capital Radio
- 59) Elizabeth Tukwasikanye - News Reporter - XFM
- 60) Amuge Racheal - Reporter - Radio One
- 61) Julius Wesonga – NTV
- 62) Geoffrey serugo – The Observer
- 63) John Odyek – New Vision
- 64) Brian Oketcho – Elix Media
- 65) Ronah Nahabwe – Daily Monitor
- 66) Lucky Kamusiime – Daily Monitor
- 67) Mpumirira Diana – Beat FM
- 68) Nsamba Juma – UBC TV

UGEITI Secretariat:

- 69) Gloria Mugambe - Head of Secretariat
- 70) Saul Ongaria - National Coordinator
- 71) Gertrude Angom - M&E Officer
- 72) Abbey Gitta - Research Officer
- 73) Kanakulya Edwin Kavuma - Compliance Officer
- 74) Linda Stacy Nalumu - Communication Assistant
- 75) Francis Garvin Okello - Admin Officer
- 76) Nakimwero Gloria - Secretariat
- 77) Anyait Stellah - Secretary
- 78) Anapa Paul - Research Assistant
- 79) Etyang Stephen - Field Officer
- 80) Dan Denis - Statistician
- 81) Okepa Reagan - Driver
- 82) Ariho Ignatius - IT
- 83) Arinda Bronia - Data Manager
- 84) Gordon Muhereza - Office Assistant
- 85) Bwoye Perez Ham - Procurement Assistant
- 86) Kamwe Edson - Driver
- 87) Acom Angela Susan - Office Assistant
- 88) Naluswa Ibrahim Kasango - Driver