

MSG meeting # 1

Location : Newmont Board Room

Date : March 19<sup>th</sup> , 2025

Time : 13.15 – 15.00 hrs.

## MINUTES

### Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP SURINAME

EITI Suriname

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Address: Mr. Jaggernath Lachmonstraat # 181

**Attendance:**

Name	Organization	Present	Apologies	Absent without notice
Georgetine Tjalim	Ministry of Finance and Planning	X		
Sagita Jaggan	Ministry of Finance and Planning		X	
Preciosa Simons	Ministry of Natural Resources		X	
Rachele van de Scheur - Rijker	Ministry of Natural Resources	X		
Henk Deel	Ministry of Regional Development and Sport		X	
Rafiq Ilahi	Ministry of Economic Affairs		X	
Michiel Raafenberg	RGM		X	
Bernadette Sabajo-Cederboom	Newmont	X		
Kathleen Blom	SHMR	X		
Vanessa Breidel	Grassalco	X		
Adriaan Asodanoe	Grassalco	X		
Andrew Hepburn	Shell	X		
Daniela Herkul	Staatsolie	X		
Rayah Bhattacharji	Projekta	X		
Monique Essed-Fernandes	Projekta	X		
Rene Artist	VIDS	X		
Roy Caupain	SWOS		X	
Tosca Pinas	KAMPOS		X	
National Secretariat				
Novella Alcantra-Majana	Nat.Coord.	X		
Jenusah Sanné	Adm. Ass.		X	
Varsha Jhagrooe	Techn.	X		
Mark Regis	Advisor		X	

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## **AGENDA**

1. Opening remarks  
Certification of quorum
  2. Announcements and correspondence
  3. Minutes December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024
    - a. Discussion
    - b. Approval
    - c. Matters arising from the minutes.
  4. Minutes December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Validation and materiality Meeting (Workshop)
    - a. Discussion
    - b. Approval
    - c. Matters arising from the minutes.
  5. Update ToR FY 2023
  6. Workplan 2025/2026
    - a. Discussion
    - b. Approval
  7. Inception/ Scoping report
    - a. Approval
  8. Planning Stakeholder engagements
    - a. Centrale Bank van Suriname (CBvS)
    - b. Rekenkamer
    - c. Bureau voor de Statistiek
    - d. Nationaal Milieu Autoriteit Suriname
    - e. Kamer van Koophandel en Fabrieken
    - f. Grassalco
    - g. Others .....
  9. Annual Progress Report
    - a. discussion
  10. Any other business
  11. Adjournment
- Next proposed MSG meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

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## 1. Opening remarks

### Certification of quorum

Bernadette started the meeting at 12.15 hrs. She apologized because the meeting with WB took place later than was expected. When the meeting started there was quorum.

Bernadette shared Newmont's safety protocol with the attendees present:

**Safety and Health Protocols:** The meeting began with a discussion on safety and health protocols, emphasizing the importance of proper protective equipment when working at heights. The participants were reminded of the emergency evacuation procedures and the need to address unsafe practices when observed.

**Emergency Evacuation:** The meeting started with a reminder of the emergency evacuation procedures. When an emergency occurs the participants were to leave through a specific door, proceed to the stairs, and gather at the designated muster point and will be advised to leave behind bags and wear appropriate footwear.

**Safety Standards Gap:** The discussion highlighted the gap between company safety standards and common safety practices in the community. Examples were given of people working on roofs without any safety gear, illustrating the need for better safety education and enforcement.

**Addressing Unsafe Practices:** The importance of being proactive in promoting safety and correcting unsafe behaviors was stressed, with a call to act as "soldiers of safety."

## 2. Announcements and correspondence

This agenda item was postponed since time was needed to go over the minutes. Announcements are shared with the members via email and app on a regular basis.

## 3. Minutes December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### a. Discussion

#### **USAID Funding Discontinuation:**

The discontinuation of USAID funding was discussed, with participants noting its impact on their projects. It was confirmed that all USAID funding had been stopped, affecting ongoing and planned projects.

**Alternative Funding and strategy:** Participants considered seeking alternative funding from the IDB. It was suggested to have a meeting with the IDB to explore the possibility of funding the affected projects. The focus on funding would now shift from USAID to securing funding from the IDB and other potential sources.

### b. Approval

The minutes from the December 11 meeting were reviewed and approved by the participants.

### c. Matters arising from the minutes

After this discussion there were no significant discussion points or objections raised.

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#### **4. Minutes December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Validation and materiality Meeting (Workshop)**

- a. Discussion
- b. Approval
- c. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no discussions on these minutes, and they were approved by the members present. The note must be made that several members had already provided their feedback on these minutes via email.

#### **5. Update ToR FY 2023**

The ToR FY 2023 was already approved by the MSG and sent in February to the SCSD PIU. We are awaiting further notifications on this matter.

#### **6. Workplan 2025/2026**

- a. Discussion

The work plan was reviewed, and the team discussed the need to adjust the expected outcomes for certain activities. They agreed to focus on achievable goals and consider pilot projects for disclosing extractive sector contracts and licenses. The idea was to start with one or two companies willing to participate willingly. Adjustments to the expected outcomes were discussed. It was agreed to focus on what is achievable within the work plan period, rather than aiming for all extractive contracts to be disclosed immediately.

The team discussed the development of a centralized data management system and the need for a realistic approach to its implementation. They agreed to focus on designing and deploying the system within two years, with the support of a consultant because the support of a consultant would be necessary for the successful development and deployment of the data management system. The consultant would help design and implement the system. The team also discussed the importance of securing a budget for the data management system. It was agreed that the system should be affordable and sustainable in the long term, avoiding overly ambitious or costly solutions.

- b. Approval

The workplan has not been approved since members asked for more time to review and revise. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting for approval.

#### **7. Inception/ Scoping report**

- a. Approval

This agenda item will be discussed in the next MSG meeting.

## **8. Planning Stakeholder engagements**

The participants planned stakeholder engagement activities, assigning specific members to present to various organizations. They emphasized the importance of raising awareness about EITI and its significance for Suriname.

Specific members expressed their preference and were assigned to present to organizations. The importance of these stakeholders understanding EITI and its relevance.

- Central Bank of Suriname (CBvS) → Daniela/ Rachele/ Rene
- Algemeen Statistiek Bureau (Bureau of Statistics )
- Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven/VSB (Association of Surinamese Business) → Daniela/ Rayah
- Associatie van Surinaamse Fabrikanten/ASFA (Association of Surinamese Manufacturers) Daniela/Rayah
- Rekenkamer (Audit Office) → Georgetine/ Rayah
- Nationaal Milieu Autoriteit (National Environmental Authority Suriname) → Rayah/Bernadette
- Kamer van Koophandel en Fabrieken (Chamber of Commerce Suriname) → Monique/ Bernadette
- Deviezen Commissie (Foreign Exchange Commission) → Georgetine/Kathleen
- Ordening Kleinschalige Goudmijnbouw Sector/OKGS (Regulation of Small Scale Mining Sector) → Monique/Bernadette
- Gold exporters → Kathleen/ Rachele

Rachele mentioned that she will be available as much as possible for all the engagements as support to the MSG member presenting. The engagements will be planned during April and May 2025. Members not present will get an email to volunteer to present the EITI PowerPoint to organizations or to be of support to members presenting. The National Secretariat will support as much as possible.

## **9. Annual Progress Report**

### **a. Discussion**

The team reviewed the annual progress report and discussed the need for a workshop to complete the self-assessment and progress tracking sections. They agreed to form working groups to efficiently address different sections of the report. It was noted that these sections required input from all members. The team agreed that a physical meeting would be the most efficient way to address these sections. This approach is seen as the best way to ensure comprehensive and accurate completion of the report.

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#### **10. Any other business**

The team planned their next meeting for March 26, which will include capacity building, reviewing the inception report and finalizing the work plan. Members also discussed potential dates for a workshop in April or May to focus on completing the Annual Progress Report 2024 and other key activities. Members were reminded to prepare for these activities.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Bernadette adjourned the meeting after reminding the members to prepare for next week.

### Follow up points:

No.	Action points	Responsible	Remarks	Status
1.	Review Workplan 2025/2026 Revise and reword and approve	MSG		Pending
2.	Annual Progress report	MSG	Organize a workshop to complete the annual progress report, including self-assessment and progress tracking.	Pending
3.	Explore alternative funding options starting with IDB for the project previously funded by USAID	MSG		Pending
4.	<b>Data Management System:</b> Revise the expected outcome for activity 2.12.1 to focus on the deployment of an operational data management system accessible to reporting entities.	MSG		Pending
5.	Set a date for a meeting to link work plan activities with EITI requirements.	MSG	March 26 <sup>th</sup> 2025	Ongoing
6.	Prepare a list of stakeholders and schedule presentations to key organizations such as the Central Bank and the Currency Commission.	Nat. Secr. MSG	<p>List prepared and shared with MSG members.</p> <p>MSG members to participate ( only the members at the meeting reacted) Others still have to state participation.</p> <p>Emails sent to the different stakeholders on the list.</p> <p>Meetings with</p>	<p>Executed succesfully</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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			OKGS 1 Gold exporter Chamber of commerce Central Bank  Audit Office is already on board and providing information. Foreign Exchange Commission has provided information for report 2021-2022.	Executed successfully
7.	Share the PowerPoint presentation drafted by Mark for stakeholder engagements with the team.  Review the PPP and revise to tailor to the different organizations.	Nat.Secr.  MSG		Executed successfully
8.	Change the expected outcome for activity 1.8 to reflect a pilot company approach for disclosing extractive sector contracts and licenses.	MSG		Pending