

Call for views on progress in EITI implementation in Tanzania

The second Validation of Tanzania under the 2016 EITI Standard¹ is scheduled to commence on 1 January 2020. On 25 October 2017, the EITI Board found that Tanzania had made ‘meaningful progress’ in implementing the EITI Standard.²

The EITI International Secretariat is seeking stakeholder views on Tanzania’s progress in implementing the EITI Standard between 25 October 2017 and 31 December 2019. Stakeholders are requested to send views to Validation Manager Lyidia Kilpi (lkilpi@eiti.org) and Policy Director Ines Marques (imarques@eiti.org) by 31 January 2020.

Civil society engagement in the EITI will be assessed in accordance with EITI Protocol: Participation of civil society.³ Stakeholders are requested to provide input on Tanzania’s adherence with the protocol. Any concerns related to potential breaches of the protocol should be accompanied with a description of the related incident, including its timing, actors involved and the link to the EITI process. If available, supporting documentation should be provided. Stakeholders may also indicate which provision of the civil society protocol they consider the breach(es) to relate to. Responses will be anonymised and be kept confidential. The Secretariat is seeking views on the following questions:

1. Are civil society organisations able to engage in public debate related to the EITI process and express opinions about the EITI process without restraint, coercion or reprisal?
2. Are civil society representatives able to operate freely in relation to the EITI process?
3. Are civil society representatives able to communicate and cooperate with each other regarding the EITI process?
4. Are civil society representatives able to be fully, actively and effectively engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EITI process?
5. Are civil society representatives able to speak freely on transparency and natural resource governance issues, and ensure that the EITI contributes to public debate?

For purposes of the protocol, ‘civil society representatives’ refer to civil society representatives who are substantively involved in the EITI process, including but not limited to members of the multi-stakeholder group. The ‘EITI process’ refer to activities related to preparing for EITI sign-up; MSG meetings; CSO constituency side-meetings on EITI, including interactions with MSG representatives; producing EITI Reports; producing materials or conducting analysis on EITI Reports; expressing views related to EITI activities; and expressing views related to natural resource governance.

¹ <https://eiti.org/document/eiti-standard-requirements-2016>.

² <https://eiti.org/document/validation-of-tanzania-2017-reports>.

³ <https://eiti.org/document/eiti-protocol-participation-of-civil-society>

The assessment of Tanzania's adherence with the civil society protocol will apply the following tests:

2.1 Expression: Civil society representatives are able to engage in public debate related to the EITI process and express opinions about the EITI process without restraint, coercion or reprisal.

The EITI Board and validators will consider the extent to which:

- Civil society representatives are able to speak freely in public about the EITI process including for example during MSG meetings, EITI events including for the promulgation of EITI reports, public events, in the media etc.
- Actual practice, including diverse stakeholder views or substantive evidence provided by independent third parties, indicates that self-censorship or self-imposed restriction by civil society representatives has taken place related to the EITI process due to fear of reprisal and whether such barriers have impacted civil society representatives' dissemination of information and public comment on the EITI process.

2.2 Operation: Civil society representatives are able to operate freely in relation to the EITI process.

The EITI Board and validators will consider the extent to which the legal, regulatory, administrative and actual environment has affected civil society representative's ability to participate in the EITI process. This could for example include:

- The extent to which legal, regulatory or administrative obstacles affecting the ability of civil society representatives to participate in the EITI process. This could include legal or administrative procedures related to the registration of CSOs that have adversely affected their ability to participate in the EITI process; legal or administrative restrictions on access to funding that have prevented CSOs from undertaking work related to the EITI process; legal or administrative issues preventing CSOs from holding meetings related to the EITI process, legal or administrative barriers to the dissemination of information and public comment on the EITI process etc.
- Any evidence suggesting that the fundamental rights of civil society representatives have been restricted in relation to the implementation of the EITI process, such as restrictions on freedom of expression or freedom of movement.

2.3 Association: Civil society representatives are able to communicate and cooperate with each other regarding the EITI process.

The EITI Board and validators will consider the extent to which:

- Civil society MSG representatives may seek and are not restricted from engaging other CSOs that are not part of the MSG, including capturing their input for MSG discussions and communicating outcomes of MSG deliberations.
- Formal or informal communication channels between civil society MSG members and the wider civil society constituency have not been restricted.
- Civil society MSG representatives have not been restricted from engaging in outreach to broader civil society, including related to discussions about MSG representation and the EITI process.

2.4 Engagement: Civil society representatives are able to be fully, actively and effectively engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EITI process

The EITI Board and validators will consider the extent to which:

- Civil society representatives are able to fully contribute and provide input to the EITI process. This could for example include evidence of input and advocacy related to key MSG deliberations on issues such as workplan objectives and activities, the scope of the EITI reporting process, approval of EITI Reports, annual self-assessment of the EITI process through the annual activity reports, validation etc. It could also include evidence that civil society is regularly participating in MSG meetings, MSG working groups and other EITI events, and that the views of CSOs are taken into account and documented in MSG meeting minutes.
- Civil society representatives consider that they have adequate capacity to participate in the EITI. This should include evidence that technical, financial or other capacity constraints affecting civil society have been considered and that plans for addressing such constraints have been agreed upon and/or effectuated including by providing access to capacity building or resources.

2.5 Access to public decision-making: Civil society representatives are able to speak freely on transparency and natural resource governance issues, and ensure that the EITI contributes to public debate.

The EITI Board and validators will consider the extent to which:

- Civil society representatives are able to use the EITI process to promote public debate for example through public events, workshops and conferences organised by or with participation of civil society to inform the public about the EITI process and outcomes.
- Civil society representatives are able to engage in activities and debates about natural resource governance, including for example conducting analysis and advocacy on natural resource issues, use of EITI data, engagement with media outlets, development of tools to communicate the findings of the EITI reports, etc.