UGEITI Extractives Week Talking Points

Energy and Climate Cluster Coordinator (AV)
GIZ Uganda

EITI and Extractives Awareness Conference 2026
23–24 September 2026, Kampala Serena Hotel

Protocol

- Honourable Ministers,
- The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development,
- Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners present,
- Representatives of Government, different Development Partner Organisations, The UGEITI Leadership.
- The Private sector, Academia and
- Civil Society Organisations,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the GIZ Country Director, I welcome you all to this second day of the Uganda EITI Awareness Conference. I congratulate the UGEITI Secretariat for organizing this conference and for the launch of its 5th EITI report. The EITI disclosures promote transparency and public accountability creating a vital platform where public institutions, businesses and citizens can examine how extractive resources are governed.

2. As Team Europe, but also on behalf of Germany, we are happy to join this conference as it aligns closely with our priorities, reinforcing our bilateral partnership and shared vision for the country. The conference theme connects transparency and good governance with value retained in Uganda. For us, that connection must become practical: safer work at mine sites, stronger Ugandan businesses, more capable institutions and communities that can see and question the decisions affecting their lives.

3. Germany and the European Union, are proud to support Uganda in this journey. Our commitment goes beyond funding. It is about ensuring that Uganda's mineral wealth becomes a driver of inclusive growth, gender equity, and environmental stewardship.

4. Through the Sustainable Development of the Mining Sector in Uganda project (SDMU), implemented with funding from the European Union and Germany, GIZ and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development are working to strengthen regulations and digital systems for mining governance, equip artisanal and small-scale mining cooperatives with health, safety, and compliance tools, and support private sector actors in implementing traceability and due diligence standards.

5. Our work links better investment information with artisanal and small-scale mining formalisation, mineral processing and value addition, stronger regulatory oversight, and responsible sourcing. These areas reinforce one another. Investment needs reliable information; responsible businesses need effective public services; and miners need practical routes to improve their operations.

6. A big component of our work targets digitalization where we are supporting the ministry of energy and mineral development to build a National minerals database, develop and establish a national traceability system and provide digital solutions to enhance transparency in licensing and production verification of mining companies.

7. The fifth Uganda EITI Report provides an important opportunity for this conference. Its value will depend on how institutions and citizens use its findings. We encourage participants to identify the recommendations that can improve licensing, reporting, oversight and public understanding, and agree who will take them forward.

8. A miner should be able to understand the steps towards a licence. An investor should find credible information and clear procedures. A community should know where to raise concerns and obtain a response. These are useful tests of whether transparency is changing the experience of people who interact with the sector.

9. Digitalisation can help make information more accessible and improve the consistency of records. It requires trained staff, reliable data and clear institutional responsibilities. As we discuss digital systems, let us also consider the miner with limited connectivity and the local official who needs support to use them.

10. Artisanal and small-scale miners are essential participants in this discussion. Formalisation should offer a workable route into lawful, safer and more productive activity. That calls for further grass root awareness raising about mineral rights and establishing grass root support to organize, and provide practical training to actors. The SDMU project through the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM) is piloting this and I encourage actors to support its country wide adoption.

11. Value addition depends on people who can operate equipment safely, control processing losses, maintain machinery and manage viable enterprises. Our partnerships with universities, vocational institutions and industry are intended to connect training more closely to these needs, while strengthening Uganda's own capacity to sustain that training.

12. Project Ujuazi, the partnership with Woodcross, illustrates this approach. Working with UVTAB and sector partners, our public private partnership has produced three compiled assessment and training packages (ATPs) covering rock breaking, material processing and mine ventilation. We are now working with regulatory agencies towards final quality assurance and approvals and are targeting the pilot trainings towards the end of this year.

13. The planned pilot aims to train and assess 100 miners following the necessary preparation and approvals. The opportunity is to test a practical pathway from occupational skills to recognized competence, learn from the experience and use that evidence to guide wider application.

14. I reiterate that Team Europe is committed to supporting Uganda's journey towards transparency and good governance in the mining sector. I look forward to the productive discussions and successful outcomes of this conference.

Ends