

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, JUNE 1, 2017

PRESENT IN ATTENDANCE

GOL

Johnny Tarkpah	MFDP
Chea B. Garley	MoA
B. Al-Dennis	LRA
Edward Kamara	FDA
Stephen B. Dorbor	MLME
Rufus Tarnue	NOCAL

CSO

Cecelia T. M. Danuweli	PWYP/WANEP
Wynston Benda-Henries	RRF
Ezekiel Johnson	LLC
Finda Salay	WONGOSOL

Private Sector

Laurentine H. Bass	ExxonMobil
Ansu Konneh	WCL
Zinnah Sackie	Aureus
Emmanuel Yarkpazuo	GVL

Partners/Observers

Kofi Ireland	UNMIL
Christoph Buchberger	GIZ
Lilieth Whyte	US Embassy

Others

J. Kofa Torbor	PWYP
Richmond Jallah	FDA
Varmuyan Siryon	NCCEL
Paul W. Boe	NCCEL

LEITI Secretariat

Konah D. Karmo	HOS/LEITI
Myer W. Saye	LEITI
Cedrick W. Kpadeh	LEITI
Sarnyenneh M. Dickson	LEITI
J. Elijah Kai	LEITI

Preliminaries - The Regular meeting of the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) was happened on Thursday, June 1st, 2017 in the Conference Room of the Golden Key Hotel in Paynesville. Commencing at 12:54pm, the meeting was called to order by the proxy Chair of the MSG Hon. Stephen Dorbor, who extolled MSG members for taking up time to attend the two day retreat and admonished them to fully commit to the process of making history in the next 18 months.

This was followed by self-introduction for the establishment of quorum. Seven out of the nine government's institutions was present, all four civil society representatives present, and four of the five private sector representatives present.

Adoption of Agenda: Christoph Buchberger of the GIZ informed his colleagues about the omission of the sector update which was acknowledged as an error and thereby included. However, the Proxy Chair asked the permission of the MSG to attend an emergency at the Hospital where his mother was admitted. The Civil Society was nominated through Madam Cecelia Danuweli of Publish What You Pay (PWYP) to chair the meeting.

Draft Minutes: The draft minutes of April 26, 2017 Regular Meeting was adopted by the body after the following changes were observed and made:

- Emmanuel Yarkpazuo's name be appropriately placed under private sector, not government

With this correction the minutes was adopted through a motion from Kofi Ireland of UNMIL.

Matters Arising: There was no substantial matter arising from the minutes, therefore, the HoS briefly provided updates on the action points outlined in the summary segment of the minutes based on the status as of the meeting day. He disclosed that all action points were duly achieved and or executed.

Christoph also indicated the MSG decision to write the President as well as press release on the Global Witness report was not highlighted in the summary segment of the last minutes. HoS informed the body that the letter was written, followed by a press release to the various media outlets as well as the LEITI website.

Secretariat Update: The HoS presented the Secretariat update summarizing LEITI Secretariat's activities for the period April 26 to May 31, 2017. **See annex1 for the update.**

Discussion of Secretariat update: Following the update, the Presiding 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:

Kofi Ireland of UNMIL asked whether the TOR (Term of Reference) for the 9th report was internationally advertised. The Hos answered in the negative citing the budget for recruitment of the IA was below the PPCC threshold for international bidding. He however noted that most of the companies that have applied have international partners.

Constituency Feedback/ Sectorial Update

The presiding opened the floor for members of the various sectors to provide feedback or updates from their various engagements after the last sitting. According to Emmanuel Yarkpazuo, the Private sector had no substantial update except that they met with Consultant Richard Dion (Retreat facilitator) in relations to the Strategic Plan.

At this point, the Hos disclosed that Mittal Steel during the period inquired about the lack of interaction especially on LEITI activities. He admonished the private sector to do more in reaching out to its constituents.

Kofi for his part, suggested that meeting minutes be shared a week following a sitting to allow for sectors to follow up on issues with constituents. The HoS noted the suggestion for prompt action

Decision on the LEITI draft Strategic and Action plan:

The HoS presented the document requesting the MSG to take up additional time to further review the plans. After his presentation, the presiding opened the floor seeking the will of the MSG regarding the document. After substantive deliberations, it was agreed unanimously that the Secretariat circulates the document for members’ inputs (to be sectorial) and then send to relevant committee to compile and report for approval at the next meeting. The timeline agreed as per Kofi’s suggestion was one week from date of circulation for the sectors’ inputs. Sectors’ comments will be sent to the Secretariat which will then call a sitting of the committee to compile the inputs and report at the next meeting.

Validation Report

The HoS disclosed to the MSG that he has informally received notifications from the International Secretariat that Liberia has scored ‘Meaningful Progress’ from the EITI on its validation with recommendations to address the deficiencies within 18 months. He urged the body to work together and harder, to achieve this goal. Copies of the validation result were circulated to everyone.

After his presentation, the presiding again opened it for discussion during which time Kofi suggested that a validation committee be activated and supported to draft an action plan in two weeks, to make report at every sitting during the 18 months. To this the HoS was requested to name members of a previous committee constituted for this purpose. Several names were also added to augment the strength of the Governance and Membership Committee. The full constitution of the committee is:

- 1. Ansu Konneh-----WCL
- 2. Emmanuel Yarkpazuo.....GVL
- 3. Lilieth Whyte.....US EMBASSY
- 4. Ezekiel Johnson.....LLC
- 5. Christoph Buchberger.....GIZ
- 6. Elvin C.A Frank.....MIA

New Members include:

- 1. Kofi Ireland.....UNMIL
- 2. Cecelia Danuweli.....PWYP

3. Rufus Tarnue.....NOCAL
4. Edward Kamara.....FDA
5. Alieu Nyei.....MFDP
6. Stephen Dorbor.....MLME

Presentation of report on MSG Quorum

Emmanuel Yarkpazuo of the private sector presented his committee report with the following highlights:

Discussion of the Rule

The sticky issue is to carve an amendment that would encourage more people to attend meetings but that no single sector dominates the others when it comes to decision making. After several cross arguments, it was agreed to take cues from the EITI’s rule on quorum to amend the MSG Rule. Thus, the proposal is that *two-thirds of the total membership of the MSG, with at least two members of each sector(Government, Private Sector and Civil Society) being a part of such two-third, shall constitute a quorum of the MSG.*

This rule would assure representativeness and inclusivity of decision making while avoiding deadlock.

Commenting on the quorum for MSG committees’ meetings, the Committee members agreed that the current rule was adequate.

Conclusion and Recommendation

To conclude, the Committee agreed and recommended that **Section 2.3.4(Quorum)** of the MSG Policy Manual should be amended as below, that:

- 1. Two-thirds of the total membership of the MSG, with at least two members of each sector(Government, Private Sector and Civil Society) being a part of such two-third, shall constitute a quorum of the MSG. and**

- 2. The current Quorum rule on MSG committees’ meetings is adequate and should therefore remain undisturbed.**

Following his presentation, the presiding opened the floor for discussion. Kofi Ireland inquired about the original rule on quorum for committee’s meetings. HoS read section 2.3.4 of the MSG policy manual. Following frank discussions surrounding the report, Kofi suggested that the body critically look at the report and endorse to address the issue of quorum. This was unanimously agreed upon, with Christoph suggesting that the Secretariat updates the MSG manual to incorporate the amendment.

AOB

Under AOB, Ansu Konneh wanted to know whether LEITI Secretariat was aware of its allotment in the draft budget that has been presented to the Legislature. The HoS stated that a little over six hundred thousand was allocated in the draft budget for LEITI.

Ansu also encouraged the Secretariat to lobby with the requisite lawmakers for increment of the Secretariat's budget. HoS stated that it was a very good suggestion and hinted that the Secretariat was employing every mean available to it for this purpose. He was quick to note however, that lobbying is not a guaranteed of appropriations.

Also under AOB, the HoS urged the MSG to respond to a survey sent by the Consultant online but had received only six respondents. The MSG resolved to redo the survey electronically by Monday June 5, 2017.

The National Traditional Council apologized to the MSG for its prolonged absence and promised to be consistent henceforth.

Summary of Key Points

- The Secretariat will circulate the Strategic and Action plans for MSG members' inputs (to be sectorial) and then send to relevant committee to compile and report in one week for approval at the next meeting.
- Minor correction made to the past minutes;
- Two-thirds of the total membership of the MSG, with at least two members of each sector(Government, Private Sector and Civil Society) being a part of such two-third, shall constitute a quorum of the MSG
- Governance and Membership committee activated with more members added to spear head validation issues
- 26 persons in attendance
- MSG to further review strategic plans
Meeting minutes to be circulated five days after sittings
- That a validation update from the Governance, Ethics and Membership Committee becomes a permanent agenda item for regular MSG meetings until the EITI corrective actions are fully addressed.
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Date and time of next MSG meeting: The next MSG meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:14 pm.