



MSG meeting 2023#2

Online Google Meet

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

13.10-14.28 hrs.

# MINUTES

## Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP SURINAME

EITI Suriname

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Address: Prins Hendrikstraat #12

## **Certification of quorum:**

Apologies were noted from:

Mark Regis (Out of office till May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023)

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent without notice</b>
<b><u>GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES</u></b> Henk Deel Preciosa Simons Sagita Jaggan	<b><u>GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES</u></b> Ginna Leysner Tine Tjalim
<b><u>COMPANIES</u></b> Michiel Raafenberg Bernadette Cederboom Daniela Herkul Mike Resomardono	<b><u>COMPANIES</u></b> Kathleen Blom Michael Naarendorp
<b><u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u></b> Rayah Bhattacharji Rene Artist Monique Essed- Fernandes	<b><u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u></b> Roy Caupain Tosca Pinas
<b><u>Guest:</u></b> Esteban Manteca	
<b><u>SECRETARIAT</u></b> Clyde Griffith Novella Alcantra – Majana Jenusah Sanné	

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## AGENDA

**In the proposed agenda item 2 was agenda item 6 but since we did not have quorum at the beginning of the meeting it was switched.**

1. Opening remarks  
Certification of quorum
2. Informal validation session with Esteban Manteca
3. Announcements and correspondences
  - a. Introduction meeting with Sherwin Long
  - b. Introduction meeting with Esteban Manteca
  - c. Introduction meeting with BDO Suriname
  - d. Introduction meeting with IADB regarding preparation transparency based loan
  - e. 9<sup>th</sup> EITI Global Conference in Dakar
4. Minutes April 5<sup>th</sup> 2023
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
5. Final Draft ToR BDO
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
6. Work plan 2023-2024
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
7. Any Other Business
8. Adjournment

## **1. Opening remarks**

### Certification of quorum

The appointed Chair of the MSG for this meeting Michiel Raafenberg opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in 2023 and welcomed the MSG members. A warm welcome was extended to Mr. Esteban Manteca, the country manager of Latin America and the Caribbean, of the EITI Secretariat in Oslo. Because there was no quorum at the start of the meeting the secretariat advised to continue with agenda item 6 informal validation session with Esteban Manteca.

## **2. Informal validation session with Esteban Manteca**

Esteban gave a brief presentation about the validation process. Validation consists of 3 components namely stakeholder's engagement (govt. etc.), transparency and outcomes and impact. The new validation model sets minimum levels of progress and validation scores which, if breached will trigger suspension or delisting. If a country partly met or not met any one of the requirements relating to stakeholders, the Board will suspend the country. Esteban urges the MSG to work on the comments given at the previous validation.

### **The immediate steps for Suriname are:**

- to fill out the templates and to send them to the IS to receive feedback;
- to address the corrective actions from the previous validation and explain the priorities in addressing them;
- present the templates October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023;
- Publish them on the SEITI website on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023;
- Have the MSG minutes published in order;
- Have a functioning website (prefer Dutch and then English, English is for the English speakers so they can learn from us and or give feedback)
- Prepare for consultation with selected stakeholders by mid-October (the validation committee will rely a lot on the National Secretariat for dates of consultation);
- Suriname will receive invitations to these calls beforehand.

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Esteban also mentioned the strengthening of EITI participation. Transparency workshops in Dutch for Suriname and the Netherlands. These workshops aim at sharing knowledge between the two countries.

Esteban emphasized that he is available for any question regarding the coming validation. If there is more information needed, he can be contacted.

Some members expressed their gratitude to this session with Esteban. Michiel. On behalf of the MSG Michiel thanked Esteban for the presentation.

### **3. Announcements and correspondences**

a. Introduction meeting with Sherwin Long. The meeting notes were already shared with the MSG on Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2023.

b. Introduction meeting with Esteban Manteca. A brief note on the meeting was shared with the MSG

c. Introduction meeting with BDO Suriname. A brief note on the meeting was shared with the MSG.

d. Introduction meeting with IADB regarding preparation transparency based loan. A brief note of the meeting was shared with the MSG.

Regarding above mentioned meetings: The meeting notes will be shared with the MSG after the meeting.

e. 9<sup>th</sup> EITI Global Conference in Dakar

At this moment the delegates for Suriname are in the process for approval of the Schengen visa.

A date will be scheduled to discuss the agenda of the EITI conference.

Sagita Jaggan, mentioned that she is out of the office for an assignment with the World Bank. She will participate whenever the work permits in online meetings. She will be slightly available during March and September 2023.

The secretariat is working on putting all the documents in a drive so all the members have access to them. The secretariat asked to bear with them on this.

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#### **4. Minutes April 5<sup>th</sup> 2023**

There was no discussion on the minutes and were adopted by all the members present.

#### **5. Final Draft ToR BDO**

The final draft ToR BDO was adopted on the understanding that these 2 comments Rayah made were taken into account:

1. All the dates in the ToR must be viewed again and
2. Export and gold buying companies must also be included in the scoping (phase 0).

#### **6. Work plan 2023-2024**

Adoption of the work plan has been postponed to a next meeting because the budget has not yet been made. Novella will set up a meeting with Monique Essed and Mark to work on the budget.

#### **7. Any other business**

Rene Artist informed the meeting of the actions taken by Indigenous people from the community of Pikin Saron. Timber and gold concessions are issued within community territory without the knowledge of the community. The communities have knocked on the door of policymakers and the DC several times without tangible results.

Yesterday, the anger of the people of the community got out of hand and there were injuries and deaths. Vehicles and property have been destroyed and set on fire. Several statements have appeared in the news but the VIDS has released an official statement and it will be shared with the MSG. The statement is in Dutch but he will also share it in English.

Rene appeals to the MSG to also issue a statement in this regard for reasons of transparency.

Rene will take the lead in drafting a statement on behalf of the MSG.

It will then be sent to the MSG for additions and after that the statement will be published. In the context of transparency, the MSG cannot ignore this.

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Michiel noted that the delegation leaving for the conference should take into account that further information may be requested.

Preciosa Simons then indicates that the minister of Bibis and several other ministers have met with the VIDS about this and that solutions are being discussed. She represented the Minister of Natural Resources at this meeting.

Rayah reminded us that a small group of 2 or 3 MSG members will draw a plan of action with dates. Just a deadline committee to spearhead the validation process. Mike, Rayah and Monique signed up for this committee. Rayah will schedule a meeting this week with this small committee.

Novella asked the MSG to consider appointing a chairperson. This was supported by some members. Michiel indicated that this item had been on the agenda for a while but there was no follow up. Rayah asked the secretariat to look for the notes where some suggestions were already given by the MSG for appointing an external chairperson. There were some lists made with advantages and disadvantages and so on. The secretariat will look for these documents and share with the MSG.

A date will be set to deal with this agenda item only.

## **8. Adjournment**

Michiel thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting on 14.28 hrs.