

MINUTES

SEITI MSG Meeting (No 04 /2020)

Date: Wednesday, 24 June 2020

Time: 13:30 h- 14:00h

Location: Virtual online (Zoom meeting facilitated by the Chair)

Present		
Government	Civil Society	Companies
D. Abeleven (DA) (GOV)	R.Bhattacharji(RB).	D. Herkul (DH)
Q. Wielson (QW)	T. Pinas (TP)	T. Jbara (TJ)
S. Jaggan(SJ)	M. Essed-Fernandes(MEF)	M. Raafenberg(MR)
	R. Artist (RA)	

Absent with notice	Absent without notice	SEITI-Secretariat
A. Ramdin (AR) (COMP)	M. Naarendorp. (MN) (CS)	H.Hoepel-Aroma(HHA)
	R. Donnallan (RD)(COMP)	R. Williams (RW)
	J. Tenberge (JT) (GOV)	
	V. Lalji (VL)(GOV)	
	H. Deel (HD) (GOV)	

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Announcements
3. Suriname: Measures adopted by the EITI Board in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
4. Status procurement EITI activities
5. Any other matters
6. Closing

1. Opening

There is Quorum to start the meeting.

2. Announcements

- Absent with notice is Mr. Albert Ramdin. Others are absent without notice.
- Mr. Clyde Griffith, was invited to be introduced but did not log in. He is the component manager of the World Bank project component for the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- The Council of Ministers has approved the compensation of the MSG members. A new missive had to be submitted for the extension be effective.
- Regarding the invitation for a series of webinars between 29 June and 23 July 2020, some MSG members provided their preferences.

Elaboration on the World Bank project

DH: what is Mr. Griffith his role in this?

DA: Mr. Griffith his role is the component manager of the ministry of natural resources that deals with the World Bank loan. He is supported by a team consisting of the ministerial plan unit, the procurement specialist, BDO Assurance and two administrative employees of the ministry. There is also a Steering Committee consisting of the Director of Finance, the Director of Natural Resources and the Director of Trade, Industry and Tourism. the committee is coordinated by a project coordinator who ensures that everything goes according to the project timeline.

MEF: who is the Project Coordinator?

DA: the project coordinator has not yet been appointed. that is coordinated by the Ministry of Finance.

SJ: The Ministry of Finance did not recruit external candidates for the project coordinator because it is a part-time job. One person has been identified who will be made available for this project.

3. Suriname: Measures adopted by the EITI Board in response to the Covid-19 pandemic

DA: Email and 4 attachments regarding Measures adopted by the EITI Board in response to the Covid-19 pandemic were shared with the MSG. For Suriname the letter addressed to the minister is important, it includes that:

- For Suriname, the reporting deadline is scheduled on 31 December 2020, but the MSG has the option to publish a conventional report or a flexible report.
- If the MSG-endorsed reporting extension, requests must be submitted by 1 November 2020 it will be granted by the EITI Board.
- For Suriname the Validation deadline is 1 September 2020.

DA: With the Covid-19 pandemic and all other factors that currently arise, the deadline of December 31, 2020 is not feasible.

DH:I agree with the EITI board proposal,

RB: Conventional reporting considering the election, this type of reporting is how we use to do it

MR: the option to request extension should be considered if we choose for conventional reporting. Extension should be considered in case it is needed.

SJ: the MSG is not capable to do flexible reporting

MEF: will we meet the deadline?

DH: for oil and gas we will not meet the deadline

DA: If the MSG agrees with the conventional reporting 2018 and extension, the request should be submitted to the EITI board based on a number of issues such as covid-19 and the change of government. The MSG agrees with the conventional reporting. Please the secretariat should prepare a letter with regard to this point.

TJ: are the costs of the 2018 report also covered by the loan?

DA: yes, the 2018 report is part of the world bank project, this loan applies to the 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 report. It will not be an automatic extension provided by the EITI board but rather a request with valid arguments. In the meantime, I will contact Mr. Francisco Paris on this matter.

4. Status procurement EITI activities

EITI reporting:

DA: The concept TOR for EITI reporting 2019-2021, feedback was provided by two groups (Civil Society and Companies). TOR with Feedback was forward to Mr. Clyde to follow up as this part of the world bank project. The TOR for EITI report 2018 will be finalized this week with the representative of the World bank Susana.

Event Management and Beneficial Ownership

HHA: The evaluation report of the evaluation committee was provided by the procurement specialist and t only one (1) candidate responded for event management. The evaluation report has been submitted, and the consultancy firm was selected. According to the recommendation in the evaluation report, a no objection is required from the bank and negotiation should be initiated. I contacted the bank and there is no need for a no objection.

DA: are there any MSG members interested in participating in the negotiating process for event management? I attended a presentation of the selected company and they seem to be innovative when it comes to reach people considering Covid-19.

RC: I am available for the negotiation process.

TP: I will support if necessary.

DH: I participated on behalf of the MSG in the evaluation committee.

SJ: with regard to the no objection I advise to record this even by email.

HHA: I agree with you on the No objection matter. For beneficial ownership there are two candidates and the evaluation committee conducted interviews last week with the two candidates. With regard to the equipment for virtual meetings we approached Mr. Raafenberg but he was not available to participate due to other commitments. So the secretariat approached Mr. Naarendorp and he is participating in the evaluation committee.

5. Any other matters /Questions

DA: communicating face to face this is a challenge. Are there any questions or comments?

Secretariat please provide minutes of previous meetings.

DH: what will the impact be of the new government for the MSG

DA: the next government is likely to be in place by mid-July 2020 and I do not foresee any problems regarding the continuation of the MSG.

Closing

Closing by VL at 13:50 h. The next MSG meeting is scheduled for 8th of July 2020

Action points secretariat:

- Informed Mrs. Monica of the preference of the MSG to participate in the webinars on Monday after 12.00 PM.
- Draft the latest minutes of the MSG meetings;
- Draft extension letters regarding EITI reporting and Validation.