

BACKGROUND & ISSUES GENDER

EITI PARIS CONFERENCE 2019



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Key Points

- **Women** often reap fewer benefits from EI activities in their countries, while simultaneously bearing the brunt of social and environmental costs from the sector.
- **Women** are often marginalized and less able to participate meaningfully in the decision making process at key points along the extractives value chain, from whether and when to engage in EI, to how to allocate natural resource revenues.
- **Good for society:** Gender inclusion in EITI is a driving force for society - increased representation of key stakeholders, like women, gives us better chances of getting resource governance right, and ensuring the sector leads to sustainable development.
- **Good for women:** Gender inclusion in EITI is essential to enable equal participation of women in decisions affecting them and their communities. Ensuring that women, who represent half the population, have agency and voice in decisions across the EI value chain is crucial to ensuring women see equal benefits from the EI sector.

Key Issues

1 **New gender provisions in EITI Standard.** After a history of operating in a gender-blind fashion, we now have new gender provisions in the EITI Standard that:



require MSGs to consider **GENDER BALANCE** in representation;



require disclosure of **EMPLOYMENT FIGURES** by gender and when available, company and occupational level;



encourage consideration of **ACCESS CHALLENGES** to information by different genders and **SUBGROUPS OF CITIZENS** when disseminating EITI data; and



encourage **MSGs TO DOCUMENT** how they have taken **GENDER CONSIDERATIONS** and inclusiveness into account.

Why this issue? These new provisions represent a positive step in the history of EITI. EITI is now in good company with organisations like the IMF, World Bank, IDB, and ICMM in seeking to address gender inequalities in EI and natural resource governance. This also ties the EITI more firmly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals¹ as well as to existing international norms and standards such as the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women².



¹ See SDG 5, to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, specifically 5A: to “Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.”

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cedaw.aspx>

However, to achieve meaningful and transformative change in the sector, fulfilling these new provisions needs to be more than a tick-box exercise. Transformative change will require thoughtful and purposeful implementation of the new requirements, propelled by government, industry and civil society at the national level, and supported by international donors and partners.

2 Other gender-relevant data. New EITI provisions regarding contract transparency and project-level reporting will also supply highly gender-relevant data.

What about this issue? Aside from the new gender-specific provisions, other new requirements across the EITI Standard (particularly contract transparency and project-level reporting) will supply data that can support gender-informed policy and decision-making. Disseminating this important information in a way that reaches all people (including women) will be key.



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