

## UK EITI Civil Society Network Membership Principles

### EITI definitions of “civil society organisation”

“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](https://eiti.org/glossary#Civil_society_organisation) is abbreviated with ‘CSO’.” – EITI Glossary, [https://eiti.org/glossary#Civil\\_society\\_organisation](https://eiti.org/glossary#Civil_society_organisation)

“The Constituency of Civil Society Organisations, which comprise nongovernmental 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](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 companies.” – EITI Standard 2016, 1.4 (a) ii, [https://eiti.org/sites/default/files/documents/english-eiti-standard\\_0.pdf](https://eiti.org/sites/default/files/documents/english-eiti-standard_0.pdf)<sup>1</sup>

- 1. Full Membership of the UK EITI Civil Society Network is open to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) only.** Each CSO will have one nominated official representative, who represents the CSO at Civil Society Network (CSN) meetings.
  - a. Full members must be CSOs that meet the EITI definitions (above) and have a clear and stated interest in the extractive sector and/or public participation.
  - b. The official CSO representative, or another person from the same CSO nominated by the official representative, can stand for election for a seat on the UK EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) as a full representative or alternate.
  - c. The official CSO representative or a nominated proxy can vote in elections of civil society representatives and/or alternates onto the MSG (one vote per CSO).
  - d. Each 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 have voting rights at MSG meetings) attending an MSG meeting in a voting capacity at any one time.
  - e. Any 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.
  
- 2. Associate Membership is open to individuals who are not affiliated to, or able to represent, a CSO.**
  - a. Associate members are encouraged to attend meetings, to join the CSN email list for regular updates and to contribute to the debate.
  - b. Associate members do not have a vote in elections of CSO representatives and/or alternates onto the MSG.
  - c. Associate members may be co-opted as an MSG representative or alternate if the majority of civil society MSG members agree and with a maximum of 1 co-opted representative and 1 co-opted alternate on the MSG.
  - d. Associate members and other individuals may, with agreement of the majority of civil society MSG members and the Chair of the MSG, attend MSG meetings as non-voting observers.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of these Membership Principles, we understand “companies” to refer to extractive industry and associated companies.

- 3. Membership of the EITI CSN is not automatic, and prospective members will have to apply.**
  - a. Approval should be straightforward if basic criteria are met (exclusion is by exception and needs to be justifiable).
  - b. The Coordinator or any full member will notify all current CSN 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. After 5 working days, if no concerns or reservations are raised, that organisation or individual will be admitted as a CSN full or associate member.
  - c. Basic criteria: CSOs to be admitted as full members must be able to show that they genuinely work on extractives and/or public participation.
  - d. All those applying to join the CSN must agree to respect and abide by these Membership Principles.
  
- 4. The UK EITI CSN will consider developing a more formal governance arrangement to manage its affairs and workings, including:**
  - a. A chair, who will chair CSN meetings and mediate in case of disputes.
  - b. Changes to the current coordination arrangements.
  - c. Other governance structures such as a membership committee if deemed desirable.
  
- 5. 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. [New: Sept. 2017]
  
- 6. 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>.
  
- 7. These Principles were first adopted by a simple majority vote of members of the CSN in February 2016. Future changes to these Principles will need to be agreed by a majority of Full Members of the CSN (one vote per CSO).**

Membership Principles first adopted by vote of 22 CSN members in favour, none against, February 2016. Amendments adopted by consensus in January 2017 and May 2017 and by vote (6 in favour, 0 against) in September 2017.