Remarks for the
Champion of the Uganda
Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Hon. Minister for Karamoja Affairs at the Press Conference held at Speke Resort Hotel, Munyonyo on 6th June 2024,
in Kampala.

Representatives of Government,

Members of the Private Sector,

Representatives of Civil Society Organizations,

Representatives of the Press and Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you all to this press conference which is aimed at informing you and creating awareness about the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), an initiative that has been adopted by Government to strengthen the management of the extractive industries in Uganda. The extractive industries mainly include petroleum and mining.

As you are aware, activities to commence drilling operations have been on going since mid-2023 in Uganda's Oil Project areas, with first production targeted for 2025. The oil project is expected to

provide a significant boost to the economic development of the country with increased investment in the sector.

Since the signing of the Final Investment Decision, a number of developments have occurred in both Uganda and Tanzania. The construction of the EACOP Pipeline has commenced, a new partner to lead the Refinery project has been secured, Kabalega Industrial Park works are on going with construction of Kabalega International Airport at 90%, and a Crude Oil Export hub as well as Petrochemical and Fertilizer Industries are being developed.

Also, on 26th March 2024, Uganda and Tanzania achieved a key milestone with the commissioning of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Coating Plant, located in Sojo, Nzege, Tabora Region, Tanzania. The facility will apply thermal insulation and coating to all pipelines delivered from the Port of Dar es Salaam. The coated pipelines will then be transported to various locations ready for use in the construction of the EACOP.

In addition, the upstream projects in Uganda, namely the Tilenga and Kingfisher Development Areas, are also progressing well. Four rigs are currently drilling production wells, and construction of the industrial area to host the Central Processing Facilities and their auxiliary facilities is underway. These are some of the developments among many others that are ongoing.

Also, in order to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework, the National Oil and Gas Policy is currently under going review

with the aim of addressing emerging issues such as the transition to renewable energy, environmental concerns, social, economic and equity issues, among others. The Government of Uganda recognizes the evolving landscape of the energy sector and the need for updated policies to align with current challenges and opportunities. The development of the new policy commenced in 2021 and is expected to be approved by the Cabinet in June 2024.

Regarding the mining sector, a number of reforms have occurred which include the development of a Mining Cadastre system, Formalisation of Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners is on going, new legislation including the Mining and Minerals Act,2022 that has brought about reforms in the sector. Furthermore, in May 2024, Uganda attained the **Mineral Certification Scheme** of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The Regional Certification Mechanism is one of the six tools approved by the 12 Heads of State in the Great Lakes Region and is part of the Regional Initiative against the illegal exploitation of natural resources. It is a compulsory regional standard for the certification of the 3Ts (tin, tantalum, tungsten) and gold sourced from or transiting through a Member State in the Great Lakes Region.

Members, as part of the EITI implementation process, implementing countries are periodically subjected to validation assessments conducted by the EITI International Secretariat to determine their level of compliance with the EITI Standard. To this effect, Uganda commenced its validation process on 1st October 2023. A team of experts from the EITI International Secretariat

conducted the validation country mission from 4th to 8th December 2023. During this period, the experts met with key stakeholders to discuss the status of Uganda's EITI implementation process. This rigorous exercise was concluded in May 2024, and Uganda was awarded a Moderate score of **78.5%** by the EITI Board. The full Validation Report, accessible on the Uganda EITI website, outlines the complete assessment by requirement, including corrective actions to enhance the benefits of the extractive sector to the economy and the country as a whole.

The main purpose of this press conference is to announce the results of Uganda's **EITI validation assessment**.

Going forward, Uganda aims to use its EITI membership to strengthen efforts in ensuring overall transparency in the extractives sector, enhance tax collection, promote public debate, improve the investment climate, build trust, and create lasting value from its petroleum and mineral resources. I extend my sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, for supporting the EITI process in Uganda.

I also take this opportunity to thank the members of the Multi-Stakeholder Group and Uganda EITI Secretariat for the significant time and attention given to the validation process. We therefore look forward to the production of the third EITI report soon.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations for the rest of this engagement.

Thank you!