

# MINUTES

## SEITI MSG Meeting (No 06 /2020)

**Date: Monday, December 21, 2020**

**Time: 12.00 h- 13.15 h**

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

<b>Present</b>		
<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Companies</b>
P. Simons (PS)	R.Bhattacharji(RB).	D. Herkul (DH)
S. Jaggan (SJ)	T. Pinas (TP)	T. Jbara (TJ)
Q. Wielson (QW)	M. Essed-Fernandes (MEF)	M. Raafenberg(MR)
H. Deel (HD) (GOV)	R. Artist (RA)	Shirley Sowma-Sumter (SSS)
T.Tjalim	Roy Caupain (CP)	

<b>Absent with notice</b>	<b>Absent without notice</b>	<b>SEITI-Secretariat</b>
	M. Naarendorp. (MN) (CS)	Clyde Griffith (CG)
	R. Donnellan (RD)( COMP)	Karishma Bhageloe (KB)
	V. Lalji (VL)(GOV)	Reenuska Mahabier (RM)
		Diana Vyent (DV)

### **Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Announcements
3. Update regarding WB project
4. State of affairs IA contract
5. Division of tasks EITI Secretariat
6. Subgroup that will collaborate with the EITI secretariat for drafting EITI report 2021
7. Proposal optimal communication
8. Subgroup engaged in monitoring the various obligations and deadlines (governance and compliance)
9. Reporting obligations to the world bank
10. Any other business
11. Closing

## 1. Opening

There is Quorum to start the meeting.

## 2. Announcements

- CG:
  - 1) the presentation meeting that was previously planned could not progress due to urgent adjustment of the minister's agenda
  - 2) a letter has been received from the EITI international secretariat regarding season's greetings and also how COVID-19 has had an impact on EITI activities
  - 3) a Financial Report has also been received from SEMIF
- MEF: had a conversation with the new representative of Newmont (SSS). SSS asked
  - 1) if a reporting format (about the status of activities, administration execution etc) could be send to the MSG (especially for the new members).
  - 2) update report regarding the world bank project
  - 3) talk about a subgroup governance and compliance (SEITI)
- RB: No more announcements. The minutes of the previous meeting will be discussed.
- RB: the meeting was held on November 27 and the minutes were received in the week of November 30. There was a deadline for comments (December 8)
- RB: Secretariat has any comments been received?
- CG: No comments received
- RB: the new deadline is set on Thursday December 24
- the MSG will provide their comments / feedback by email

## 3. Update regarding WB project

- CG: The SCSD or WB project is a \$ 6 million loan (intended for the Ministry of NR) that also includes funding for EITI reports until 2022
- There is a contract with BDO for the financial management part
- A group of people have also been appointed who must sign for transactions. All this has been sent to the WB, which considers it an internal approval. It turned out that an attachment was missing which was fixed today (December 21)
- Now everything is going well. Hopefully the project can start in January 2021

## 4. State of affairs IA contract

- RB: MSG, it seems useful to plan a meeting with BDO (to discuss the scope and such matters with them)
- DH will list agenda items for the meeting with BDO (draft obligations report)
- DH: we should do all the other things we did as a company such as environmental, inclusiveness, etc. One of the most important items is confidence transparency
- MEF: what about companies that weren't part of the reporting? Are there companies that should be part of it?
- DH: I can speak on behalf of oil and gas. KOSMOS is out and SHELL has taken over. They have joined and want to comply with EITI obligations. but Staatsolie will pull that forward.
- RB: New MOU's must be drafted and signed
- MEF: There was a problem to release data from the Ministry of Finance. Can this be discussed with finance?
- SJ: there is now a new Minister of Finance. This issue (data gathering) will be discussed internally within the MoF.

- RB: there are new members, it is useful to send the final version of the previous MOU's to everyone.
- CG: review TOR and propose a target date for this (because it will be crucial for contracting BDO as IA)
- RB welcomes Ms. Shirley Sowma-Sumter (the new representative of Newmont)

#### 5. Division of tasks EITI Secretariat

- CG: We looked internally and asked the previous secretariat for material / data, who referred to laptop and former director of NR (Dave Abeleven). Unfortunately, nothing has been found that should indicate the division of tasks of the secretariat. Contact was made with the international EITI secretariat and we were put in touch with Guyana to see how they are doing and eventually learn from them.
- SSS: we must begin to draw up an organization chart of the secretariat and from that follow the tasks and responsibilities for each function.
- RB: it was drawn up some years ago and has also been approved by the msg. Earlier this year another execution was done together with Susana from the WB but it was never formally approved due to the COVID-19 situation
- TP: was there no transfer of documents?
- CG: a virtual transfer has taken place. There has never been a physical transfer. There was a letter indicating that the PIU of the SCSD project is taking over the EITI secretariat.
- RB will search for the necessary documents and email them to CG

#### 6. Subgroup that will co-operate with the EITI secretariat for drafting EITI report 2021

- **Report 2021 (Workplan):**
  - MR (Company)
  - QW (GOV)
  - RB & TP (CS)
- **BO:**
  - MEF (CS)
  - TB \* **with proviso** \* (company)
  - SJ (GOV)
- RB: Suggestion: planning a meeting schedule for the next 6 months. Schedule the next meeting between 18-22 January 2021

#### 7. Proposal optimal communication

- CG: Communication is still a bit difficult. Letter that has yet to go for extension for reporting 2018-2019 is not going smoothly. Handy if a way can be devised for better communication, to give each other reminders, etc. (for example through a whatsapp group chat).

#### 8. Subgroup engaged in monitoring the various obligations and deadlines (governance and compliance)

- RB: the purpose of such a subgroup is to check and ensure that things run smoothly
- Volunteers Cooperation MSG and Secretariat:
  - DH & TP (MSG)
  - RM & PS (GOV)

## **9. Reporting obligations to the world bank**

- RB: EITI is only a small part of that large grant. What needs to be prepared now and how can it be taken into account so that things run smoothly.
- SSS: Which reports have been made so far with regard to the WB project?
- CG: A grant that was specially intended for the EITI is currently ending. To know a grant of \$ 350,000. The project is coming to an end and has yet to be settled financially. There is a small amount remaining of approximately \$ 21,000. there is also a project with a \$ 23 million loan of which \$ 6 million is for the Ministry of NR and \$ 13 million for the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Currently at the point where disbursement first trajectory takes place (EITI report, new mining law, setting up Minerals Institute, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) across Suriname, reviewing new mining law by an international firm)
- CG: Reports that are currently being done for the WB relate to what has been spent, which projects have been carried out, what remain etc.
- SSS: is it possible to share these reports with us?
- RB: is input required from the MSG to comply with the next ongoing reporting obligation of that loan?
- CG: important for the MSG is to get the TOR in order. An approved TOR is required. This will start the process of direct selection. Without an approved TOR, BDO will not be able to be recruited as IA.
- MEF: Fundraising EITI. In the past this was based on the grant and resources made available by the government. What is all funded from the NR grant? Alternative funding options must be considered due to the fact that we are no longer receiving a grant.
- CG: EITI reports and EITI secretariat (office supplies) is funded from the WB project.
- DH: a TOR for MSG was drafted in 2016. Perhaps this should be reviewed in order to make some adjustments for the sustainability of the MSG and the secretariat.
- CG: EITI secretariat can be funded from the budget of the Ministry of NR. However, there must be an indication of the budget of the activities of the secretariat.

## **10. Any other business**

- Hanging issues extension letter: 1 representative per stakeholder can sign
- Company: MR
- GOV: PS

## **11. Closing**

- Closing by RB at 13.15 h.

**Action points**

	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	SEITI tasks division in Secretariat				
2	Updated emailing list				
3	Share MOU with MSG				
4	Share TOR IA with MSG				
5	Send Organizational Chart to SEITI				
6	Plan meeting scheduled for the next 6 months				
7	Annual Progress report 2018/2019				
8	Whatsapp group				