Republic of Armenia

Stakeholder engagement – template for EITI data collection

Contents

[Introduction 2](#_Toc139206212)

[Part I: MSG oversight 2](#_Toc139206213)

[MSG members and attendance 3](#_Toc139206214)

[MSG Terms of Reference and practices 6](#_Toc139206215)

[MSG meetings and minutes 13](#_Toc139206216)

[MSG approval 14](#_Toc139206217)

[Part II: Government engagement 14](#_Toc139206218)

[Liaison with the broader constituency 19](#_Toc139206219)

[Use of data 21](#_Toc139206220)

[Sign-off 22](#_Toc139206221)

[Part III: Industry engagement 24](#_Toc139206222)

[MSG nominations 24](#_Toc139206223)

[Liaison with the broader constituency 25](#_Toc139206224)

[Use of data 27](#_Toc139206225)

[Obstacles to participation 28](#_Toc139206226)

[Sign-off 28](#_Toc139206227)

[Part IV: Civil society engagement 29](#_Toc139206228)

[MSG nominations 30](#_Toc139206229)

[Liaison with the broader constituency 31](#_Toc139206230)

[Use of data 32](#_Toc139206231)

[Obstacles to participation 35](#_Toc139206232)

[Sign-off 37](#_Toc139206233)

[For Validation team’s use: Guiding questions for consultations on stakeholder engagement 40](#_Toc139206234)

[For Validation team’s use: Template for “Call for views on stakeholder engagement” 41](#_Toc139206235)

**Period under review: 09.07.2020-30.06.2023**

**Validation team:** [Names and emails]

**Deadline for submission: 01.07.2023**

# Introduction

The EITI requires effective multi-stakeholder oversight, including a functioning multi-stakeholder group that involves the government, companies, and the full, independent, active and effective participation of civil society.

The key requirements related to multi-stakeholder oversight include: (1.1) government engagement; (1.2) industry engagement; (1.3) civil society engagement, including [EITI Protocol: Participation of civil society](https://eiti.org/document/eiti-protocol-participation-of-civil-society), and (1.4) the establishment and functioning of a multi-stakeholder group.

The purpose of this template is to collect information from MSG members about the implementation of these provisions. Parts I to IV of this template should be completed and submitted to the International Secretariat by the commencement of Validation.

Part I: MSG oversight addresses Requirement 1.4.b and should be approved by the MSG before submission to the International Secretariat.

Parts II to IV should be completed by each constituency and submitted to the International Secretariat. These should be shared with the MSG for information.

The Validation team will undertake virtual or in-person consultations to gather additional information. Ahead of the Validation, a public call for stakeholder views will be launched by the International Secretariat.

# Part I: MSG oversight

MSG’s self-assessment.

**Mostly met**

The objective of this [requirement](https://eiti.org/eiti-standard-2019) is to ensure that there is an independent MSG that can exercise active and meaningful oversight of all aspects of EITI implementation that balances the three main constituencies’ (government, industry and civil society) interests in a consensual manner. As a precondition for achieving this objective, the MSG must include adequate representation of key stakeholders appointed on the basis of open, fair and transparent constituency procedures, make decisions in an inclusive manner and report to wider constituencies.

*This section is to be filled out by the national secretariat or an MSG working group and should be approved by the MSG before submission to the International Secretariat.*

## MSG members and attendance

1. **Current MSG members. Please fill out the table below. Add rows when necessary.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Constituency | Full/ alternate member | Member since (MM/YY) | Name | Position | Organisation | Gender | Meetings attended in period under review (dates) |
| **Government Constituency** | full member | 12/2022 | Tigran Khachatryan | Deputy Prime Minister, MSG Chairman | Government of Armenia | m |  |
| full member | 12/2021 | Hovhannes Harutyunyan | Deputy Minister | Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) | m | 29/06/202327/04/2022 |
| full member | 04/2021 | Vache Terteryan | Deputy Minister | Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) | m |  |
| full member | 12/2022 | Tigran Gabrielyan | Deputy Minister | Ministry of Environment | m | 29/06/2023 |
| full member  | 05/2019 | Artur Manukyan | Deputy Chairman | State Revenue Committee | m | 29/06/202327/04/2022 |
| full member | 04/2021 | Sirvard Gevorgyan | Secretary General | Ministry of Justice | f | 27/04/2022 |
| alternate member | 07/2018 | Arman Poghosyan | Deputy Minister | Ministry of Finance | m | 29/06/202327/04/2022 |
| **Companies Constituency** | full member | 11/2016(reelected 05/2020) | Artur Nikoghosyan | Administrative Director | Agarak Copper and Molybdenum Combine CJSC | m |  |
| full member | 05/2022 (full member for the period 11/2016-07/2021) | Armen Stepanyan | Sustainability Director | Zangezur Copper and Molybdenum Combine CJSC | m | 29/06/2023 |
| full member | 05/2020 (alternate member since 06/2018) | Manvel Yeghaizaryan | Chief accountant | Meghradzor Gold LLC | m | 29/06/202327/04/2022 |
| full member | 05/2020 | Artyom Petrosyan | Legal Director | Geopromining Gold LLC | m | 27/04/2022 |
| alternate member | 06/2018 | Aram Osikyan | General Director | ASSAT-M LLC | m | 27/04/2022 |
| alternate member | 05/2020 (full member since 11/2016) | Vahe Vardanyan | General Director | Geomining LLC | m |  |
| **Civil Society** **Constituency** | full member | 01/2023(alternate member since 11/2019) | Victoria Burnazyan | Vice-president | EcoLur Informational NGO | f | 29/06/202327/04/2022 |
| full member | 01/2023 | Anahit Simonyan | Director | Human Rights Research Center NGO | f | 29/06/2023 |
| full member | 11/2019(reelected 01/2023) | Oleg Dulgaryan | Director | Centre for Community Mobilization and Support NGO | m | 29/06/202327/04/2022 |
| full member | 11/2019(reelected 01/2023) | Nazeli Vardanyan | Director | Armenian Forests Environmental NGO | f | 29/06/202327/04/2022 |
| full member | 05/2020 | Suren Neresyan | Geology Faculty, lecturer, Associate Professor | Yerevan State University | m | 29/06/2023 |
| alternate member | 01/2023(full member since 11/2016) | Sona Ayvazyan | Executive Director | Transparency International Anti-corruption Center | f |  |

**2. Changes in membership in the period under review and the reason behind each change. (I.e. if there are people who have been members in the period under review but no longer are) Please fill out the table below. Add rows when necessary.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Constituency  | Name of former member | End of MSG membership (MM/YY)) | Reason for membership ending | Replaced by |
| **Government Constituency** | Hambardzum Matevosyan | 12/2022 | Resignation from DPM position | Tigran Khachatryan |
| Suren Papikyan | 11/2021 | Resignation from DPM position | Hambardzum Matevosyan |
| Tigran Avinyan | 06/2021 | Resignation from DPM position | Suren Papikyan |
| Davit Ananyan | 06/2020 | Resignation from State Revenues Committee chairman | Artur Manukyan |
| Gayane Gabrielyan | 12/2022 | Proposed by the Minister | Tigran Gabrielyan |
| Irina Ghaplanyan | 11/2020 | Resignation from DM position | Gayane Gabrielyan |
| Karen Isakhanyan | 04/2021 | Resignation from DM position | Vache Terteryan |
| Qristine Ghalechyan | 12/2021 | Proposed by the Minister | Hovhannes Harutyunyan |
| Lilya Shushanyan | 09/2021 | Resignation from DM position | Qristine Ghalechyan |
| Srbuhi Galyan | 08/2020 | Resignation from DM position | Sirvard Gevorgyan |
| **Companies Constituency** | Andranik Aghabalyan | 09/2021 | Deceased |  |
| Armen Stepanyan | 07/2021 | Resignation from company’s executive position |  |
| Perch Khachatryan | 05/2020 | The end of the term | Gagik Shahnazaryan |
| Davit Tadevosyan | 05/2020 | The end of the term | Manvel Eghiazaryan |
| **Civil Society** **Constituency** | Lilya Shushanyan | 04/2023 | Self-resignation from alt. MSG member position |  |
| Gohar Ghazinyan | 10/2021 | Self-resignation from MSG member position |  |
| Harutyun Movsisyan | 06/2020 | Appointed as a public sector officer  | Suren Nersisyan |

**3. MSG working groups and technical committees. If the MSG has established working groups or committees, please describe briefly their mandate and membership.**

|  |
| --- |
| In addition to the MSG, working groups were established with the involvement of all authorized state bodies responsible for the mining industry, to support the independent administrator in the framework of the preparation of the 2nd EITI national report of the 2018 reporting year, the 3rd EITI national report of the 2019 reporting year, and the 4th EITI national report of the 2020-2021 reporting year, all published in 2020-2022.The working groups compostitions are provided in the national reports’ appendices. [2020-2021 National Report](https://www.eiti.am/en/annual-reports/2022), appendix 7[2019 National Report](https://www.eiti.am/en/annual-reports/2021), appendix 5[2018](https://www.eiti.am/en/annual-reports/2020) National Report, appendix 9To evaluate the bids for the tenders of the Independent Administrator and the E-system of beneficial ownership declaration, an evaluation committees were created by the orders of the Chief of Staff of the RA Prime Minister. The committees consisted of one representative from the government constituency and/or the national secretariat, civil society and extractive companies’ constituencies.In order to monitor the development works of the E-system of beneficial ownership declaration and to work with the IT company responsible for sthe e-system development works, a working group consisting of the officials of the Ministry of Justice, the Agency for State Register of Legal Entities of the Ministry of Justice, and the EITI National Secretariat was established in addition to the MSG members. |

##  MSG Terms of Reference and practices

**4. Link(s) to publicly available MSG Terms of Reference and/or other documents containing the provisions of Requirement 1.4.b.**

|  |
| --- |
| Terms of Reference of Armenian EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) is available [here](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor) . |

**5. Date of MSG approval of its latest Terms of Reference or similar document containing the provisions under EITI Requirement 1.4.b.**

|  |
| --- |
| The latest non- substantial amendments to the Terms of Reference of Armenian EITI MSG were made on June 29, 2023 (amendments to part 2, clause 9.12, part 6, clause 31). |

**6. MSG’s policies and practices. Please fill out the table below.**

|  |
| --- |
| **Elements of MSG Terms of Reference (1.4.b)** |
|  | ***Where is the policy documented?*** In the [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor) of the Armenian EITI MSG  | Briefly describe practices in the period under review. Please explain any discrepancies between the ToR and the practice.During the period under review, the MSG activities generally corresponded to the defined MSG Terms of Reference. A significant discrepancy is related to the schedule of the MSG meetings, according to which they should have been held at least once a quarter. The period under review coincided with the in person meetings restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the overloaded work of the MSG, especially the members of the government constituecy due to the declared martial law in Armenia in 2020 and its consequences. For this reason, the discussions of the issues or the adoption of decisions within the MSG jurisdiction were mainly done not through in person meetings, but through remote discussions, agreements and decision-making through electronic means of communication. The electronic decision-making procedure is defined in the MSG Terms of Reference.**At the 29 June, 2023 MSG meeting MSG noted that the MSG oversight during the reporting period was mostly carried out in the form of electronic correspondence, remote electronic discussions and agreements on agenda issues. While admitting that this form of organization of the supervisory work of the MSG ensured fulfillment of all the EITI Standard requirements, MSG recognizes that the number of in person meetings was insufficient, as a result of which other legal and practical issues were left out of the scope of discussions, on which the opinion and recommendations of the MSG could be important for the good governance of the mining sector.****Therefore, the MSG has decided:****During the coming year MSG shall hold 3 in person meetings, in the agendas of which the agenda items proposed by the civil society should be included in priority order. In addition, in the following years, the MSG shall strictly follow the MSG ToR regulation on frequency of MSG meeting to be held.**  |
| **The role, responsibilities and rights of the MSG** |
| Definition of the role, responsibilities and rights of the MSG and its members. | [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor) of the Armenian EITI MSG - Chapter 1, 3 and 4 | *[Have the roles, responsibilities and rights been respected in practice?]*Yes |
| Adherence to the EITI Association code of conduct, including addressing conflicts of interest. | [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor) of the Armenian EITI MSG – Chapter 8 | *[Has the code of conduct been adhered to in practice? If conflicts of interest have emerged, how have these been addressed?]*Yes, the code of conduct was practically respected*.* |
| **Approval of work plans and oversight of implementation​** |
| Approval of annual work plans. | [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor) of the Armenian EITI MSG – Chapter 3 | *[Did the MSG approve the latest work plan? If yes, when?]*YesMSG approved 2023-2024 EITI Wolk plan on June 29, 2023. MSG approved the reviewed 2022 EITI Work Plan on April 27, 2022. [Work plans](https://www.eiti.am/en/eiti-work-plan) *https://www.eiti.am/en/eiti-work-plan* |
| Oversight of the EITI reporting process and engagement in Validation, including approval of Independent Administrator ToRs and EITI Reports. |  | *[Is the MSG providing effective oversight of implementation? Has the MSG approved ToRs and EITI Reports? If yes, when?]The oversight functions of the MSG in this regard can be seen on the official website of EITI Armenia.*Yes*In* particular*:** On June 3, 2020, the MSG electronically approved the Terms of Reference for the 3rd EITI Progress Report of Armenia and the Scoping Study, and adopted decisions regarding the scope and materiality thresholds of the Report and Scoping Study,
* *On April 27, 2022, at the MSG meeting MSG approved the Terms of* Reference *for the Independent Administrator, preparing the 4th EITI Report of Armenia for 2020-2021 reporting years, as well as adopted a number of decisions defining the scope of the 4th EITI Report of Armenia.*
* *On September 11, 2020, the MSG electronically approved the 2018 2nd EITI Report of Armenia.*
* *The final versions of the 2019 and 2020-2021 EITI Reports of Armenia were approved electronically by the MSG, on the basis of which the conferences dedicated to the presentation of these reports were held on July 23, 2021, and December 22, 2022. Conefrences were held with active participation of the MSG members and stakeholders.*

[*MSG minitues and decisions*](https://www.eiti.am/en/agenda-protocols-other-related-documents) |
| **Internal governance rules and procedures** |
| Inclusive decision-making process throughout implementation, with each constituency being treated as a partner and with the right to table issues. | EITI Armenia MSG [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor), Chapters 1, 4, and 6. | [Have all MSG members been able to table issues for discussion in practice?]Yes, The agendas of the EITI meetings or other documents were submitted to the MSG for feedback in advance, within the timeframe defined in the Terms of Reference.All the MSG members had the opportunity to table issues for discussion in practice in either of the following ways: submitting considerations or recommendations on the current EITI matters electronically or in person, discussing and voting for/approving the proposed agenda and matters of the meetings, working meetings or training in person or remotely, suggesting holding similar meetings, submitting comments/considerations and recommendations on the drafts or other documents submitted for feedback by EITI partner organizations or state bodies. |
| Procedures for nominating and changing multi-stakeholder group representatives, incl. alternates |  | [Indicate the practice in Part I and in constituency-specific questionnaires.]The Government constituency of the MSG is represented by relevant officials throughout the term of office. The official documentation was used as a basis when necessary.The constituencies of Civil Society and Extractive Companies elect the MSG members of their constituencies according to the procedure adopted by the constituencies. |
| Decision-making procedures, e.g. rules for voting and quorum |  | *[Have the decision-making procedures been followed in practices? Has the MSG taken any decisions by vote?]*Yes, the decision-making process took place according to established procedures.All decisions by the MSG were made by consensus. |
| Duration of the MSG’s mandate | EITI Armenia MSG [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor), Chapter 7. | *[Have provisions regarding the duration of the MSG’s mandated been respected in practice?]*Yes, the terms of the MSG members' mandates were preserved with insignificant deviations. |
| Per diems | EITI Armenia, MSG, [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor), Chapter 1. | *[Were per diems for MSG meetings paid out in the period under review? If yes, what was the per diem per meeting and how much was paid out in total?]* The work of the MSG members is carried out on a voluntary basis and during the period under review, per diems were not paid out to the MSG members. |
| Frequency of meetings | EITI Armenia MSG [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor), Chapter 6. | *[How often did the MSG meet in the period under review?]*Despite the fact that the MSG meetings should be held at least once every three months during the period under review, they were held twice, namely on April 27, 2022, and 29 June, 2023. The reasons for insufficient number of meetings are following:* the period under review coincided with the in-person meeting restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as,
* with the martial law in Armenia declared in 2020, resulting in the heavy work schedule of the MSG members, especially for theGovernment constituency
* other reasons

The discussions on the issues or decisions within the MSG jurisdiction was mainly done through remote discussions, agreements, and decision-making processes via electronic means of communication rather than through in-person meetings. |
| Advance notice of meetings and timely circulation of documents | EITI Armenia, MSG, [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor), Chapter 6. | *[How much advance notice was given for MSG meetings? How much ahead of meetings were documents circulated?]*The MSG members are notified about the meeting and its agenda at least 7 working days before the meeting, and the important large-scale documents are circulated 15 working days before the meeting. |
| Record-keeping | EITI Armenia, MSG, [Terms of Reference](https://www.eiti.am/en/msg-tor), Chapter 6. | *[Were written records kept of MSG discussions in the period under review?]*Minutes were kept of the MSG discussions and decisions, which were published within 5 days on the official website of EITI. Publications regarding the decisions approved electronically by the MSG were also made on the official website of EITI.[*https://www.eiti.am/en/agenda-protocols-other-related-documents*](https://www.eiti.am/en/agenda-protocols-other-related-documents) |
| **Other aspects covered in the ToR that the MSG wishes to highlight** |
|  |  |  |

##  MSG meetings and minutes

**7. Please provide the dates and a link to the published minutes of MSG meetings that have taken place in the period under review or provide any unpublished minutes as an attachment.**

|  |
| --- |
| Information about the EITI MSG meetings and decisions made electronically according to the timeline is available here:<https://www.eiti.am/en/agenda-protocols-other-related-documents/>  |

##  MSG approval

**8. Date of MSG approval of this submission.**

|  |
| --- |
| June 29, 2023 |

# Part II: Government engagement

MSG’s self assessment

**Fully met**

The objective of this [requirement](https://eiti.org/eiti-standard-2019) is to ensure a full, active and effective government lead for EITI implementation, both in terms of high-level political leadership and operational engagement, as a means of facilitating all aspects of EITI implementation.

*This questionnaire seeks to collect information from government MSG members about the engagement of the government in the EITI process from July 2020 to June 2023. Government MSG members are requested to fill out the form together and either submit it directly to the Validation team (**disclosure@eiti.org**) or request the National Coordinator to submit it. Government MSG members may also mandate the National Coordinator to fill out the questionnaire. The deadline for submitting the form to the Validation team is July 1, 2023. It is recommended that government MSG members coordinate to agree one submission. Diverging views within the constituency can be documented in the form. The signatories of the submission should be indicated at the bottom of the form. Stakeholders may contact the Validation team directly to provide additional views.*

**1. Examples of statements or actions in support of the EITI and/or matters in the scope of the EITI Standard by high-level government representatives, such as ministers or the head of state.**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. The steps and actions aimed at the EITI implementation were stipulated in the 2017-2022 and 2021-2026 Five-Year action Plans[[1]](#footnote-2) of the RA Government.2. During the online conference dedicated to the 2nd EITI National Progress Report on September 14, 2020, the RA Deputy Prime Minister and Chair of the RA EITI MSG, Tigran Avinyan, stated[[2]](#footnote-3) that “the RA Government finds that the implementation of the EITI requirements in our country promotes transparency of governance, engagement of civil society and fight against corruption. Therefore, it is certain that the RA Government and the Multi-Stakeholder Group will continue their efforts to maintain the achieved results of EITI and to improve them by introducing sustainable mechanisms for systematic data disclosure and expanding the scope of the EITI impact.”3. During the conference dedicated to the 4th EITI National Progress Report on December 22, 2022, the RA Deputy Prime Minister and the Chair of the RA EITI MSG, Tigran Khachatryan, presenting the achievements of the previous years, emphasized[[3]](#footnote-4) that the RA Government and the Multi-Stakeholder Group are committed to meeting the ever-increasing requirements of the EITI Standard and will actively work to strengthen good governance practices in the metal mining industry. |

**2. Name and position of senior individual leading implementation.**

|  |
| --- |
| The Multi-Stakeholder Group of the EITI was chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers of the RA Government. Below are their names and terms of office during the period under review:Tigran Khachatryan - 12.12.2022 – to dateHambardzum Matevosyan - 25.11.2021-12.12.2022Suren Papikyan - 02.08.2021-15.11.2021Tigran Avinyan - 14.01.2019-20.06.2021 |

**3. Describe the process for nominating government MSG members, including whether consideration was given to ensuring the seniority and diversity of representation.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agreed procedure for selecting government MSG members | Practice in the period under review |
| The members of the MSG Government constituency are high-ranking officials of state bodies authorized to regulate matters in the mining industry (the Deputy Prime Minister coordinating the industry is the Chair of the MSG, the deputy ministers of the authorized ministries coordinating the industry, and the General Secretary in one case are MSG members). The MSG members are appointed ex officio, during the entire term of office. In some cases, when the authority for coordinating the industry are not defined clearly for any deputy minister, a member of the MSG is appointed by official notation, upon the recommendation of the state body. | No changes in the process have been made since the previous validation.Information about the members of the MSG Government constituency is available on the [website](https://www.eiti.am/en/MSG-composition/) of EITI Armenia, and the information about the members can be found in the clauses 1 and 2 of Part 1 of the form. |

**4. If any MSG representatives changed during the MSG’s term, please describe the process followed for replacing them.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agreed procedure for replacing government MSG members | Practice in the period under review |
| The MSG members are appointed ex officio for the entire term of office. In case of dismissal from the office, the MSG member was replaced by the official appointed to the position in sequence. In some cases, when the authority for coordinating the industry are not defined clearly for any deputy minister, the MSG member was appointed by official notation upon the recommendation of the state body. | No changes in the process have been made since the previous validation.Information about the members of the MSG Government constituency is available on the [website](https://www.eiti.am/en/MSG-composition/) of EITI Armenia, and the information about the members can be found in clauses 1 and 2 of Part 1 of the form. |

**5. Government resources directed to EITI implementation in the period under review, such as staff and funding for work plan activities.**

|  |
| --- |
| Government resources directed to the EITI implementation in the period under review, such as staff and funding for Work Plan activities, are identified in the Work Plan implementations, which are available on the website of EITI.<https://www.eiti.am/en/eiti-work-plan/>https://www.eiti.am/en/Quarterly-annual-reports/Back in January 2018, a special unit, namely, the EITI Secretariat of Armenia was established within the RA Prime Minister's Office, maintenance costs and remuneration of the Secretariat during the period under review were also financed from the RA State Budget. With the co-financing or financing of the RA State Budget, a number of activities of the EITI Work Plan were implemented, and the EITI membership contributions for all years were paid.In addition to financial resources, the RA state bodies also had administrative contributions during the period under review, namely:The authorized bodies defined by the [RA Government’s decision](https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=132674) ensured the preparation of reports on the data required by the EITI Standard and their timely publication.The authorized bodies actively participated in the development of the EITI national Reports of Armenia by Independent Administrators.The authorized bodies carried out creation, management, maintenance, and publication of other databases required by the EITI Standard, e.g., mining contracts, exploration and mining permits registers.The authorized bodies carried out the management of the BO electronic declaration system required by the EITI Standard, provision of uninterrupted submission of BO declarations by the obliged companies and public access of the declarations, as well as verification and certification of the submitted BO data.The authorized bodies carried out the development, discussion, and adoption of the legislative acts and their amendments aimed at the EITI implementation. |

**6. Efforts undertaken by the government to ensure an enabling environment for company and CSO participation in the EITI and/or to remove any obstacles to EITI disclosures.**

|  |
| --- |
| Since July 2015, when the RA Prime Minister announced the start of the process of joining the EITI, the RA Government has considered the EITI as a mean to develop participatory governance opportunities, and the MSG platform as the best way to discuss and make decisions on transparency and accountability matters in the mining industry in order to bring together the interests and opinions of the government, extractive companies and civil society.This purpose is pursued by the MSG composition, which comprises:* six representatives from the RA Government;
* four representatives from mining companies, and
* five representatives from civil society (including one representative from academia).

During the reporting period, the activities undertaken by the Government to ensure the unequivocal implementation of the EITI requirements continued. As in the previous period, the majority of the EITI requirements were defined by the RA Law in order to ensure stability in the implementation of the requirements. In addition, measures of administrative responsibility are defined for the non-compliance to some legal requirements.During the reporting period, as a result of the Government’s commitment, a number of legal reforms were implemented, the detailed description of which is given in the Chapters introducing the legal framework of the 3rd and 4th EITI Reports.* In addition to metal mining contracts, publication of non-metallic mining contracts.
* Improving the legal regulations for beneficial ownership disclosure, aligning them with the EITI requirements, and expanding the BO disclosure to all legal entities and non-commercial organizations.
* As a result of legal reforms, since 2021, targeted environmental projects can be implemented by the affected communities of all metal mining companies. Requirements to communities aimed at transparency and accountability of projects and their performance were also defined.
* According to the package of legal acts adopted in 2022, starting from 2024, 2 percent of the royalties will be deducted for the implementation of projects and measures aimed at the socio-economic development of the affected communities (residences).

During the reporting period, the EITI Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, held 2 three-day training-workshops for the representatives of all affected communities, municipal governments, and authorized bodies, in order to increase the capacity to develop, approve, implement the targeted environmental projects and socio-economic development projects at the expense of environmental tax and deductions from royalties, to ensure accountability and meet the EITI requirements.The publication of the EITI Reports is defined as an activity of the RA Government’s Action Plans.During the reporting period, all mining companies and state bodies submitted the EITI annual reporting without any deviations from the deadline.Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the security priorities of the Republic of Armenia during the reporting period, the RA published two complete EITI Reports covering 3 reporting years, without taking advantage of the opportunity to publish “flexible” reports provided by the EITI. Cooperation with the World Bank continued during the reporting period. The RA Prime Minister's Office was awarded the “Support to EITI Armenia, Additional Financing” grant project, which is aimed at the implementation of the measures in the 2022-2024 Action Plans of the RA Government. |

## Liaison with the broader constituency

**3. Describe the government constituency’s structures, policies and practices for coordination on EITI matters.**

Please provide supporting evidence. If the evidence is available online, please provide a link. If it is not, please annex the evidence to this questionnaire.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Structures in place for liaison with the broader constituency, such as coordination groups | Policies and agreed procedures for liaison with the broader constituency | Practice in the period under review |
| The Government constituency of the MSG is represented by high-ranking officials from the mining industry and EITI activities in-line authorized state bodies, who represent the state and public collective approaches and professional potential of these sectors. Such representation helps to engage the knowledge, information, and professional potential of a wider constituency if necessary, e.g., to create working groups that support the preparation of the EITI National Reports or implementation of beneficial ownership disclosure system, which are inter-agency groups that include responsible employees from the authorized bodies. Such groups provide liasion to a wider audience.In addition to the MSG, a community of responsible units and specialists from the authorized state bodies responsible for the EITI implementation was formed, which constantly works with the EITI National Secretariat to implement the activities of the EITI Work Plan, prepare National Reports, fulfill legal requirements, develop policies, etc.  | The creation of the above-mentioned working groups is proposed during the in-person or electronic discussions of the MSG, as a result of which the EITI National Secretariat sends a request to the authorized bodies within the composition of the MSG Government constituency (but not limited) to nominate candidates for engagement in a certain working group. Based on the submitted nominations, a working group is formed, and all members of the working group, as well as the MSG, are notified of its composition.All the documents circulated among the EITI MSG members through electronic or other means of communication (except sensitive information addressed to the MSG members) were circulated by the EITI National Secretariat among the representatives of the broader constituency as well, and all the submitted opinions and considerations were taken into account. | *[Please describe how the constituency coordinated on EITI matters in the period under review, including a description of actors engaged.]*During the reporting period, examples of cooperation with the wider constituency are the working groups formed within the scope of the preparation of the EITI Reports, and the working group cooperating within the framework of beneficial ownership disclosure, BO electronic declarations system, and “Opening Extractives” programme. The responsible representatives of the authorized state bodies that are engaged in these working groups provided information for developing the relevant sections of the Reports, as well as professional opinions and guidance within the framework of the creation of BO electronic declarations system, and implementation of the “Opening Extractives” programme. |

**4. Have MSG members sought input from the broader constituency on the following documents. If yes, how and did you receive input?**

 a) The latest EITI work plan, including priorities for EITI implementation

 b) The latest annual review of outcomes and impact

|  |
| --- |
| The Government constituency members of the MSG, being the leading officials of the relevant authorized bodies, when discussing the EITI Work Plan, its activities and implementation dates, or when reviewing the EITI annual outcomes and impact, present the approaches and professional opinions of the wider Government constituency on the mentioned matters. Thus, by approving the Work Plans or other documents, they also record the input of the broader constituency.All the documents circulated among the EITI MSG members through electronic or other means of communication (except sensitive information addressed to the MSG members) were circulated by the EITI National Secretariat among the representatives of the broader constituency as well, and all the submitted opinions and considerations were taken into account. |

## Use of data

**5. Have government representatives contributed to communicating or using EITI data, including participation in outreach activities?**

If yes, please provide examples with links to any supporting evidence, such as reports, speeches or news articles.

|  |
| --- |
| Yes, the government representatives contributed to communicating and using the EITI data. During the period under review, they participated in the following EITI outreach activities:Conferences dedicated to the three EITI National Reports, where they gave speeches and participated in panel discussions:22.12.2022- [EITI National Conference](https://www.eiti.am/en/news/2022/12/23/eiti-armenia-presented-4th-national-eiti-report/138) 23.07.2021- [EITI National Conference](https://www.eiti.am/en/news/2021/07/23/2021-eiti-armenia-annual-conference-took-place-on-23-july/111)14.09.2020- [EITI National Conference](https://www.eiti.am/hy/%D5%86%D5%B8%D6%80%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%A9%D5%B5%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80/2020/09/14/2018-eiti-report-conference/98/)Speeches at the conference dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Zangezur Copper Molybdenum Combine CJSC about the mining industry, where the matters of EITI data transparency and use were also discussed:23.11.2022- “168.am” news website <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=ljNEUfRqZww&fbclid=IwAR37silx6L4mMpmAp6j2ZCScozDGuYIc31lj0Vw5JkjWplLSa_e_wH-fv08><https://www.facebook.com/zcmcofficial>The news was spread regarding the discussions of the EITI matters with the participation of government representatives, in particular:20.10.2022թ.- Covering the meeting with the OpenOwnership Company at the Ministry of Justice regarding the beneficial ownership declaration system:Pastinfo agency: <https://www.pastinfo.am/hy/news/2022/10/20/jnog2fsf5/1478518>Ministry of Justice: <https://www.moj.am/article/3307>22.12.2022 - First Channel News covering the conference dedicated to the EITI Report and the speeches <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWfyTrhZt8E>The authorized state bodies assist in the transfer of the EITI data. In particular,* The [section](https://mtad.am/pages/extractive-industries-transparency-initiative) “The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative” can be found on the website of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure.
* The SRC EITI public reports are published on the [website](https://www.petekamutner.am/Content.aspx?itn=tsTILists) of the State Revenue Committee.

The EITI news[[4]](#footnote-5) is published on the websites of authorized bodies and their social network pages. |

## Sign-off

**Please include below the names and contact details of the MSG members from the government constituency who sign off on submitting the above information to the Validation team. Add rows as needed.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Email address or telephone number | Date | Signature (optional) |
| Tigran Khachatryan |  | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Hovhannes Harutyunyan | hovhannes.harutyunyan@gov.am | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Vache Terteryan | vache.terteryan1962@gmail.com | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Tigran Gabrielyan | t.gabrielyan@env.am | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Artur Manukyan | artur\_manukyan@taxservice.am | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Sirvard Gevorgyan | sirvard.gevorgyan@justice.am | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Arman Poghosyan (alternate) | arman.poghosyan@minfin.am | 29.06.2023 |  |

# Part III: Industry engagement

MSG’s self assessment

**Fully met**

The objective of this [requirement](https://eiti.org/eiti-standard-2019) is to ensure that extractive companies are fully, actively and effectively engaged in the EITI, both in terms of disclosures and participation in the work of the multi-stakeholder group, and that the government ensures an enabling environment for this.

*This questionnaire seeks to collect information from industry MSG members about the engagement of oil, gas and mining companies in the EITI process from July 2020 to June 2023. Industry MSG members are requested to fill out the form together and either submit it directly to the Validation team (**disclosure@eiti.org**) or request the National Coordinator to submit it. The deadline for submitting the form to the Validation team is July 1, 2023. It is recommended that industry MSG members coordinate to agree one submission. Diverging views within the constituency can be documented in the form. The signatories of the submission should be indicated at the bottom of the form. Stakeholders may contact the Validation team directly to provide additional views.*

##  MSG nominations

**1. Describe the process for nominating industry MSG members, including whether consideration was given to ensuring the diversity of representation.**

Please provide supporting documentation related to the latest nomination process. This could include the invitation to participate in the MSG, a list of interested organisations or individuals, constituency ToRs, minutes of the election process, etc. If the evidence is available online, please provide a link. If it is not, please annex the evidence to this questionnaire.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agreed procedure for selecting industry MSG members | Practice in the period under review |
| [Minutes](https://www.eiti.am/en/procedures-for-selection-of-msg-members) on the Constituency candidates nomination for the Armenian EITI MSG members dated May 26, 2020.https://www.eiti.am/file\_manager/EITI%20Documents/MSG%20Procedures/2020\_mining\_constituency%20elections.pdf | The specified procedure was followed during the observed period. |

**2. If any MSG representatives changed during the MSG’s term, please describe the process followed for replacing them.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agreed procedure for replacing industry MSG members | Practice in the period under review |
| Application for candidacy for the vacant member of the mining companies Constituency dated May 6, 2022.https://www.eiti.am/file\_manager/EITI%20Documents/MSG%20Procedures/Armen\_Stepanyan\_nominations\_06052022.pdf | The last elections of the mining sector representatives for the MSG constitiency were held on 25.05.2020, and Armen Stepanyan left the constituency on 12.07.2021, and was re-elected on 12.05.2022.The procedure corresponded to the procedure used in the previous elections. |

##  Liaison with the broader constituency

**3. Describe the company constituency’s structures, policies and practices for coordination on EITI matters.**

Please provide supporting evidence, such as constituency ToRs, dates and minutes of constituency meetings, number of emails to mailing lists, etc. If the evidence is available online, please provide a link. If it is not, please annex the evidence to this questionnaire.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Structures in place for liaison with the broader constituency, such as industry associations | Policies and agreed procedures for liaison with the broader constituency | Practice in the period under review |
| [Union](https://armhanq.com/) of Miners and Metallurgists of Armenia |  | *[Please describe how the constituency coordinated on EITI matters in the period under review, including a description of actors engaged.]*Liaison with the broader constituency was ensured through the Union of Miners and Metallurgists of Armenia.All relevant correspondence concerning to the EITI scope of issues, including the work plans, its discussions, information about organized events, drafts of important documents, etc. were also sent to the email address of the Union of Miners and Metallurgists by the constituency, as well as the EITI national secretariat. The broader constituency is already involved in the EITI process by law, as the obligations to disclose EITI data or declare beneficial owners motivate all companies to follow the constituency's position in the MSG and participate in the discussion of the issues raised. In other words, the constituency's opinion on all discussed issues is a collective opinion formed as a result of discussions within the broader constituency. In addition, the broader constituency, in the form of the reporting companies of the EITI, have been in constant contact with the members of the MSG constituency, as well as the National Secretariat. |

**4. Have MSG members sought input from the broader constituency on the following documents. If yes, how and did you receive input?**

 a) The latest EITI work plan, including priorities for EITI implementation

 b) The latest annual review of outcomes and impact

|  |
| --- |
| As already mentioned in point 3 above, the Union of Miners and Metallurgists of Armenia, as the coordinator of liason with the wider constituency, has been the recipient of all material correspondence related to the EITI scope of issues, including documents on work plans, outputs and impact assessments. Therefore, the broader constituency, in the form of metal mining companies, engaged in the EITI processes by law, participated in the discussion of the mentioned documents. And the opinion of the constituency regarding these issues is a collective opinion formed in result of discussions within the broader constituency. |

##  Use of data

**5. Have company representatives contributed to communicating or using EITI data, including participation in outreach activities?**

If yes, please provide examples with links to any supporting evidence, such as reports, blogs or news articles.

|  |
| --- |
| The representatives of the companies participated in the conferences dedicated to the presentation of EITI three national reports where they delivered speeches and participated in panel discussions.By complying with their legal obligation to timely and conscientiously submit the EITI reports and other accompanying information, companies have also thereby participated in the dissemination and use of EITI data reports.[EITI conference](https://www.eiti.am/en/news/2022/12/23/eiti-armenia-presented-4th-national-eiti-report/138) dated 22.12.2022[EITI conference](https://www.eiti.am/en/news/2022/12/23/eiti-armenia-presented-4th-national-eiti-report/138) dated 14.09.2020EITI conference dated 23.07.2021<https://www.eiti.am/en/news/2021/07/23/2021-eiti-armenia-annual-conference-took-place-on-23-july/111>Speeches at the mining industry conference dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine CJSC, where the issues of publicity and use of the EITI data were discussed -23.11.2022:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=ljNEUfRqZww><https://www.facebook.com/zcmcofficial>Speeches at the conference organized by the Union of Miners and Metallurgists on "Sustainable Development of Mining: investments" -22.11.2023:<https://miningmetal.am/news/196><https://www.facebook.com/miningmetal.am/>The reportage of the First channel:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVMEHvxcegQ> |

##  Obstacles to participation

**6. If company representatives have experienced any obstacles to participation in the EITI, please describe and specify these obstacles below or convey your concerns directly to the Validation team (****disclosure@eiti.org****) by the commencement of the Validation. Please provide supporting evidence if available. Requests for confidentiality will be respected.**

|  |
| --- |
| There were no obstacles to the participation of the representatives of the extractive companies in the process of EITI implementation |

##  Sign-off

**7. Please include below the names and contact details of the MSG members from the industry constituency who sign off on submitting the above information to the Validation team. Add rows as needed.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Email address or telephone number | Date | Signature (optional) |
| Artur Nikoghosyan | anikoghosyan@geopromining.com | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Armen Stepanyan | armen.stepanyan@zcmc.am | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Manvel Yeghaizaryan | manvel200464@mail.ru | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Artyom Petrosyan | apetrosyan@geopromining.com | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Aram Osikyan (alternate) | assatllc1@gmail.com | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Vahe Vardanyan (alternate) | vahe.vardanyan@gmail.com | 29.06.2023 |  |

# Part IV: Civil society engagement

The objective of this [requirement](https://eiti.org/eiti-standard-2019) is to ensure that civil society is fully, actively and effectively engaged in the EITI process, and that there is an enabling environment for this. The active participation of civil society in the EITI process is key to ensuring that the transparency created by the EITI can lead to greater accountability and improved governance of oil, gas and mineral resources. The provisions related to civil society engagement seek to establish the conditions that permit this to occur over time.

MSG’s self assessment

**Fully met**

*This questionnaire seeks to collect information from civil society MSG members about the engagement of civil society in the EITI process from July 2020 to June 2023. Civil society MSG members are requested to fill out the form together and either submit it directly to the Validation team (**disclosure@eiti.org**) or request the National Coordinator to submit it. The deadline for submitting the form to the Validation team is July 1, 2023. It is recommended that civil society MSG members coordinate to agree one submission. Diverging views within the constituency can be documented in the form. The signatories of the submission should be indicated at the bottom of the form. Stakeholders may contact the Validation team directly to provide additional views.*

##  MSG nominations

**1. Describe the process for nominating civil society MSG members, including whether consideration was given to ensuring the diversity of representation.**

Please provide supporting documentation related to the latest nomination process. This could include the invitation to participate in the MSG, a list of interested organisations or individuals, constituency ToRs, minutes of the election process, etc. If the evidence is available online, please provide a link. If it is not, please annex the evidence to this questionnaire.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agreed procedure for replacing civil society MSG members | Practice in the period under review |
| [The Procedure](https://www.eiti.am/file_manager/EITI%20Documents/MSG%20Procedures/EITI_MSG_CSO_procedure_adopted_19.08.2019.pdf) the formation, nomination of members and and alternative members, selection and termination of powers of the Armenia EITI MSG civil society constituency members.<https://www.eiti.am/en/procedures-for-selection-of-msg-members/> | During the observed period the mentioned Procedure has been followed. |

**2. If any MSG representatives changed during the MSG’s term, please describe the process followed for replacing them.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agreed procedure for replacing civil society MSG members | Practice in the period under review |
| In case of a vacancy in the constituency in accordance with Clause 12 of the above-mentioned Procedure, the civil society constituency initiates the process of extraordinary elections no later than within 10 working days after receiving information about the availability or possibility of a vacancy. Extraordinary elections are scheduled to be held no earlier than one month and no later than two months. The elections are organized and conducted by the electoral commission formed before the regular elections in accordance with sub-clauses 34-48 of the Procedure.<https://www.eiti.am/en/procedures-for-selection-of-msg-members/> | Members changed from 01.20.2023: Anahit Simonyan/newly elected/, Sona Ayvazyan/from main to alternate/, Victoria Burnazyan from alternate to main memberFrom 20.05.2020 Suren Nersesyan/newly elected/During the period under review, the replacement practices were in accordance with the Procedure. |

##  Liaison with the broader constituency

**3. Describe the civil society constituency’s structures, policies and practices for coordination on EITI matters.**

Please provide supporting evidence, such as constituency ToRs, dates and minutes of constituency meetings, number of emails to mailing lists, etc. If the evidence is available online, please provide a link. If it is not, please annex the evidence to this questionnaire.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Structures in place for liaison with the broader constituency, such as networks | Policies and agreed procedures for liaison with the broader constituency | Practice in the period under review |
| The members of the MSG civil society constituency represent such non-governmental organizations as: "EcoLur" Informational NGO, "Human Rights Research Center" NGO, "Centre for Community Mobilization and Support" NGO, "Armenian Forests" Environmental, Transparency International Anti-corruption Center, Yerevan State University. This means that they represent the collective public attitudes, sentiments and experiences of those social groups. Such representation helps draw on the specific knowledge, experts and expertise held by the wider constituency as needed. | The members of the MSG civil society constituency and the non-governmental organizations representing them | *[Please describe how the constituency coordinated on EITI matters in the period under review, including a description of actors engaged.]*During the working discussions of the EITI issues the members of the MSG civil society constituency present the opinions of their NGOs, whose scope of activity is wider than that of the EITI. |

**4. Have MSG members sought input from the broader constituency on the following documents. If yes, how and did you receive input?**

 a) The latest EITI work plan, including priorities for EITI implementation

 b) The latest annual review of outcomes and impact

|  |
| --- |
| The EITI data were discussed with a wider constituency in regional meetings, presented during the pre-election meeting of the members of the MSG civil society constituency, on the websites of the member organizations of the constituency, as well as in the media.<https://www.ecolur.org/en/news/mining/14611/> https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/ecolurminingbigreport.pdf  |

##  Use of data

**5. Have civil society representatives contributed to communicating or using EITI data, including participation in outreach activities or use of EITI data in advocacy and campaigns?**

If yes, please provide examples with links to any supporting evidence, such as reports, blogs or news articles.

|  |
| --- |
| The BO declarations were studied by the MSG CS constituency, on the basis of which the problems related to the legislation and law enforcement were identified and recommendations were presented.<https://transparency.am/en/publication/pdf/213/1314> "EcoLur" information NGO has implemented the project "Responsibility of non-operating mining companies in the EITI process". Within the framework of the project, the activities of 19 mining companies that have subsoil use permits, but do not implement or partially implement subsoil use as well as the developments around the Gladzor polymetallic mine were studied. 21 reports[[5]](#footnote-6) were prepared, as well as a film[[6]](#footnote-7) was shot, which are published on the "Independent Expert Assessments" page and the "Film" page of the www.ecolur.org website. The reports were presented to the members of EITI Armenia MSG in order to get their position. Inquiries regarding the non-operation of mines were sent to the companies with subsoil use permits, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure. A letter has been sent to the Ministry of Environment. The letters were published at https://www.ecolur.org/. EcoLur visited 26 communities and settlements affected by the mining industry, informed the local population and local governments about the subsoil user's responsibility to the community stipulated by the RA legislation, the obligations assumed by the subsoil user and the related process of the EITI process, distributed information leaflets in the communities, which contained information about the companies obligations under the law and EITI, the environmental and socio-economic obligations undertaken by the companies under the subsoil use contracts, conducted surveys among the local governments and the population to find out their relations with the subsoil users, about the fulfillment of the obligations assumed under the subsoil use contract, about their knowledge about the EITI, and to collect proposals. The results of the surveys were summarized in reports and news articles. One of the recommendations of the affected communities was to make deductions for the communities from the royalties paid by the subsoil users. In 2022 the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the laws presented by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia "On Amendments to the Law on the Budgetary System of the Republic of Armenia" and "On Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government", according to which settlements affected by mining will receive 2% of the royalty paid by subsoil users. Installments will be received starting from January 1, 2024.Within the framework of the "Social-Ecological Responsibility" project, Ecolur with the NGO partners developed and published a tool-form[[7]](#footnote-8) for the assessment of the socio-physical and environmental condition of the RA communities Vardenis, Martuni of Gegharkunik Marz, Syunik, Goris of Syunik, Marz, Akhtala, Odzun of Lori, Marz. There are also data of subsoil users published within the scope EITI, obligations undertaken by subsoil use contracts and proposals.The members of the EITI MSG civil society constituency presented proposals regarding the legislative drafts. In particular, the constituency opposed the bill to make amendments and additions to the RA Code on Subsoil adopted by the National Assembly on May 25, 2022, disregarding the general public's protest. The Article 55.1 was added to the Code, which provides the extension of the subsoil use right on the basis of force majeure. Civil disobedience, i.e. various manifestations of protest actions is considered as an insurmountable force among a number of reasons, as a result of which it has not been not possible to organize subsoil use works in the mine.Civil disobedience against subsoil use projects was aimed at protecting the rights of human health, a healthy environment, and protecting the living conditions of local residents. Protest actions were and are a way of expressing a position regarding mining projects. If the affected community is against the given project, it defends its rights through peaceful civil disobedience and protest actions, because it has seen that in such cases, the voice of the community's population was not heard by the business and the government in the decision-making process. This legislative change shows that even protests will not be listened to. The civil society constituency finds that this legislative amendment is, in fact, a restriction of the public's constitutional right to hold meetings, rallies, marches and demonstrations, as well as the right to participate in decision-making provided for by the Aarhus Convention, and is anti-democratic.<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/mining/14050/>,<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/mining/13934/> There were also proposals regarding the draft of the RA Law "On Amendments to the RA Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise", regarding the draft of the Development Strategy of the Mining Industry, which were published. Members of the constituency participated in press conferences, were guests of programs presenting exciting issues[[8]](#footnote-9).The constituency has made several proposals during the development stages of Armenia's Mining Industry Develpoment Strategy project. A number of important recommendations were not taken into account. The constituency made statements about invalidating the RA government's decision on the adoption of the Strategy.Transperency international AC, together with the Center for Responsible Mining of the American University of Armenia, created an information portal <https://mininginfo.am> , released a series of educational videos[[9]](#footnote-10) and organized trainings for members of the MSG, interested representatives of civil society, active groups and individuals operating in marzes, civil youth for centers.Investigative journalists conducted studies on mines[[10]](#footnote-11).Representatives of the civil society participated in the conferences dedicated to the three national reports of the EITI, where they took part in panel discussions.[EITI conference](https://www.eiti.am/en/news/2022/12/23/eiti-armenia-presented-4th-national-eiti-report/138) dated 14.09.2020<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/mining/14568/> EITI conference dated 23.07.2021<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/mining/13340/> [EITI conference dated 14.09.20220](https://www.eiti.am/hy/%D5%86%D5%B8%D6%80%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%A9%D5%B5%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80/2020/09/14/2018-eiti-report-conference/98/)<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/officials/12716/> |

##  Obstacles to participation

**6. If civil society representatives have experienced any obstacles to participation in the EITI, including the use of publicly available extractive sector data, please describe and specify these obstacles below or convey your concerns directly to the Validation team (****disclosure@eiti.org****)****by the commencement of the Validation.**

The [EITI’s civil society protocol](https://eiti.org/document/eiti-protocol-participation-of-civil-society) requires that the government ensures an enabling environment for civil society engagement in the EITI. 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. Requests for confidentiality will be respected.

For purposes of Validation, ‘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’ refers 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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Provision of the EITI civil society protocol | Potential breach identified in the period under review and accompanying evidence |
| 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. | Civil society representatives have, where appropriate, raised issues of concern without restriction or reprisal. Another question is how far they have been taken into account by particular agencies outside the MSG. The MSG adopted all decisions by consensus. |
| 2.2 Operation: Civil society representatives are able to operate freely in relation to the EITI process. | Civil society constituency proposed to convene a meeting of the MSG to discuss the development the Mining Industry Strategy, including specialists from the civil society. However, the meeting of the MSG was not held. |
| 2.3 Association: Civil society representatives are able to communicate and cooperate with each other regarding the EITI process. | Yes |
| 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. | During the reporting period, significant events took place, such as the state becoming a shareholder of the country's largest company, but there was no public preliminary information about it, moreover, such serious issues were not discussed or informed on the main platform of the mining dialogue - the MSG. Moreover, the state announced this a few months after the actual implementation of the transaction.According to the civil society constituency, the mining strategy was adopted by the RA government in violation of a number of laws, and even after the publicized demand of the members of the constituency, it was not recognized as invalid. |
| 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. | CS constituency representatives are free to express their will and during their activities have ensured discussions with the communities regarding the EITI process in Armenia. |

##  Sign-off

**7. Please include below the names and contact details of the MSG members from the civil society constituency who sign off on submitting the above information to the Validation team. Add rows as needed.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Email address or telephone number | Date | Signature (optional) |
| Victoria Burnazyan  | vicaburnazyan@gmail.com  | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Anahit Simonyan | anahit.sm@gmail.com | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Oleg Dulgaryan | oleg.dulgaryan.ccms@gmail.com | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Nazeli Vardanyan | vnazeli@mail.ru  | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Suren Neresyan | suren2001@ysu.am | 29.06.2023 |  |
| Sona Ayvazyan (alternate) | sona@transparency.am  | 29.06.2023 |  |

List of stakeholders suggested by the MSG for consultations regarding EITI implementation during Validation

The MSG is required to provide a list of different stakeholders whose opinions would enrich the Validation procedure. The list should include stakeholders outside the MSG from different constituencies: government, industry and civil society. This list will be an important input for the Validation team to prepare and programme consultations. The data will be processed according to GDPR regulations.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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# For Validation team’s use: Guiding questions for consultations on stakeholder engagement

* What are the key strengths of the constituency’s engagement in the EITI?
* Obstacles or barriers to participation in the EITI, including related to any of the provisions of the civil society protocol?
* Did actors from other constituencies attempt to influence the MSG nomination process or constituency coordination?
* What are the constituency’s (or organisation’s) priorities for EITI?
* To what extent are the constituency’s or organisation’s priorities reflected in EITI implementation?
* Are other constituencies fully, actively and effectively engaged in EITI implementation?
* Any other remarks, including commentary on the MSG’s functioning.
* For stakeholders not on the MSG: Commentary on opportunities to provide input to the MSG’s work or agenda. Commentary on the representativeness of constituency MSG members, possible conflicts of interest and the openness of the MSG nomination process.
* Context-specific questions arising from the written input to clarify or seek further information.

# For Validation team’s use: Template for “Call for views on stakeholder engagement”

**Call for views on progress in EITI implementation in [country]**

[Summary of status of implementation, including the commencement date of Validation and the outcome of the previous Validation,]

The EITI International Secretariat is seeking stakeholder views on [Country’s] progress in implementing the EITI Standard between [period under review]. Stakeholders are requested to send views to [contacts of Validation team members] by [Validation commencement date].

The EITI Standard requires that the government, extractive companies and civil society are fully, actively and effectively engaged in EITI implementation. The Secretariat is seeking views on the following questions:

1. Are the government, extractive companies and civil society fully, actively and effectively engaged in EITI implementation?
2. Are there any obstacles or barriers to the participation of any of these constituencies or their sub-groups in EITI implementation?

Civil society engagement in the EITI will be assessed in accordance with EITI Protocol: Participation of civil society. Stakeholders are requested to provide input on [Country’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 related to civil society engagement:

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?
1. <https://www.gov.am/am/gov-program/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.eiti.am/hy/%D5%86%D5%B8%D6%80%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%A9%D5%B5%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80/2020/09/14/2018-eiti-report-conference/98/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.eiti.am/hy/%D5%86%D5%B8%D6%80%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%A9%D5%B5%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80/2022/12/23/armenia-eiti-4th-report-presentation-conference/138/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.facebook.com/hambardzum.matevosyan.official/photos/a.1138827523176512/1745088779217047/>

 <https://mtad.am/news/995>

<https://mtad.am/news/1340> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/ecolurminingbigreport.pdf>

<https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/2020/Transparency%20Project%202020/vayqgoldfinalnew18062021.pdf>

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<https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/2020/Transparency%20Project%202020/gharagulyannernew16062021.pdf>

<https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/2020/Transparency%20Project%202020/tatstounlichqnew16062021.pdf><https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/2020/Transparency%20Project%202020/tatstounaygedzornew16062021.pdf>

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6. <https://www.ecolur.org/en/news/films/13665/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. <https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/2022/DATA%20modul%202022/vardenismodul.pdf>

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8. <https://www.e-draft.am/projects/4014/digest>

<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/mining/14670/>

[https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/New%202023/Mining%20strategy%20comments%20and%20suggestions%2026.08.2022%20(2).pdf](https://www.ecolur.org/files/uploads/New%202023/Mining%20strategy%20comments%20and%20suggestions%2026.08.2022%20%282%29.pdf)

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<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/mining/14892/>

<https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/mining/14893/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. <https://crm.aua.am/itamspe/training-videos> , <https://www.eiti.am/en/educational-videos> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. https://www.transparency.am/en/media/news/article/3116 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)