

MINUTES

REGULAR LEITI MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS STEERING GROUP MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE LEITI, OLD BUDGET BUREAU BUILDING REDEMPTION
ROAD, MONROVIA, LIBERIA
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016

PRESENT

GOL

Stephen Dorbor	Proxy Chairperson, MLME
B. Al - Dennis	LRA
Elvin C. A. Frank	MIA
James N. Gilayeneh, Jr.	MFDP
Johnny S. Tarkpah	NOCAL
Isaac K. Kipi	FDA

CSO

Cecelia T. M. Danuweli	PWYP/WANEP
Wynston Benda-Henries	Rights & Rice Foundation
S. Barbington Coleman	National Labor Congress (GODIMWUL)
Finda Salay	WONGOSOL

Private Sector

Laurentine H. Bass	ExxonMobil
Ansu S. Konneh	Western Cluster Liberia
K. Emmanuel Yarkpazuo	Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) /AGRI
Zinnah B. Sackie	AUREUS
Esiaka B. Konneh	Gold and Diamond Workers Union of Liberia

IN ATTENDANCE

Partners/Observers

Kofi Ireland	UNMIL
Christopher Buchberger	GIZ
Frances R. Deigh Greaves	National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL)
Gilbert Ngesu	UNMIL PCS
Alusine Sheriff	US EMBASSY

OTHERS

Darlington Y. Talery	LRA
Sekou M. Sheriff	ExxonMobil
Christina V. Heyden	GIZ

LEITI Secretariat

Konah D. Karmo	HOS/LEITI
Myer W. Saye, Sr.	DHOS/LEITI
Cedrick W. Kpadeh	LEITI
Joy Smith Attah	LEITI

I. Preliminaries – The Regular monthly meeting of the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) for the year 2016 was held on Thursday, July 28, 2016 in the Conference Room of the LEITI Secretariat. The meeting started at 12:30 PM. In an opening statement, the Head of Secretariat (HOS), Konah D. Karmo, expressed satisfaction over meeting attendance especially as it was held just two days after the independence celebration .He then introduced the presiding for the day, the proxy chair, Minister Stephen Dorbor of the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy..

II. Adoption of the Agenda: The agenda was read. It contained several discussion points, with the key items listed below:

- Secretariat update
- Approval and of LEITI 8th Reconciliation report (2014/2015)
- Updates on: 2016 EITI Validation
- A. Visit of the validation team from the EITI Secretariat (August 22-26,2016)
- B. Sectors nominations for validation Consultation

The agenda was adopted as presented with a request from the HOS for the omission of item 6 which was the approval and publication of the 8th EITI Report. According to the HOS, the report was not ready as there were changes on-going. Thus the nine item agenda was cut to 8.

III. Draft Minutes:

- ***Corrections:*** The HOS presented printed copies of the June 30, 2016 minutes to the body with just two suggestions for correction-commence for commenced and WONGOSOL for WONGOSO. (Last page under Summary of Key points, first and second bullet points respectively)
- ***Adoption:*** With these corrections made, the minutes was adopted through a motion.
- **Matters Arising:** Mr. Kofi Ireland of UNMIL suggested that decisions reached in a given meeting should not be mixed with action points as indicated in the minutes.
- The Proxy chair acknowledged the concern and instructed the Secretariat to take note and clearly separate action points from decisions going forward.

IV. Secretariat Update: An update of the Secretariat covering the period July 1 to 27, 2016 was presented by the Head of Secretariat Mr. Konah D. Karmo with the following highlights

8th LEITI Reconciliation Report

The Final Draft 8th LEITI Reconciliation Report has been received from the Independent Administrator (IA) by the LEITI Secretariat. Secretariat is reviewing to ensure LEITI's previous inputs are considered after which the report will be submitted for approval by the MSG. Approval of the report had been anticipated to

occur in July, but deferral is now advised until all previous inputs are fully incorporated by the Independent Administrator(IA).

Second Post-Award Process Audit:

Final Draft copy of the Second Post-Award Process Audit report has been submitted by the Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory Liberia LLC. Initial review of the draft report by the Secretariat indicates that extensive work has been done by the consultants, including incorporating comments forwarded by the LEITI upon review of the first draft report. Meanwhile, the Secretariat is conducting additional due diligence to ensure all outstanding issues raised in the previous draft are addressed, after which the report will be submitted to the MSG for approval.

EITI Validation

As part of the ongoing EITI Validation of Liberia (LEITI), a two- man validation fact finding team is scheduled to arrive in Liberia on August 22nd till 26th to meet with stakeholders and gather information relative to EITI implementation to support the ongoing Validation process.

The Secretariat has formulated initial itinerary which is being reviewed by the Validation Team. The draft itinerary contains proposed meeting schedules with stakeholders drawn from the Government, private sector and civil society both in and outside the MSG.

During the June 30th 2016 MSG meeting, sectors were requested to submit names of individuals/ institutions to the Secretariat no later than July 6, 2016 to be forwarded to the EITI Validation Fact-Finding Team to be contacted during the visit to Liberia. Meanwhile, the Government Sector has yet to complete submission of names.

EITI Chairperson and Head of International Secretariat visit to Liberia The Chairperson of the EITI International Board, Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt and Head of International Secretariat, Mr. Jonas Molberg are scheduled to visit Liberia from August 25 to 26, 2016.

Mr. Reinfeldt was recently elected to replace Hon. Clare Short as Chairperson of the EITI Board. The planned visit will afford Messrs. Reinfeldt and Molberg the opportunity to discuss with stakeholders, including the LEITI MSG, issues relating to EITI implementation in Liberia and post-Lima EITI reforms.

GAC Audit of the LEITI

The General Auditing Commission is currently conducting an audit of the LEITI for Fiscal Years July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 and July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The Audit will cover all funds received from the Government of Liberia for the period under consideration.

Annual Activity Report 2015

During the period under review, the Secretariat forwarded LEITI's Annual Activity Report to Hon. Stephen Dorbor, Proxy Chair of the MSG, for his signature. The Secretariat acted based on MSG's instruction at the 30 June 2016 meeting following approval of the Annual Activity Report.

Funding

In response to a communication addressed to the Minister of finance and Development Planning regarding amounts withheld from the LEITI's FY2015/16 Appropriation, the Ministry has allotted to the LEITI the amount of US\$52,842 to complete payment to the Independent Administrator(IA) for preparation of the LEITI 7th & 8th Reconciliation Reports.

Administration

During the period under review, Mr. Roosevelt W. Seedee, a Sector/ Industry Analyst with the LEITI Secretariat resigned his post to pursue further studies in the United States of America.

In appreciation and support to his study, the Secretariat made a modest financial contribution to him.

Consistent with the MSG's decision at the June 30, 2016 meeting, a two-year employment contract for the Deputy Head of Secretariat, Mr. Myer W. Saye, was completed and signed by the Office of the MSG Chairperson.

- **Discussion of the Secretariat update:** The update was opened for discussions. Various comments, concerns and issues raised in relation to the Secretariat Update are highlighted below:
 - **EITI Validation**—HOS distributed tentative copies of the validators' schedule as well as that of the EITI Chairperson's visit stating that the validators will be in Liberia from August 22-26, 2016. He urged the body to review the schedule and make inputs.
 - Kofi Ireland of UNMIL suggested that Observers be included on the schedule to meet with validators. HOS responded by saying that validators were scheduled to meet with donors on August 24th which will be a holiday. He said the secretariat was looking at the date tentatively but assured that Observers will meet the validators.
 - The HOS provided further information on the departure of Roosevelt Seedee, Industry/Sector Analyst and the vacancy created. Following a brief deliberation over the vacancy created by Mr. Seedee's resignation, the MSG mandated the Secretariat to fill the vacancy through a competitive recruitment exercise.
 - Mr. S. Barbington Coleman of the Liberia Labor Congress inquired how the selection of civil society organizations who are scheduled to meet the validators was done. The HOS responded saying that during the last meeting, people were asked from each sector to nominate persons who will meet the validators and Publish What You Pay was charged to coordinate for civil society. The HOS intimated that there was still room for adjustments.
 - Also Mr. Kofi Ireland of UNMIL raised the issue of financial standing and budget of the LEITI. He wanted the HOS to update the body on financial status. The HOS again responded by saying that the workplan approval was deferred against the backdrop that the national budget was not yet approved. The Secretariat could not have the MSG approving something that was not concrete. He also updated the body on two proposals to the Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI) funded by USAID and the African Development Bank (AfDB). On LAVI he said a twenty thousand dollars proposal has been accepted but needed further conversation and negotiation. With the AfDB, they have been forth coming. The AfDB arrangement has taken a different trend with the world Bank expected to send facts finding team before further discussions around funding can take place. The Secretariat is hoping to see what comes out of the process and that could be in about four to six months.

V. **Updates on: 2016 EITI VALIDATION**

- VI. A. Visit of the validation team from the EITI Secretariat (August 22-26, 2016). Just before this item was introduced, the civil Society took permission to leave the meeting to attend another meeting with

the SRS of UNMIL. The HOS told the body that he lengthily dealt with this item under the Secretariat update.

VII. B. Sectors nominations for validation Consultation

Under this item Kofi and the proxy chair suggested that those nominated be in the know of the EITI process at the same length to enhance a smooth process of validation. To this the HOS said the validation will cut across five core value chains with specific areas. He pointed out that there is no need to fear as the civil society has never been muscled over the period.

Any Other Businesses After the key agenda items were exhausted, other issues were brought and discussed as follows:

- Recruitment of Sector Analyst: This was again brought forth but the chair was informed by suggestions that this issue was already dealt with under the secretariat update and was clearly stated that the HOS handled the recruitment. The Chair, for the record, put it across the floor for a concurrence and it was agreed by consensus that the HOS handled the recruitment according to the rule.
- Mr. Ireland brought the issue of the 7th reports. He suggested that the 7th report since it has been approved, be uploaded to the website and disseminated to the public especially to the media. The HOS however responded by saying the report has been uploaded to the website but that the Secretariat wanted to concomitantly launch it along with the 8th report which is already near completion. He said currently, the Secretariat is making preparation to discuss contents on public radio shows and lines Ministries and agencies. After a lengthy discussion of the issue, it was agreed that the Secretariat will go ahead to publicize the report by distribution and radio talk shows. The 7th Report will also be jointly launched along with the 8th report in the next MSG meeting scheduled for 23 August 2016.
- After this, an official farewell program for the Project Manager of GIZ, Ms. Juliane Weymann, was held. In his remark, the HOS praised Juliane for the level of support to the LEITI process. He also expressed optimism for similar support from her successor Christina V. Heyden. Juliane was then certificated and presented with LEITI souvenirs. In remark Juliane Weymann expressed gratitude for the honor and promised to always remember the LEITI family wherever she goes. The certificate was presented by the Proxy Chair of the MSG, Hon. Stephen B. Dorbor.
- Hon. Dorbor also took this time to inform the body that the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy has launched its road map for the formalization of the artisanal mining sector. He said the road map is basically to serve as guidance for the sector.
- The Proxy Chair ended the meeting by extending condolences to MSG members Laurentine H. Bass of Exxon Mobil and Dr. Charles McClain of the Ministry of Agriculture for the loss of their love ones.

VIII. Summary of Decisions Reached

- **Recruitment of Sector Analyst:** the MSG instructed the Secretariat through the HOS to recruit a new staff since the post is not a senior staff post.

Launch of 7TH Report : The MSG instructed the Secretariat to go ahead with the distribution of copies of the 7th Report, hold talk shows to discuss its contents as the 8th and 7th report will be launched together at the next MSG meeting.

IX. Date and time of next MSG meeting: The next MSG meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.

