

SECOND MSG MEETING MINUTES-OCTOBER 18, 2018, LEITI CONFERENCE ROOM, REDEMPTION ROAD, MONROVIA, LIBERIA

The Second meeting of the Multi-stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI).

Present in attendance were:

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| 1. Hon. C.Mike Doryen | FDA |
| 2. Hon. Carlton S. Miller-Proxy | MME |
| 3. Eric Daniels | NOCAL |
| 4. John Horace | NOCAL |
| 5. B. Al Dennis | LRA |
| 6. Randolph R. Kolleh | MOA |
| 7. Edrick F. Noah | MOJ |

CSO

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| 1. Daniel Nyankonah | PUL |
| 2. | |

Private Sector

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| 1. Esiaka B. Konneh | Gold/Diamond Brokers & Dealers Association |
| 2. Eric Swen | Arcelor Mittal |
| 3. E. Ekema Witherspoon | Liberia Timber Association |
| 4. Ansu Konneh | Western Cluster |

Observers

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| Marie- Josephine Nsengiyuhua | GIZ |
| Vera Kellen | EU |

LEITI Staff

1. Jeffery N. Yates
2. McDonald S. Kerl
3. Emmanuel K. White
4. J. Kennedy Kolubah

Preliminaries - The second meeting of the Multi-stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) was held on Thursday, October 18, 2018, in the conference room of the LEITI.

Commencing at 11:35 am, the meeting was called to order by the Chair of the MSG, Hon C Mike Doyen.

Reading of the Agenda

The Chair asked the Acting Deputy Head of Secretariat to read the agenda. The agenda was read as requested. Following the reading of the agenda, the Chair presented the agenda and asked the body's will towards the agenda. It was subsequently moved and seconded that the agenda be used as a tool to guide the meeting.

Members offered a silent prayer, followed by welcome remarks from the proxy of the Co-Chair, Hon. Carlton S. Miller. He welcomed the MSG members and stated that everything that the MSG does is for the good of Liberia. Following the welcome remarks was a self-introduction of MSG members, Observers, and the Secretariat's staff.

The Chairman asked the Acting Deputy Head of Secretariat to read the last meeting minutes. The DHOS highlighted the action points from last the meeting's minutes. The Chair then requested the Secretariat to do both hard and soft copies of the invitation to MSG members and Observers for the next meeting.

The Proxy for the Co-Chair, Hon. Miller indicated that the MSG should not relax and wait for an extension. He advised that the MSG takes immediate actions on the Report to be on the safe side.

Madam Vera Kellen asked the MSG whether they wanted to validate the extension request. Madam Vera Kellen of EU also raised the MSG appointment process, and the MSG clarified that it was in line with the norms of the EITI process.

Mr. Daniel Nyakonah, Jr. of the PUL, provided further clarity on the MSG nomination and appointment process, stating that his nomination was done by his institution followed by appointment by the President.

The Acting Deputy Head of Secretariat, Mr. Jeffrey Yates, clarified the issue of the extension request and stated that the Secretariat was gathering data to fill the gaps in the 9th Report while requesting an extension.

Mr. Winston Wreh of the Liberia Labor Congress informed members of MSG that Mr. Baryou Wallace has been withdrawn as its representative to the MSG and has been replaced by him, Mr. Winston Wreh.

Mr. Ansu Konneh of Western Cluster said that the Independent Administrator and the Secretariat should work on the gaps in the Report. He indicated that the IA should be the one to identify the gaps in the Report, not the MSG. He further stated that the University of Liberia does not know how much each company contributes to the General Education Fund (GEF). The MSG/ Secretariat cannot get any information on payments received from the University of Liberia. He advised the Secretariat to contact the LRA or MME.

Mr. Yates informed the MSG that the Secretariat would give complete updates on the issues in the 9th Report and progress thus far.

The Chair of the MSG indicated that constraints at LEITI should be discussed with partners as to how they can be handled since they usually criticize our processes. He also said challenges at the LEITI will be taken up with the President for redress. He stressed that we should not allow our investment in the EITI process to end with delisting. He pledged to engage the Government of Liberia on the funding gaps first, and if there is no positive action, we can turn to partners for help.

The Chair suggested that companies whose information is needed be written to help with the information on payments to facilitate the completion of the issues in the Report.

The proxy to the Co-Chair, Hon. Miller said every institution is told about the Scientific Research Fund (SRF), but some issues need to be resolved around the entire process.

The representative from NOCAL said their record shows that there were payments made to UL.

At this point, the Chair accepted a recommendation from Mr. Daniel Nyakonah to place the payment and usage of the fee on the next agenda.

The Chair then ordered that the issue of payments for scientific research and all the issues surrounding it be tabled until it can be placed on the agenda as an item in the next meeting.

For his part, Mr. Witherspoon of the Liberia Timber Association said the MSG should empower the Secretariat to gather data on whether beneficiaries are receiving their funds.

Madam Athelia Grasco Korvah asked how far the LEITI Secretariat has gone with the companies' information sent by LRA and why are there still issues with data? Mr. Yates responded by stating that the data sent needed cleaning to get the specific information we needed. He indicated that we had done that already. Mr. Al Dennis offered to do updates on the folder.

The Acting Deputy Head of Secretariat informed members of the MSG that the EITI Standard requires not only Publication of the Report but dissemination.

Esiaka B. Konneh suggested that the MSG sell the activities to partners as was done in the past.

The proxy to the Co-chair Hon. Miller suggested that the MSG engage the GOL first and see how it works, and if we don't get a positive response, we engage partners.

Madam Athelia Grasso Korvah of LRA then suggested that the work plan be attached to a letter that will go to the President and partners.

For his part, Mr. Witherspoon suggested that the MSG ask for an extension for the 9th and 10th Reports since the two are back to back.

Mr. Ansu Konneh suggested that the implementation schedule should be added to the work plan to track the implementation process and achievements.

Madam Vera Kellen also buttressed the suggestion from Mr. Konneh and said that the work plan should have targets, implementation schedule; also include in the work plan background and why the donors should give you their money.

Ansu Konneh suggested that the MSG write AfDB and World Bank to participate in the MSG process because they usually support activities.

The Acting Deputy Head of Secretariat informed members of the MSG that they need meet the AfDB on the USD606 000.00 at the MFDP. He also said the AfDB placed no objection to the release of the fund during the transition period in the country.

The Chair said the Secretariat should deal with the International Secretariat on technical issues, but the MSG must approve every decision and action

Madam Vera Kellen said the MSG couldn't be looking for money, and we have the donors present around the table. They need to be invited to help the process.

Mr. Ansu Konneh suggested that members of the MSG sending proxies should send a letter recommending the proxy. This will help the validation process.

The body **by a consensus agreed** that MSG members names are typed written, and proxy indicate their name in a unique column

The body **by a consensus agreed** that the next meeting would be held on November 8, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15