Remarks by H.E. Jan SADEK
Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Uganda

At the EITI and Extractives Awareness Conference

Theme: "Advancing Transparency, Good Governance and Value Retention in Uganda's Extractives Sector."

23 September 2026 at Serena Hotel, Kampala

Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Henry Musasizi,

Honourable Minister of Energy and Mineral Development for Uganda, Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza,

Excellencies and Ambassadors from Member States of the European Union,

The Executive Director, Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative,

Permanent Secretaries and senior government officials,

Representatives of the various government Ministries, Departments and Agencies,

Chairperson and members of the Uganda EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group,

Colleagues from the Diplomatic Corps and Development Partners,

Members of the Private Sector, Civil Society and the Press,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Crested Towers, 15th Floor, Plot 17-23 Hannington Road, PO. Box 5244, Kampala
Tel: +256 41 70 10 00 E-mail: delegation-uganda@eeas.europa.eu
Facebook: European Union in Uganda | Twitter: @JanSadek | Website: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uganda

It is a pleasure to join you at the 2026 EITI and Extractives Awareness Conference. I thank the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative for convening us under the theme: "Advancing Transparency, Good Governance and Value Retention in Uganda's Extractives Sector."

I am pleased to see government, industry, civil society, academia and development partners represented here today. This multi-stakeholder approach is the foundation of the EITI and recognises that transparency cannot be delivered by government alone.

Uganda's admission to the EITI on 12 August 2020 was an important achievement. This demonstrated Uganda's commitment to managing its petroleum and mineral resources openly and in the public interest.

The European Union is pleased to have accompanied Uganda on this journey. Through technical and budget support, the EU supported the foundations of EITI implementation in Uganda and the capacity to communicate its findings.

But transparency is not an end in itself. It matters when communities understand what revenues have been paid, when local governments know what they should receive, when Parliament can exercise informed oversight, and when investors see a predictable, rules-based and accountable operating environment.

To this end, Uganda has made considerable progress. In its first EITI Validation, completed in May 2024, Uganda received an overall score of 78.5 points, reflecting a moderate level of progress, with strong scores for outcomes and impact. Today's presentation of Uganda's fifth EITI report represents another important milestone, and I congratulate the Government, the Uganda EITI Secretariat, the Multi-Stakeholder Group, reporting companies, civil society and the Independent Administrator on this achievement.

While acknowledging this progress, it is important to ensure that EITI reports lead to tangible reforms. The fifth report should therefore be seen as the starting point for action. Three areas identified through the EITI process deserve particular attention:

Crested Towers, 15th Floor, Plot 17-23 Hannington Road, PO. Box 5244, Kampala
Tel: +256 41 70 10 00 E-mail: delegation-uganda@eeas.europa.eu
Facebook: European Union in Uganda | Twitter: @JanSadek | Website: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uganda

First, it is recommended that Uganda continues moving from periodic reporting towards systematic and timely disclosure. Information on licences, mineral production, exports and other key sectoral information should progressively become available through ordinary government and company systems.

Second, EITI emphasises that transparency must extend across the whole mineral value chain, including artisanal and small-scale miners, traders, refiners and exporters. Reliable information on mineral production and trade is necessary to address illicit financial flows and smuggling, improve revenue mobilisation and strengthen confidence in the origin of Uganda's minerals and mineral products.

Third, meaningful civil society participation must remain at the heart of the process. Uganda has made important progress in bringing government, companies and civil society together through EITI. At the same time, the EITI's 2024 Validation report identified constraints on civic space and highlighted the need to ensure that they can participate freely and effectively. Civil society, journalists, researchers and communities should be able to access information, contribute to the debate and raise legitimate concerns.

An important part of the theme of this year's conference is "Value Retention". As H.E. the President has emphasised, Uganda's ambition should not be limited to exporting unprocessed resources. Uganda's extractive industries should increasingly contribute to the development of value chains that generate skilled employment, support enterprises, increase fiscal revenues, and develop the capabilities required for value addition. Ultimately, Ugandan citizens should be able to see not only what was extracted, but also what lasting value was created.

Ladies and gentlemen, the European Union is a committed partner of Uganda to in achieving its development objectives and Uganda's national objective of enhancing value addition is a cornerstone of our partnership. This year is particularly significant, as we celebrate **50 years of EU-Uganda diplomatic relations and partnership**. Over five decades, our partnership has evolved considerably. Today, it is increasingly focused on sustainable investments, trade, regional integration, value chains, such as coffee, and the green transition.

Our partnership also supports the development of Uganda's extractive sector, by strengthen the broader enabling environment, and through targeted support to the sustainable development of the mining sector. For instance, EU support for

Crested Towers, 15th Floor, Plot 17-23 Hannington Road, PO. Box 5244, Kampala
Tel: +256 41 70 10 00 E-mail: delegation-uganda@eeas.europa.eu
Facebook: European Union in Uganda | Twitter: @JanSadek | Website: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uganda

investments in infrastructure, energy and digital connectivity helps to make mineral value addition economically viable and competitive.

The EU-Uganda partnership encompasses a growing number of targeted actions to support the sustainable and responsible development of Uganda's mining sector. These include, for instance, EUR 6.25 million in grant funding from the European Union and Germany, implemented through GIZ, to strengthen institutional capacity and support the formalisation and skilling of artisanal and small-scale miners. Through EUR 3.3 million in grant funding, the Geological Survey of Slovenia is working with Uganda's Geological Survey Department to expand geological data on Uganda's critical mineral endowment, strengthen the skills of Ugandan geoscientists and to develop credible information to attract responsible investments.

Building on these programmes, I am pleased to announce that the EU is working to mobilise additional support to Uganda through the OECD and EITI, which will help to align Uganda's mineral-governance reforms with recognised international standards and strengthen cooperation on sustainable critical-mineral value chains.

Our strong collaboration in these areas reflects Europe's commitment to diversifying supply chains through trusted partnerships, and Uganda's determination to build a sustainable and responsible mining sector. These shared priorities provide a solid foundation for mutually beneficial partnerships.

To this end, the EITI provides part of the institutional foundation for such partnerships. It tells responsible investors that Uganda is prepared to disclose, to engage and to improve, while strengthening the transparency, accountability and safeguards needed to ensure that resource wealth creates lasting value. It also enables Uganda to demand transparency and responsible conduct from the companies seeking access to its resources.

And this work comes at an important moment for Uganda, as commercial oil production will significantly increase the scale and complexity of its resource revenues. At the same time, growing international demand for critical minerals presents new investment opportunities. Decisions made now will shape Uganda's economy, environment and public finances for decades. The question is not

Crested Towers, 15th Floor, Plot 17-23 Hannington Road, PO. Box 5244, Kampala
Tel: +256 41 70 10 00 E-mail: delegation-uganda@eeas.europa.eu
Facebook: European Union in Uganda | Twitter: @JanSadek | Website: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uganda

simply how much Uganda can extract, but how it can turn finite resources into lasting prosperity.

Let us ensure that Uganda's fifth EITI report is widely understood, openly debated and, most importantly, acted upon. Let us make transparency a normal feature of public administration and corporate practice, rather than a periodic reporting exercise. And let us ensure that Uganda's petroleum and mineral wealth create lasting value for present and future generations.

Please allow me to close by reaffirming the European Union's commitment to working alongside Uganda - in partnership, transparency and with a shared ambition to turn natural resource wealth into lasting national prosperity.

I congratulate the Uganda EITI Secretariat on this conference and wish you productive discussions over the next two days.

Thank you.

Crested Towers, 15th Floor, Plot 17-23 Hannington Road, PO. Box 5244, Kampala
Tel: +256 41 70 10 00 E-mail: delegation-uganda@eeas.europa.eu
Facebook: European Union in Uganda | Twitter: @JanSadek | Website: eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uganda