

MINUTES
REGULAR LEITI MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS STEERING GROUP MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE LEITI, OLD BUDGET BUREAU BUILDING
●REDEMPTION
ROAD, MONROVIA, LIBERIA ● TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016

PRESENT

GOL

Stephen Dorbor	MLME
Harrison Karnwea	FDA
Darlington Y. Talery	LRA
Henrique Tokpa	MIA
James N. Glayeneh, Jr.	MFDP
Johnny S. Tarkpah	NOCAL

CSO

Cecelia T. M. Danuweli	PWYP/WANEP
James M. Yarsiah	Rights & Rice Foundation
Frances R. Deigh Greaves	NCSCCL
Marpue M. Speare	WONGOSOL

Private Sector

Laurentine H. Bass	ExxonMobil
John S. Deah	LTA
Ansu Konneh	Western Cluster Liberia
K. Emmanuel Yarkpazuo	GVL
Zinnah B. Sackie	AUREUS

IN ATTENDANCE

Partners/Observers

Kofi Ireland	UNMIL
Christoph Buchberger	GIZ
Christiana Solomon	UNDP
Lilieth Whyte	U S Embassy
Sekou Kamara	World Bank

OTHERS

Edward S. Kamara	FDA
Elvin C. A. Frank	MIA
Emmanuel F. Daywoe	GIZ
Alfred S. Gibson	ESM
B. Al - Dennis	LRA
Sekou M. Sheriff	ExxonMobil
Alex Sokolofl	U S Embassy

LEITI Secretariat

Konah D. Karmo

Myer W. Saye

Cedrick W. Kpadeh

Joy Smith Attah

HOS/LEITI

DHOS/LEITI

LEITI

LEITI

Preliminaries - The meeting was called to order by the Head of Secretariat who welcomed the participants and informed them that there was a slight change in the agenda as the EITI Fact-Finding Team was going to be in the meeting also. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Stephen B. Dorbor/Proxy of the Chair/MLME who also formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting commenced at 12:18 PM

This was followed by self-introduction.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted with one amendment- to include the eleventh item which is the approval of the LEITI Annual Report for 2015; it was moved and seconded that the agenda be used as a working instrument for the meeting.

Draft Minutes: The draft minutes of July 23 Regular Meeting was adopted by the body with no comments or amendments

Following the adoption of the minutes, the Presiding Chair turned the floor over to the Fact Finding team. The head of the team, Mr. Alex Gordy gave a brief introduction of the EITI and re-echoed his team's mission to Liberia. Because there were two meetings to be held, the two-man Team had to split up with Alex Gordy leaving the MSG meeting to meet with members of the Civil Society outside of the MSG while Pablo Valverde stayed on in the MSG meeting.

Self-introduction was again done for those that came in after the first self-introduction. After the introduction, the floor was turned over to Mr. Valverde for a time of consultation with members of the MSG.

Mr. Valverde thanked the Chair and stated they were not here to judge but to gather information for the validators to make their report and the EITI Board will make a decision. He reiterated that their mission was purely a fact-finding one and they were trying to understand the real situation. He explained that this validation will be looking at the different aspects of the Extractive Industries value chain, everything from licenses, to production, to state enterprises, etc, and is supposed to be comprehensive. Mr. Martinez asked questions about MSG works relative to report gathering, some of the decisions made in publishing the Reports, etc. He further solicited views from the different stakeholder groups, in particular the Companies, the Civil Society Organization and the Government. He was keen on knowing what their role had been in developing the EITI Reports for Liberia.

Several persons from the different stakeholder groups including Kofi Ireland, John Deah, Harrison Karnwea, Dr. Henrique Tokpah explained the various roles played in developing the reports. Following the interactive session with Mr. Pablo Valverde, the body broke up for lunch and resumed after few minutes.

Following the break, the Presiding Chair proceeded with the meeting as usual.

1. **Draft Minutes:** The draft minutes of the last meeting was perused by the body page by page.
- ***Corrections:*** No corrections were made:
- ***Adoption:*** with no corrections made, it was moved and seconded that the minutes, form part of the Secretariat's archives. This was unanimously agreed.
- **Matters Arising:**
- There were no matters arising from the minutes to be discussed.

I. Secretariat Update:

The HOS presented the following as the update for the period:

EITI Validation

A two- man validation fact finding team from the International Secretariat arrived in Liberia on August 21, 2016 to meet with stakeholders and gather information relative to EITI implementation to support the ongoing Validation process. As part of the Validation of Fact-Finding, the visiting team will on August 23rd, 2016 attend a meeting specially organized of the LEITI MSG to consult members of that body.

The Secretariat, in consultation with the fact-finding Team has organized meetings of other stakeholders –in and out of the MSG- to participate in the validation process. The stakeholders were drawn from across the Government, Civil Society and the Private Sector. Development Partners/ donors will also be consulted.

The Validation Fact-Finding Team is in Liberia until Friday, August 26, 2016.

Dissemination of the LEITI 7th Reconciliation Report

During the Period under review, the Secretariat commenced the popularization of the 7th Report. On August 9, 2016, the Head and Deputy Head of Secretariat appeared on the Liberia Broadcasting System's (LBS) radio and television to explain the 7th Report to the public.

The Secretariat hopes to continue public interaction on the report in the coming weeks and months.

UNMIL has also signaled its willingness to allow the LEITI use its radio for dissemination of the 7th and 8th Reports.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has agreed to provide funding for the dissemination of the LEITI 7th and 8th Reports, using funds approved for the LEITI under the 2015/16 UNDP- EISD (Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development) Work Plan.

With this offer from UNDP, the Secretariat intends to embark on a full-skilled dissemination of the reports in the month of September if the rains permit; otherwise October.

Update on the visit of the EITI Chairperson and Head of International Secretariat to Liberia

The Visit of the Chairperson of the EITI International Board, Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt and Head of International Secretariat, Mr. Jonas Molberg has been deferred to a future date to be determined, based on the absences of the President and Vice President at the time of the proposed visit.

Upon the return of the President to Liberia, the LEITI Secretariat will collaborate with the International EITI Secretariat to ensure that Mr. Reinfeldt's visit to Liberia is achieved.

Recommendations implementation Matrix

During the Period under review, the Secretariat's work on the Recommendations Implementation Matrix was concentrated on the Pre-Validation Assessment recommendations. Specifically, the Secretariat worked on organizing documentations for ongoing validation. The organization of documents included proper identification and filing of all documents required for the validation - as recommended in the Pre-Validation Assessment Report.

II.

A motion was made and seconded to adapt the update for discussion.

Discussion of Secretariat update: Following the update, Hon. Dorbor thanked the HoS and declared the update opened for discussions. Various comments, concerns and issues were raised in relation to the update as highlighted below:

Mr. Kofi Ireland – UNMIL

Mr. Ireland inquired about the payment for the Reconcilers.

HoS

In response, the HoS said that government funded payment to the Reconcilers and the payment is ongoing, but that the Secretariat has not been able to clear them up due to the government's policy of sixty percent payment in United States Dollars and forty percent in Liberian dollars. However, the money is in the account with the Secretariat trying to do currency exchange to acquire the necessary United States Dollars to pay the Reconcilers.

The HoS further informed the body that an understanding has been reached that in future; money coming in from government, especially for foreign Consultants will be given in United States Dollars.

Second Post Award Process Audit

It was observed that the record only states that the Second Post Award Process Audit is being reviewed for submission to the MSG, but it doesn't give a time frame for the submission.

Responding, the HOS said that it is ongoing but it will be brought to the MSG. He also said that the Secretariat targeted September but there are other issues on the Post Award Audit that needed to be solved that may even invoke the intervention of the President

Approval and publication of LEITI 8TH Reconciliation Report (2014/2015)

The HoS on behalf of the Secretariat formally presented the 8th Report to the MSG through the Chair. In his overview Mr. Karmo stated that the report could not be launched along with the 7th report because it was not completed by the Independent Administrator who among other things had an unfortunate loss of a staff at the time.

Following the presentation, the Presiding Chair officially received the report on behalf of the MSG and thanked everybody who contributed to the success of the report. He stated with the presentation, the Secretariat can now catch up with 2016 in the next report which the HoS projects will be out no later than March next year.

With that said, the Presiding Chair formally turned the report over to the MSG for acceptance and subsequent launching. He then called on the Chair of the Reporting Committee, Mr. Kofi Ireland to make remarks on behalf of the Committee.

In remarks, Mr. Ireland said that the committee had gone back and forth with the review of the Report with several issues in contention with the most significant being under social payments in which the committee told the Independent Administrator that they wanted a disclaimer because social payments were only reported by Companies and was not validated. Other issues were the issue of the recommendation, where a blanket statement was made that the recommendations from previous reports were not implemented, also the issue of the Companies and a few others. However, he said that all of these have been corrected, and based on that the Committee recommended that the MSG approves the Report and then subsequently publish it for public consumption and public usage. He then presented the Report to the Presiding Chairman for endorsement by the MSG.

It was then agreed by consensus that the report be published for public consumption.

A formal Press Statement was then read by the Presiding Chair to the media.

AOB: Mr. K. Emmanuel Yarkpazuo of GVL expressed his dissatisfaction over why the Agriculture Sector was not invited to the meeting with the EITI Fact Finding Team. The HOS made clarifications that the itinerary was done back and forth in consultation with the Fact Finders who suggested that the LEITI concentrate more on the Mining and Oil Sectors because those are the areas the validation will cover. It was based on that arrangement the Agriculture Sector was not included.

The Presiding Chair however, apologized on behalf of the MSG to the Agriculture Sector and said whatever arrangement was made should have been communicated to everybody so they could know why they were left out.

Summary of Key Points

- There was one correction made;
- A Two-person Fact Finding Mission from the International EITI is in Liberia, their visit is from August 22nd to 26th, 2016;
- The Draft 8th Reconciliation Report was approved and launched by the MSG;

Date and time of next MSG meeting: The next MSG meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 28th September 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.