

MINUTES

SEITI MSG Meeting (No 05 /2020)

Date: Friday, November 27, 2020

Time: 13:30 h- 15.30 h

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

Present		
Government	Civil Society	Companies
P. Simons (PS)	R.Bhattacharji(RB).	D. Herkul (DH)
S. Jaggan (SJ)	T. Pinas (TP)	T. Jbara (TJ)
D. Abeleven (DA)	M. Essed-Fernandes(MEF)	
	H. Deel (HD) (GOV)	
	T.Tjalim	

Absent with notice	Absent without notice	SEITI-Secretariat
Q. Wielson (QW)	R. Artist (RA)	Clyde Griffith (CG)
	M. Naarendorp. (MN) (CS)	Karishma Bhageloe (KB)
	R. Donnallan (RD)(COMP)	Reenuska Mahabier (RM)
	V. Lalji (VL)(GOV)	Diana Vyent (DV)
	J. Tenberge (JT) (GOV)	
	M. Raafenberg(MR)	

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Announcements
 - a. Letter from MOF
 - b. Letter from MNR
 - c. Letter from EITI International Secretariat
3. Welcome note to all new members
4. Response of the Ministry of NR to the September 9th letter of the MSG (requesting a meeting and updates on the status of the IA-contract and the staffing of the Secretariat)
5. Status of the contract with AK communications. We have not seen any of the products yet.
6. Discussion of the BO consultancy report. (If we can discuss/finalize/approve, then it can be sent as an official document to EITI International, which will help with the Validation). Can we also come to some agreement on tasks & timing of the update of the BO Roadmap.
7. Discussion of the process for transition to a new Chair for the MSG (as discussed previously, the information regarding staffing and capacity of the Secretariat are crucial before making decisions on this).
8. Status / updates of new MSG members from all stakeholder groups.
9. Any other business
10. Closing

1. Opening

There is Quorum to start the meeting.

2. Announcements

- Secretariat EITI: C. Griffith (CG), Karishma Bhageloe (KB), Reenuska Mahabier (RM) and Diana Vyent (DV). Reenuska, Karishma and Diana together with Clyde form the project management unit for the Mineral Institute Suriname. Because of the implementation of the World Bank loan, the responsibilities, secretarial work, support work have been shifted for this team. CG: there is a new organization chart at the Ministry of NR, where EITI secretariat reports directly to the Minister of NR for the involvement and importance of EITI within Suriname.
- This will be the last meeting under DA his chairmanship, he will officially say goodbye to EITI. Minister D. Abiamofa approached DA to provide his assistance during the period of validation of report 2016 en 2017.
- Ms. Valerie Lalji (Deputy Director of Mining) will remain as deputy member on behalf of the Ministry of NR (letter 29 October 2020)
- A number of letters have been received:
 1. Letter from MOF: new representatives from MOF
 - a. Mrs. Joy ten Berge has been replaced by Mrs. Sagita Jaggan (MOF). Sagita Jaggan is now the official permanent representative on behalf of the Ministry of Finance
 - b. Mrs. Georgetine Marapin (MOF) is alternate member from MOF
 2. Letter from MNR: new representatives from MOF
 - a. Mr. D. Abeloeven has been replaced by Mrs. P. Simons (MNR).
 - b. Mrs. V. Laji is alternate member from MNR
 3. Letter from EITI International Secretariat: Letter from the International Secretariat of the EITI, relates more to the validation and reporting 2018/2019. CG: decisions were made in the letter. One of them is that all reports that should be completed before 31 March 2020, they want to be flexible. The intention is to send a letter from the MSG to indicate that they agree with this and to give reasons for extension.
 - 4.
- DA: Validation of the secretariat is currently in its final phase: In the week of November 30th there will be a final closing meeting with the International Administrator (IA), BDO.
- Remark DH: Report of BO will be reviewed within Staatsolie especially with the PSA (production sharing agreement) to see what impact it will have.
- IA for EITI reporting 2018 has been will be appointed via direct selection. If everything is okay, IA can be recruited according to the loan guidelines, after first disbursement.
- Question DH: There was already extension until March 31st, 2021, so the MSG still has to apply for extension after March 31st, 2021? Isn't there a deadline when the MSG had to send their feedback back to the International Secretariat or had it to do with the validation?
- Answer CG: the feedback had to do with the validation, programming of various stakeholders who would participate in the validation. With regard to the extension, no formal letter has yet been sent to the International EITI Secretariat. CG will draft a letter and sent to MSG Tuesday 1st December.

3. Welcome note to the new MSG members by DA

The new MSG members were welcomed by DA. A presentation will be held for the new members as well for the Minister and staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

4. Response of the Ministry of NR to the September 9th letter of the MSG (requesting a meeting and updates on the status of the IA-contract (for the new 2018/2019 report) and the staffing of the Secretariat

- DH: There have been discussions with the International Secretariat of the EITI regarding the validations and reads that validation is/ will be postponed. What is the status of the validation of the 2016/2017 reports?
- DA: The validations are normally completed but the validations mentioned in the letter are all future validations that should take place.
- DH: How will the reporting take place in terms of content, as there is no more funding for the IA?
- DA: the financing for the upcoming reports will be done from the loan of the World Bank. Until now, the payment of the IA had taken place from the Grant, now it will be transferred to the loan.
- CG: disbursement application through the Ministry of Finance has been approved by the World Bank. However, there is a condition from the WB that there must be an independent procurement specialist and independent financial specialist, since there was no contract with the financial specialist (management). One of the reasons for this was a change in government. Now there is a small negotiation/completion where the contract with the financial specialist can be signed as soon as possible, so this project (SCSD) can be continued. As soon as the two signatories from the Ministry of NR have signed up, the disbursement can be transferred to the account of the Central Bank of Suriname.
- CG: the TOR to which MSG has given input is already finished, so direct selection will now be applied immediately (due to urgency) for the first year (2018). The rest will be done through the normal way.
- DH: Reporting 2018/2019 will be done at once, DA has already discussed this with Susana (of the WB). CG will follow up this with WB.
- SJ: Will payment of the IA take place immediately after signing or after delivery of the report?
- CG: the possibilities for this have yet to be explored
- DH: Is there a timeline for the application of extension to the EITI secretariat?
- CG: CG will draw up a letter of approval from the MSG
- RB: Is there a deadline for 2021 work plan? CG will follow up on this with EITI secretariat
- RB's suggest giving a presentation to the new members and the Minister of NR regarding EITI.

5. Status of the contract with AK communications. We have not seen any of the products yet.

- Contract with AK communications was still part of the Grant, due to covid situation and the short time for closing the grant some delays were encountered.
- CG: there were two pending projects on the EITI grant that had to be completed before September 30th, namely Communication Outreach and Beneficial Ownership. With regard to BO report, Mr. Prenobe has been very expeditious. Before the contract was signed, he had done a lot of preliminary work. There was also a conversation with Angela van der Kooie before the contract was signed. Although we had a good understanding and even agreed on less deliverable, AK Communications were not able to provide the deliverables as was agreed on. Due to delays in payment, permission from the national covid management team (to go to the communities) and pre- financing of the activities, overall bad performance, resulted in an unsatisfactory report.
- TP: What is the involvement in setting up such a communication plan? There should in fact be a budget for communication with the target group.
- DA: one of the actions was to sit down with the MSG to work things out, present, exchange ideas, etc. Disappointingly, this did not take place.
- TP: Often things go wrong communicating with the communities, because people do not know the communities and there are no networks to approach the communities. The goal of the communication is not realized
- CG: It might be an idea to expand MNR's PR department, together with Ministry of Regional Development and Sport (ROS) to look for possibilities to continue with Communication Outreach.

- RB: what is the status/situation of the SEITI Facebook page? Website maintenance? There were no updates in the past period.
- DA: It might be an idea to cooperate with the communication group of the Ministry of ROS.

6. Discussion of the BO consultancy report

- Overall a good report.
- DH: in the Oil and Gas it will play a role in the offshore, but also with the contracts with other companies that set up a Shell company to have a contract with Staatsolie.
- TJ: It also needs to be discussed with all members within the organization. Members' approval has yet to be given
- MEF: There is a need to discuss the BO within the MSG.
- Final Action: BO report will be sent to the EITI secretariat and will be discussed within the organization/ MSG after that

7. Discussion of the process for transition to a new Chair for the MSG

- the role of DA has formally come to an end
- chairmanship will be supported by a good secretariat
- A transition period was agreed on

8. Status / updates of new MSG members from all stakeholder groups.

- Already addressed

9. Any other business

- No other business

10. Closing

- Closing by DA at 15:30 h.

Action points:

	Action Items	Responsible	Target date	Update	Remarks
1	SEITI tasks division in Secretariat	CG	Next meeting (jan?)		
2	Draft letter MSG to EITI for extension	CG			
3	Request joint EITI Report 2018/2019 to Susana	CG			
4	More info on 2021 work plan/format/guidelines	CG			
5	Request options for capacity building at EITI	CG			
6	Share TOR MSG with MSG	CG			
7	Share letter Newmont with MSG	CG			
8	Presentation by MSG for MSG new members and Minister of NR. CG to provide date	RB			
9	EITI FB page/website update	CG			
10	Discuss EITI communication with ministry of MNR and ministry of RO				
11	Internal meeting on BO for implications for Suriname	MSG			
12	Forward report BO to EITI secretariat	CG			
13	Check with Susana on follow up BO	CG			
14	Filling in open space from CS	RB			
15	Transmission chairmanship MSG	MSG			