

MINUTES

SEITI MSG Meeting (No 02 /2020)

Date: Friday, 20 May 2020

Time: 12:30 h- 14:00h

Location: Zoom Meeting facilitated by the Chair

Present		
Government	Civil Society	Companies
D. Abeleven (DA)	R.Bhattacharji(RB).	T. Jbara (TJ)
S. Jaggan(SJ)	R. Caupain (RC)	M. Raafenberg (MR)
	M. Essed-Fernandes(MEF)	
	R. Artist (RA)	
	T. Pinas (TP)	

Absent with notice	Absent without notice
R. Donnellan (RD)	A. Ramdien (AR)
	D. Herkul (DH)
	V. Lalji (VL)
	H. Deel (HD)

SEITI-Secretariat	Observers
H.Hoepel-Aroma(HHA)	Not applicable
R. Williams (RW)	

Agenda:

1. Announcements
2. Status procurement EITI report 2018
3. Validation process
4. Procurement for Event management and beneficial ownership
5. Virtual meetings
6. Any other matters
7. Closing

1. Announcements

-absent with notice is Mr. Albert Ramdien. others are absent without notice.

- an invitation was received for participation of the EITI National coordinator in a EITI regional meeting on Thursday, May 21 at 8:30 am. It will be a region 6 (Latin America and Caribbean) meeting regarding reporting deadlines and validation.

2. Status procurement EITI report 2018

DA: A request to separate the procurement of the EITI report 2018 from other reporting years was discussed with the World bank (WB) and follow up will be provided by the secretariat and the chair. The 2018 report is no longer part of the grant of the WB but of a loan. There will be a new procurement procedure for the 2018 report in view of no more than \$70,000. This is a proposal I made to the WB which will make things easier and the report will not be compromised to meet the December 31 deadline.

We have to discuss among each other if BDO will be the independent administrator for the 2018 report or another company?

DH: we can continue with the preparations, if it is ok to hire the same independent administrator.

RB: With regard to the grant, is it ok that we continually work with the same Independent Administrator or is it better to do a new tendering process?

DA: yes we could do a new tendering process but this will take too long because for this report the 2019 standards will apply. Therefore, a direct selection will be considered based on the experience with BDO, but the MSG should to decide. I think an evaluation is to be considered.

RB: so if I understand correctly this tendering is not meant for 4 years?

DA: for those years a general TOR will be formulated; the advantage is that BDO is a step ahead with regard to what must be included according to the 2019 standards.

MR: the individual preparation of data collection must go on so that we can be on time when the TOR is available.

RC: was the election of this year taken in to account?

DA: yes, these are points of discussion tomorrow because beside Covid- 19 we have elections and change of government. In the meantime, we have to collect relevant data despite limitations.

MEF: we should decide whether to work with BDO again and is there a deadline for contracting? Companies should prepare their data so that we can discuss new issues such as in depth discussions on the 2019 standard and reporting for Suriname.

DA: additional for the 2019 standard is environmental reporting, also note that there was an online seminar about the environmental reporting and in other countries there is a discussion about what can and cannot be reported with regard to the environmental report.

RB: all this should be included in the scoping phase.

TP: which standard are we talking about? is it the standard which will be used for validation or for the EITI report?

DA: the 2018 EITI report is assessed according to the 2019 standards and the publication of this will be no later than 31 December 2020. The 2019 standard was adopted last year. The validation is cancelled due to the covid-19 pandemic.

MR: we should not just look at the environmental standard, but at all aspects of the standards and decide what can and cannot be reported.

MEF: it is not about if we should report, we must report, we should indicate in the report that certain things are not in order or that Suriname does not meet the standard

DA: yes, what Monique is saying is true, we do not have the freedom to determine what we want to report or not.

TJ: small companies such as ours should discuss reporting issues, as you know we have a royalty reporting problem with the government and the signed MOU is for two years.

DA: nothing has changed with regard to the small scale miners. The royalty settlement must be agreed if the request is examined, things might turn out to be worse than before.

MR: if everything has to be reported and Suriname does not comply, we must indicate this in the report.

DA: yes of course that is correct

3. Validation process

DA: With regard to the validation process, we have asked that we do this virtually, but we have to wait for an answer from the international secretariat to know how they want to do it.

HA: The last thing we did is that we sent the summary report to the international secretariat and the self-assessment document. There is no follow-up.

DA: So it means that there is no concrete decision from the international secretariat when it comes to conduct the validation the virtual.

MR: is here any specific contribution to improve the preparation for validation while moving forward?

DA: Then now every knows it and we shall wait and see what the international secretariat decides.

4. Procurement for Event Management and Beneficial Ownership (BO)

DA: With regard to beneficial ownership we need to report and see how we can best approach this, procurement activities which are ongoing. The secretariat will report on that.

HHA: regarding the outreach activities it was decided to do outsourcing and so far only one response was received for Event management and two responses were received for BO

DA: what is the deadline for people to respond to the assignment

HHA: the deadline was 16 of June, they had had one month to reply and respond.

DA: yes, it is clear that the procedure has to be followed although it is a grant you have to go through all the procedures. Are there any questions about this?

RB: Is there always 1 representative per stakeholder group?

DA: what did the procurement specialist say about this?

HHA: the procurement specialist proposed to include Mr. Clyde who is coordinating the WB loan project and he himself is also a member of the evaluation committee. I think if the MSG members are interested they can participate too. Are MSG members interested in participating in the evaluation commission?

RB: is it separate for every function?

DA: for the once who are interested you can discuss that with the secretariat.

RB: Yes, because if we are short of manpower, 1 or 2 people can participate. I am interested to participate in beneficial ownership.

DA: I agree if Rajah participates on behalf of the MSG for beneficial ownership. Perhaps we can determine this immediately if everyone is in agreement or not.

HHA: regarding event management, we have one candidate, all requirements must be evaluated and if the company does not comply, the process will be restarted.

DA: regarding this, is there anyone interested in participating?

DH: I will if the rest is ok.

DA: the rest have agreed.

5. Virtual meetings

HHA: a request for quotations regarding the equipment for virtual meetings was send to seven companies the deadline for response is the 16 of June.

DA: will meetings on Wednesday work for everyone?

DA: we are working on having virtual meetings but it is also going through the WB process. For me this virtual meeting works fine.

RB: this method of meeting works best for me.

MR: yes, it saves your transport costs

6. Questions/Any other matters

No questions

Other matters

DA: regarding the meeting tomorrow with different countries of the region, you will receive a report on this.

7. Closing

The meeting closed on 14.00u. Next meeting will be on the 3th of June 2020.