Consultation on the scope of refinements to the EITI Standard

The 9th EITI Global Conference in mid 2023 presents an opportunity to refine the EITI Standard. Based on the experience from implementing the EITI Standard and the lessons learned from Validation, there may be opportunities to improve and clarify the EITI Requirements. Refinements of the language in the EITI Standard could reaffirm current policy and practice and help strengthen implementation. They also give the EITI Board the opportunity to address ambiguities in the text of the EITI Standard.

Critical to this process is consultations with key stakeholders on the scope of refinements to the EITI Standard. Consultations will allow the EITI Board to receive feedback from stakeholders and ensure that varying country contexts feed into the EITI Board's deliberations. These consultation questions are intended to initiate and guide conversations with stakeholders on the scope of the refinements to the EITI Standard.

Stakeholders may choose to focus on topics that are most relevant to them and should not feel obliged to respond to every question. Stakeholders who may wish to add or suggest other areas not defined in this document.

Each area is presented as a separate question. If you think that revisions should be considered for this area, please describe why in your response. If not, simply skip to the next area.

You will have an opportunity to make any additional comments at the end of the survey.

EITI International Secretariat   1
Phone: +47 222 00 800   •   E-mail: secretariat@eiti.org   •   Twitter: @EITIorg
Address: Rådhusgata 26, 0151 Oslo, Norway   •   www.eiti.org

About you

Name

Email

Stakeholder grouping

- ☐ EITI implementing country
- ☐ EITI supporting country
- ☐ EITI supporting company
- ☐ Civil society
- ☐ International Financial Institution
- ☐ Independent Administrator
- ☐ Other:

I am representing:

- ☐ My own personal views
- ☐ The views of my organisation
- ☐ The views of my constituency
- ☐ Other:

1. Strategic priorities

The EITI Board agreed strategic priorities for the EITI in 2020. The six strategic shifts are mainstreaming energy transition, fighting corruption, mobilising domestic revenues, promoting environmental, social and governance considerations, encouraging open data and measuring impact. These are intended to help set out priorities established by the EITI Board in the lead up to the Global Conference and guide the International Secretariat's short and medium-term planning. These priorities are not captured in the 2019 EITI Standard and will need to be considered.

A. Energy transition

In October 2020, the EITI Board agreed to consider how to integrate transparency on energy transition in the EITI Standard and guidance. Implementing countries face risks as well as opportunities with the energy transition. Risks include increased government revenue volatility, asset devaluations, increasing debt within the extractive sector and corruption in the critical minerals sector. Additionally, EITI countries such as Albania and Germany have used EITI reporting to disclose information on the renewable energy sector.

Stakeholders are encouraged to give views on:

- *Refinements related to energy transition in existing EITI Requirements*
- *Additional EITI provisions to reflect changes in the share of fossils fuels in the energy mix*
- *Additional EITI provisions on the role of critical minerals*
- *Additional provisions on the renewable energy sector*

If you have views on how the EITI Standard should be refined to reflect the energy transition, please describe below. If not, go to the next page.

B. Anti-corruption

In February 2020, the EITI Board agreed to strengthen and articulate the EITI's role in mitigating corruption risks. Among the agreed steps is to (i) improve implementation support on anti-corruption, (ii) identify opportunities to advance work on this topic at the global and national level, and (iii) consider how to incorporate anti-corruption within the EITI Standard.

Stakeholders are encouraged to give views on:

- *Additional EITI provisions geared towards the fight against corruption*
- *Refinements to existing EITI Requirements to strengthen anti-corruption efforts*
- *Reference to suppliers or contractors in the EITI provisions*

If you have views on how the EITI Standard should be refined to reflect the strategic priority on anti-corruption, please describe below. If not, go to the next page.

C. Domestic resource mobilisation

Stakeholders are increasingly using the EITI to assess whether companies and governments are fulfilling their obligations and to forecast future revenues. This requires disaggregated and timely disclosures of revenue and other relevant data.

Stakeholders are encouraged to give views on:

- *Refinements to existing requirements to improving data timeliness*
- *Refinements to existing requirements on debt in the extractive sector*
- *Refinements to existing requirements on production and export data*
- *Additional EITI provisions to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation*

If you have views on how the EITI Standard should be refined to better reflect domestic resource mobilisation efforts, please describe below. If not, go to the next page.

2. Existing EITI Requirements

The EITI Requirements are minimum requirements and implementing countries are encouraged to go beyond them where stakeholders agree that this is appropriate. The EITI Requirements cover oversight of the multi-stakeholder group (MSG), the legal and regulatory framework, exploration and production, revenue collection, revenue allocation, social and economic spending and outcomes and impact.

A. Data quality assurance

The MSG is required to agree a procedure to address data quality and assurance based on a standard procedure endorsed by the EITI Board. The MSG is required to apply the standard procedure without any material deviations (EITI Requirement 4.9b). This approach allows for the EITI Board to agree several different reporting procedures. However, only one standardised approach has been approved, i.e. the conventional reporting procedure based on reconciliation of company payments and government revenues by an Independent Administrator. The Board-approved flexible approach to reporting does not require reconciliation, but it is a time-bound measure.

Stakeholders are encouraged to give views on:

- *Strengthening data quality assurances and/or audit of government and company data*

- *Alternatives to the standardised approach to data quality and assurance in the EITI Standard*

If you have views on how the EITI Standard should be refined to improve data quality assurances and/or audit provisions, please describe below. If not, go to the next page.

B. Systematic disclosure

The 2019 EITI Standard expects countries to disclose the information required by the EITI Standard through routine government and corporate reporting, and through consultation systems such as websites, data portals and annual reports. This is often referred to "systematic disclosure" or "EITI mainstreaming". MSGs are encouraged to become active agents in using data to undertake analysis, influence decision makers and direct information to wider set of users.

Stakeholders are encouraged to give views on:

- *Refinements to EITI provisions to encourage greater data analysis*
- *Refinements to EITI provisions to support efforts to systematically disclose data*

If you have views on how systemic disclosures should be further encouraged in the EITI Standard, please describe below. If not, go to the next page.

C. Gender

The 2019 EITI Standard was revised to include provisions that promote diverse participation on multi-stakeholder groups (MSGs), gender-sensitive data disclosures, outreach activities to foster dialogue and gender-responsive communication plans.

Stakeholders are encouraged to give views on:

- *Refinements to EITI provisions related to gender disaggregated disclosures*
- *Refinements to EITI provisions on ensuring diverse representation*

If you have views on how the EITI Standard should be refined to improve gender equality, please describe below. If not, go to the next page.

D. Other topics

If you have views on how other provisions of the EITI Standard should be refined, please describe these below. If not, please go to the next page.

Stakeholders are encouraged to give views on:

- *Any EITI provisions that are unclear and should be clarified*
- *Any EITI provisions that should be changed from encouraged to required*
- *Any EITI provisions that should be changed from required to encouraged*

3. Logic and accessibility

This section seeks views on how the EITI Standard and its provisions are structured. Currently the EITI Standard follows the extractive value chain. Implementing countries and companies report on extraction rights are awarded, to how revenues make their way through the government and how they how benefit the public. The Validation Guide states the underlying objective of each EITI Requirement. These objectives are not currently featured in the EITI Standard.

Stakeholders are encouraged to give views on:

- *Explicitly stating the underlying objective for each EITI Requirement in the EITI Standard*
- *Reordering the EITI Standard according to thematic areas*
- *Clarifying the distinction between required, expected and encouraged EITI provisions*

If you have views on how the logic and accessibility of the EITI Standard can be improved, please describe below.