

UK EITI Civil Society Network (CSN) Membership Principles

Revised version: September 2020

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1. Introduction

The Extractive Industries Initiative (EITI) is an international standard for greater transparency and accountability in the extractive sectors. It is designed to improve accountability and public trust for the revenues paid and received for a country's oil, gas and mineral resources and other aspects of natural resource governance. The UK EITI Civil Society Network was established to mainstream effective participation of UK civil society in the EITI process in the UK. Made up of non-governmental organisations and individual associate members, the CSN works alongside the UK government and industry as part of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) that oversees the implementation of the EITI in the UK. More information about the UK EITI and the MSG can be found on the UK EITI website: <https://www.ukeiti.org/>

2. Membership Criteria

The CSN offers Full Membership for national and international civil society organisations (CSOs) based in the UK and Associate Membership for individuals. All prospective members must meet minimum criteria to join the CSN.

Full Membership

Full Members must be CSOs that meet the EITI definitions of civil society organisation outlined below and have a clear stated interest in the extractive sector and/or public participation.

- “Non-governmental organisations such as trade unions, issue-based coalitions, faith-based organisations, indigenous peoples movements, the media, think tanks and foundations. The term civil society organisation is abbreviated with ‘CSO’.” – EITI Glossary, https://eiti.org/glossary#Civil_society_organisation.

- “The Constituency of Civil Society Organisations, which comprise non-governmental organisations, global action networks or coalitions that support the objective of the EITI Association.” – EITI Articles of Association, art. 5.2.iii
https://eiti.org/files/EITI_ArticlesofAssociation_EN.pdf
- “Civil society groups involved in the EITI as members of the multi-stakeholder group must be operationally, and in policy terms, independent of government and/or companies¹.” – EITI Standard 2019, 1.4 (a) ii,
https://eiti.org/files/documents/eiti_standard_2019_en_a4_web.pdf

Associate Membership

The minimum criterion for associate membership is that individuals who wish to join the CSN are not currently employed by, and do not work in any capacity for, the extractive industry or associated companies or any government entity of the UK or any other jurisdiction.

- Associate Membership is open to individuals who can demonstrate an active interest in greater transparency and accountability and
 - who are not affiliated to, or able to represent, a CSO (e.g. independent consultants, academics, students), or
 - who are affiliated to a CSO that is not a Full CSN Member, or
 - who are members of a civil society group or organisation that represents interests of a local community affected by the extractive industry.
- Individuals must declare any potential conflicts of interest if they (or their organisation) benefit directly or indirectly from extractive industry or government funding. Any conflict of interest will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Associate Members must inform other members of the CSN if any change to their working or affiliation circumstances, such as a change in status of their local community group or starting to work for government or industry under a consulting contract, requires attention, including for conflict of interest reasons.

3. Membership Application

- Applications for Full and Individual Associate Members are accepted on an ongoing rolling basis.
- CSOs and individuals interested in joining the network should contact the CSN Coordinator or any CSN members.
- All those applying to join the CSN must agree to respect and abide by these Membership Principles.

¹ For the purpose of these Membership Principles, we understand “companies” to refer to extractive industry and associated companies only.

4. Membership Intake

The process of admitting CSN Members is as follows:

- a. **Full Members:** Approval should be straightforward if basic criteria are met (exclusion is by exception and needs to be justifiable).
- b. **Associate Members:** Individuals applying to be admitted to the CSN need to submit a membership application.
- c. The Coordinator or any Full Member representative will notify all current Full and Associate members of any CSO or individual wishing to join the CSN, with any easily obtainable background information, and allow 5 working days for current members to express any concerns or reservations. If no concerns or reservations are raised, that organisation or individual will be admitted as a CSN Full or Associate member.

5. Membership Expectations

- a. All CSN members are expected to observe high standards of ethics and integrity, in line with the EITI Association Code of Conduct, <https://eiti.org/document/code-of-conduct> If any CSN member, whether a Full CSO member representative or an individual Associate member, is agreed by consensus or majority vote of Full Member CSOs to have breached the EITI Association Code of Conduct, that person will be removed from membership of the CSN by consensus or a majority vote of Full Member CSOs.
- b. Each Full Member will have a nominated official representative, who will represent the CSO at CSN in-person or online meetings.
- c. Any other person affiliated to a Full Member CSO can attend CSN meetings and join the CSN email list for updates and to contribute to the debate.
- d. Individual Associate members are encouraged to attend CSN meetings and join the CSN email list for regular updates and to contribute to the debate.

6. Representation on the UK EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group

- a. The official representative of a Full Member CSO can stand for election for a seat on the UK EITI Multi- Stakeholder Group (MSG) as a full representative or alternate. The official representative can also nominate another person from the same CSO to stand for election onto the MSG.
- b. Each Full Member CSO is entitled to hold at any one time a maximum of one full representative and one alternate position on the MSG, with only one such person of either category (which both may have voting rights at MSG meetings) attending an MSG meeting in a voting capacity at any one time.
- c. The official Full CSO Member representative **or** a nominated proxy can vote in elections of civil society representatives and/or alternates onto the MSG following the

principle 'one Full CSO Member one vote.'

- d. Individual Associate Members can vote for one CSO representative or alternate on the MSG.
- e. Individual Associate Members may be co-opted as an MSG representative or alternate if the majority of civil society MSG representatives agree and with a maximum of one co-opted representative and one co-opted alternate on the MSG.
- f. The UK EITI CSN seeks to promote diversity of civil society representation on the MSG, including where appropriate by representatives of local UK communities affected by the extractive industries. The CSN will reserve one civil society full MSG representative place and one alternate MSG place for people who can reflect local community concerns.
- g. Associate members and other individuals may, with agreement of the majority of civil society MSG representatives and the Chair of the MSG, attend MSG meetings as non-voting observers.

7. Membership Governance

- a. The CSN holds regular meetings in person and/or online and has an online community email list for updates and to contribute to the debate.
- b. All CSN members are invited between meetings to send and share relevant updates and to work together on events and in other ways.
- c. The UK EITI CSN will consider developing a more formal governance arrangement to manage its affairs and workings, including:
 - A chair, who will chair CSN meetings and mediate in case of disputes.
 - Changes to the current coordination arrangements.
 - Other governance structures such as a membership committee if deemed desirable.
- d. Future changes to these Membership Principles will need to be agreed by a majority of Full Members of the CSN (one vote per CSO).
 - These Membership Principles were first adopted by vote of 22 CSN members in favour, none against, in February 2016.
 - Amendments were adopted by consensus in January 2017 and May 2017 and by vote in September 2017, February 2019 and July 2020.
 - A complete overhaul to integrate amendments to the membership processes and engagement mechanisms was adopted by consensus in September 2020.