

MINUTES

REGULAR LEITI MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS STEERING GROUP MEETING

HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE LEITI SECRETARIAT • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

PRESENT

GOL

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Stephen Dorbor | Proxy for the Chair/ Minister of MLME |
| James N. Gilayeneh Jr. | Proxy for the Co-Chair / Minister of MoFDP |
| B. Al-Dennis | Proxy for the Commissioner General, LRA |
| Elvin C. A. Frank | Proxy for the Minister of Internal Affairs |
| Harrison S. Karnwea | Managing Director/FDA |
| Johnny Tarkpah | Proxy for the CEO/NOCAL |

CSO

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| James Yarsiah | Rights & Rice Foundation (RRF) |
| Cecelia T.M. Danuweli | PWYP |
| S. Barbington Coleman | GODIMWUL/Labor Congress |
| Frances R. Deigh Greaves | NCSC |

Private Sector

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Laurentine H. Bass | ExxonMobil |
| Esiaka B. Konneh | Gold and Diamond Workers Union of Liberia |
| Ansu Konneh | Western Cluster Liberia |

IN ATTENDANCE

Partners/Observers

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Kofi Ireland | UNMIL |
| Christopher Buchberger | GIZ |
| Alex S. Yeanay | African Development Bank |
| Lilieth Whyte | U.S Embassy |

OTHERS

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Federica Russo | UNMIL |
| Isaac Kipi | FDA |
| Edward S. Kamara | FDA |
| Henri Harmon | LACA |
| Kwame E. Ross | PWYP – LICLE |
| Chris Harris | PWYP |

LEITI Secretariat

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Konah D. Karmo | HOS - LEITI |
| Myer W. Saye | DHOS - LEITI |
| Sarnyenneh M. Dickson | LEITI |

NB: There were no excuses in for absences.

- I. Draft Agenda (which was adopted)
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Adoption of Agenda
 - c. Draft Minutes (January 27, 2016)
 - d. Matter Arising
 - e. Secretariat Update
 - f. Report on EITI Global Conference
 - g. Any other Business
 - h. Time and Date of next Meeting

I. Preliminaries – The 2nd Regular meeting of the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) for the year was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 in the Conference Room of the LEITI Secretariat. Commencing at 12:15pm, the meeting was called to order by the Head of Secretariat who welcomed the participants and informed them on why the February sitting of the MSG could not take place, that key members of the MSG were away participating in the 2016 EITI Global Conference that was held in Lima, Peru, on the same time the February meeting should have been taking place. The MSG meeting was chaired by Hon. Stephen B. Dorbor/ Proxy of the Chair/MLME who after his opening statement circulated the draft agenda for review.

II. Adoption of the Agenda: Without any suggestion for amendments, the agenda was unanimously adopted on a seconded motion from one of the participants. The adoption of the agenda was followed by self-introduction.

III. Review of Draft Minutes:

Observations: the following observations were raised on the minutes:

- i. Mr. Henri Harmon of LACA brought to the attention of the gathering that his name in the minutes was placed under “OTHERS” on the attendance instead of under “Private Sector”, as he represents the Agriculture Sector. The HoS in his response asked the MSG Chair presiding over the meeting to allow him address said concern during the Secretariat Update, this the Chair accepted and tabled Mr. Harmon’s concern to be addressed later on.
- ii. Madam Laurentine Bass of ExxonMobil also highlighted that she raised some concerns in an email that were not captured in the minutes, which include a suggestion that members do not “reply all” to emails that are of no significance to everyone, that such reply be sent only to the sender. The Chair asked that the Secretariat to note her concern and include same for the record.
- iii. Mr. James Gilayeneh of the MoFDP noted that there were two minutes in circulation judging from his copy and the copy of a colleague on the number of bulleted items under “Matters Arising” on page 2. His observation was quickly confirmed and the incomplete copy

withdrawn from the room, and all was provided the correct copy of the minutes.

- **Adoption:** with these concerns and observations addressed, a motion from the Chair was made and seconded and the Minutes were adopted to form part of the records.

- IV. **Matters Arising:** With Mr. Harmon's concern being the only matter that came up from the minutes, the MSG agreed that it be addressed by the Head of Secretariat (HoS) during his update from the Secretariat.
- V. **Secretariat Update:** An update of the Secretariat covering the period January 28, 2016 and March 22, 2015 was presented by the Head of Secretariat (HoS) Mr. Konah D. Karmo. Full text of the Secretariat Update is below:

LEITI 7th & 8th Reports

The Secretariat has concluded contract with Moore Stephens / Parker & Associates as consultants (Independent Administrator) to prepare the 7th & 8th LEITI Reports. The independent administrator commences work on March 28, 2016.

7th EITI Global Conference

During the period under review, an eleven-person delegation represented the LEITI at the 7th EITI Global Conference, which took place in Lima, Peru from February 24 – 25, 2016.

Status of Committees' work on Golden Veroleum MSG Representation

At its last meeting, the MSG mandated the Governance, Membership and Ethics Committee to probe into the issue of who should represent Golden Veroleum on the MSG after the resignation of Mr. Henri O. Harmon, who previously represented the entity at the MSG on behalf of the private (Agriculture) sector.

During the period under review, the secretariat was unable to organize a meeting of the Committee due to many other intervening activities. The secretariat requests additional time to organize a meeting of the Committee for it to complete its work.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat has received another communication from some members of the Agriculture sub-constituency designating Mr. Henry O. Harmon to represent the Agriculture sector on the MSG.

The Secretariat will forward the letter to the MSG mandated committee to facilitate its probe.

Pre-validation Assessment

During the Period under review, the Secretariat received draft report from the Consultant hired to conduct the GIZ-funded LEITI pre-validation assessment.

The draft report contains accounts of several activities undertaken by the Consultant consistent with the Terms of Reference, including results of interviews with stakeholders, the conduct of workshop with stakeholders, review and analysis of filed data, etc. The draft report presented initial findings, way forward, and recommendations.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat is currently reviewing the draft report along with the GIZ after which it will be made available to the MSG.

Funding

- **GOL**

On February 18, 2016, the Secretariat received a letter from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) containing the LEITI budget ceiling of US\$ 697,772 for 2016/2017 Fiscal Year. The budget ceiling reveals a potential decrease in GOL funding to the LEITI below the initial 2015/ 2016 Fiscal Year Appropriation of (US\$ 717,527.00).

- **GIZ**

- ✓ **E-Club:**

During the period under review, the Secretariat signed a local subsidy agreement with the GIZ for continued support to the LEITI E-club program. Total value of the local subsidy is US\$39,751 and will cover the period: March to November 2016.

- ✓ The Secretariat also received \$50,000 grant from UNDP aimed at funding Production Audit and Center of Excellence activities. These activities were brought forward from the 2015 UNDP workplan due to funding shortage.

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

- Representation of the Agriculture Sector (Mr. Harmon's concern)** – Responding to the segment of the update on his resignation, Mr. Harmon clarified that he did not resign and that the information provided by the HoS was a misrepresentation of the facts intended to usurp the power of the MSG. Mr. Harmon continued that the HoS had served GVL citations leaving him out when he is the sector's representation on the MSG and not GVL. Other members around the table voiced out their concerns that the issue was becoming emotional, that sectors on the MSG are represented by companies and not individuals, and the GVL should write resigning from the MSG to avoid unnecessarily increasing the number of MSG members. After a barrage of comments was voiced on the issue, a consensus was reached that the MSG Governance, Membership and Ethics Committee be left to handle the matter and make report to the gathering at the next sitting.
- CSO representation at the EITI Global conference** – Further clarifying on his failure to travel with the delegation, Mr. James Yarsiah noted that it was not clear who was funding his trip – whether his entity or LEITI. Other CSO members in the room including Madam Greaves of NCSCSL and Madam Danuweli of PWYP responded that the decision on who to represent civil society at the conference was decided amongst CSOs including sources of funding for their travel. And that Mr. Yarsiah's misunderstanding stands from the fact that he did not follow up.

With this, Hon. Dorbor concluded that the fault would not rest on the MSG nor the Secretariat as a CSO slot was funded by the LEITI and that his misunderstanding may have resulted from the failure of his [Mr. Yarsiah] proxy to update him because all the information was provided.

- iii. Reduction in GoL Funding for FY 2016/2017: Regarding the information that GoL funding will be reduced in FY 2016/2017 and on what action the MSG should take, Mr. Kofi Ireland of UNMIL suggested that a delegation from the MSG goes to meet and discuss with the President to prevent this cut. His reason was that the LEITI is approaching validation where support for its program is even more needed. This suggestion was agreed to as an action to take.

VI. Any Other Businesses—After the key agenda items were exhausted, other issues were brought on the floor and discussed as follow:

- Following up on report's recommendations: Mr. Kofi Ireland of UNMIL brought to the attention of the MSG that the LEITI was not doing much to follow up on all of the recommendations of past reports including the most recent reports of the LEITI, recommending to the body that the Reporting and Communications Committee along with the Secretariat work together to present at the MSG next sitting a matrix of all recommendations of previous reports that have not been acted on by stakeholders. This was unanimously agreed to by participants as a key action point that would support LEITI's approach to validation.
- Holding back on the recruitment of the Communication Officer: It was suggested by Mr. Henri Harmon of LACA that LEITI holds back on recruiting a new Communication Officer due to funding constraints the country is faced with, evident from GoL proposed budget cut, and then reallocate such funds to support other valuable programs. Responding to this point, Ansu Konneh of Western Cluster Liberia disagreed on grounds that the duty of the communication officer was vital to LEITI's role of engaging the public. Kofi Ireland of UNMIL also disagreed that once an allotment is made in the budget, your failure to utilize such allotment will cause the allotment to be returned to the government, for which he thought there is no need to rescind of recruiting the staff.
- LEITI Use of the Open Budget Initiative Platform at MoDP: Discussing alternative ways to reach out to the public given the expected GoL budget cut, James Gilayeneh of the MoDP suggested that the LEITI could use his ministry's open budget platform to reach out to the public with relevant messages. The Open Budget Initiative has a giant TV screen mounted in front of the MoDP building that is used to provide useful budget data to the public. This suggestion was opposed by some members in meeting that the platform was not extractive industries focused and as such does not reflect the multi-stakeholders nature that LEITI reflects.
- Integrating new requirements of the Revised EITI Standard: On the question of how the LEITI should deal with changes to the Revised EITI Standard, Mr. Kofi Ireland highlighted to the MSG the need for the LEITI to execute an assessment effort on how to integrate such disclosure requirements using existing GoL reporting systems. His point was buttressed by other participants including Hon. Karwea of FDA that we can as well use LRA, NBC, etc. Given the importance of such, it was eventually agreed that said assessment be done and that the Secretariat should find the necessary funding to support it. On that note, Mr. Alex Yeanay of ADB informed the MSG that the ADB is prepared to support such effort but through a collective project involving all the entities concerned.
- Online Data Repository: Mr. B. Al-Dennis of the LRA asked to know where the LEITI is in terms of using the Online Data Repository for the coming reports. In his response, the HoS informed Mr. Dennis that the online platform for the data will be test-run during the preparation of the 7th & 8th

reports.

VII. Summary of Decisions Reached (ACTION ITEMS)

- i. It was agreed that the question of Mr. Harmon's representation of the agriculture sector be left to the Governance, Membership and Ethics Committee of the MSG to review and forward to the MSG its findings for action. It was also agreed that the committee makes a report to MSG during its April sitting.
- ii. It was agreed that a delegation from the MSG go to meet and engage with President Sirleaf to prevent the proposed budget cut to the LEITI for FY 2016/2017. The LEITI approaches validation this year and such cut could hurt implementation of valuable recommendations and programs.
- iii. The MSG decided that the Reporting and Communications Committee along with the Secretariat work together to present to the next MSG sitting a matrix of all recommendations of previous reports that have not been implemented by stakeholders.

VIII. Date and time of next MSG meeting: The next MSG meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.