



CITIZENS' CONVENTION

ON EXTRACTIVES 2023

6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



THEME:

“Shaping Mineral Wealth and the Energy agenda”

Date: 25th – 26th October, 2023

Venue: Imperial Royale Hotel

Introduction:

According to the United Nations, Africa is home to an estimated 30% of the world's total mineral reserves. With the ever-increasing need to rely on technology, minerals such as aluminum, titanium, copper, silicon, tantalite, potassium, silica, bauxite, tin, nickel, graphite, and cobalt have been used in the development of appliances such as smartphones. In 2021, an estimated 1.5 billion smartphones were sold worldwide. Uganda's true mineral capacity has never been truly ascertained but the country is home to a number of minerals like copper, cobalt, beryl, gold, Rare Earth Elements, and several other minerals.



In addition, Uganda discovered commercially viable deposits in the form of fuel minerals across the Albertine Graben in 2006 and has since taken strides to exploit these resources. The country reached its Final Investment Decision (FID) to explore her fuel minerals in February 2022 and since then the Joint Venture Partners namely Total Energies Uganda Limited, China National Offshore Oil Company Limited (CNOOC) Uganda, and the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) have since taken a number of steps towards achieving first oil in 2025. Despite the value that these minerals create, the sector continues to deal with a number of challenges. For instance, while the Mining and Minerals Act of 2022 recognizes Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners, their true contribution to the mining sector remains unknown. This makes it difficult to ascertain the country's true revenues which hampers accountability. With the current global discussions on climate change and the need for an energy transition, there have been calls to decarbonize all sectors with some actors calling for a complete abandonment of fossil fuels. The recently concluded Africa Climate Change Summit in Nairobi Kenya for instance supports the inclusion of a carbon tax on fossil fuel trade. Some have criticized these discourses as hypocritical and intended to ensure that Africa does not benefit from her mineral wealth. In order to harness the potential of the Minerals sector, EAC members, together with the African Union adopted the Africa Mining Vision in 2009, the purpose of which is to create a transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development. The Vision is also intended to integrate the mineral sector into the broader economy of each country and harness Africa's natural resource endowments to propel Africa to development. The Vision recognizes that for this to happen, a fundamental shift regarding the continent's resource trade model has to happen with the recommendation that Africa cannot continue exporting raw materials and consuming finished products.

Attaining sustainable development through mineral wealth still remains an uphill task for Africa because the extractives sector remains marred by a host of challenges including poor implementation of existing legal and policy frameworks, inadequate supportive physical infrastructure, limited investment in the utilization of the minerals for value addition, rudimentary mining methods in the mining sector, lack of transparency and accountability and inadequate human and institutional capacity among others. As such, there is an urgent need that bold steps be taken to address the social, economic, and political challenges facing the extractives sector.

About the Citizens' Convention on Extractives 2023

The collective vision that optimization of Africa's mineral resources could greatly spur Africa's sustainable development relies on the continent's preparedness to benefit from the extractives sector.

To harness efforts in realizing this vision, Global Rights Alert and partners have for the last five (5) years organized an annual Citizens' Convention on Extractives as a platform for reflection, information sharing and accountability among key players in the extractives value chain. Like the previous conventions, the 2023 CCE will be organized under a collaborative arrangement and this year, Global Rights Alert will organize the convention in partnership with Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO), Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) – Uganda, Transparency International Uganda, Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (UGEITI), Centre for Budget and Tax Policy, Minerals Africa Development Institute and Uganda Association of Artisanal and Small Scale Miners (UGAASM).

Unlike the previous editions of the conventions that confined the discourse to conventional minerals, the 6th CCE will view minerals more holistically and broaden the discussions to the oil and gas sector as well. For purposes of the CCE, minerals also include fuel minerals which include coal and petroleum.

The theme for this year's CCE will be: **"Shaping Mineral Wealth and energy agenda"**



Objectives of the CCE

The overall objective of the Convention is to enable forward-looking engagement and discussions on optimizing the potential of Africa's mineral wealth for sustainable continental development.

Specifically, the convention shall:

- Create a platform for sector players to deliberate on then developments in the extractive sector and shape sector reforms.
- Provide an extractives sector-wide platform for learning and information sharing amongst stakeholders in the extractives sector.
- Promote accountability and transparency by enabling stakeholders to take stock of progress and achievements registered within the African continent over the years.

Mode of the convention

The CCE will be a hybrid of physical and virtual participation. The convention will also be broadcast on zoom, and streamed live on YouTube and television.

Areas of discussion

- Extractives revenue management.
- The Legal and Policy framework governing natural resources in Africa.
- The global climate crisis and the Energy Transition discourse.
- Extractive Industries Accountability and Transparency frameworks for the minerals sector in the African continent.
- Civic space for extractive sector players

Targeted participants

The CCE will bring together over 200 extractive industry sector players drawn from Civil Society Organizations, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Academia, oil companies, the private sector, Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners (ASMs), oil and gas host communities, citizens, Development Partners, and the media across the globe.

Panelists/participants

There is a great lineup of experienced and knowledgeable panelists from the extractives sector across the globe.



Conveners' profiles



Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) is an independent public policy research and advocacy Think Tank based in Uganda, working in the East and Southern Africa sub-regions on a wide range of public policy issues. ACODE's core business is policy research and analysis, policy outreach, and capacity building.



Centre for Budget and Tax Policy Africa is an independent think tank and center of excellence in Africa on budget and tax policy. The Centre for Budget and Tax Policy strives to enhance prudent and all-inclusive public finance management.



The Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) is a loose network of 60-member organizations working towards sustainable governance of Uganda's oil and gas resources so as to maximize the benefits to the people of Uganda. The Coalition was founded in 2008 and aims to nurture and harness a shared civil society platform for promoting and strengthening civil society coordination, networking and advocacy in the Oil and Gas sub-sector.



Global Rights Alert (GRA) is a Civil Society Organization based in Uganda whose vision is a just and sustainable resource rights ecosystem. GRA centers its interventions on ensuring that natural resources equitably benefit the people. GRA is committed to ensuring that men, women and young people benefit from the sustainable exploitation of natural resources. GRA is the secretariat for the Citizens' Convention on Extractives.



Minerals Africa Development Institution (MADI) Limited is a unique innovation, social enterprise and an independent African think tank supporting African governments, private sectors and other stakeholders along the minerals value chains for sustainable mineral resources development in Africa.

Conveners' profiles



Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is the government body mandated to establish, promote the Development, strategically manage and Safeguard the Rational and Sustainable Exploitation and Utilization of Energy and Mineral Resources for Social and Economic Development in Uganda.



Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) – Uganda is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that works to promote pro - development trade, fiscal and investment related policies for sustained equitable development and improved livelihoods in Uganda and the East African Community region. SEATINI-Uganda is part of SEATINI, a sub-regional Pan-African NGO working in Eastern and Southern Africa. SEATINI-Uganda is the regional coordinating office for East Africa.



Transparency International Uganda (TIU) is a national chapter of Transparency International – The global coalition against corruption. TIU is a registered NGO contributing towards a corruption free Uganda where the citizens actively condemn corruption and demand for accountability while leaders and public officials uphold the principles of good governance.



Uganda Association of Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners (UGAASM) is a national umbrella body that brings together artisanal and small-scale miners from across Uganda. The association boasts a total of 158 registered associations with 15,427 members from across Uganda.



Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (UGEITI): The EITI is the global standard for the promotion of open and accountable management of oil, gas, and mineral resources. EITI implementation in Uganda is overseen by a Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) comprised of representatives from the government, extractive companies and civil society.

For more information, Please contact:

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