

DISCUSSION DRAFT - PRESS RELEASE

Zambia Launches EITI

Enhancing transparency of the minerals sector

LUSAKA, July 16, 2008 – The formal process for Zambia to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was launched yesterday on July 15, 2008 at a high-level workshop attended by representatives of Government, civil society, the private sector, the press, and cooperating partners.

The development of mineral resources, particularly copper, has been a mainstay of the Zambian economy and is expected to remain a key driver of growth for the foreseeable future. The Government of Zambia is committed to enhancing transparency and accountability in the minerals sector and ensuring that the exploitation of such natural resources are used for the development of the country. Implementation of EITI is a key component of this commitment.

EITI is a voluntary global compact for improving transparency in countries that are dependent on extractive industries. In committing to join the EITI, the Government of Zambia is following the 23 EITI Candidate Countries already implementing EITI, including 16 in Africa. These countries recognize the importance of providing clear and independently verified information on what extractive industry companies are paying to governments and what governments receive from those companies.

The multi stakeholder workshop supported Zambia's intention to join the EITI and emphasized the need for the immediate implementation of activities that would lead to the publication of mining revenues. The meeting also agreed on the composition of the Zambia EITI Council (ZEC), which is to be comprised of 15 members from Government, civil society, and the private sector. The chairperson of the ZEC will be the Secretary to the Treasury who shall also be the champion representing Government's commitment to the process.

Hon. Maxwell MB Mwale, MP

Deputy Minister (Large Scale Mining)

Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development