



MSG meeting 2023#2

Online Google Meet

May 3rd, 2023

13.10-14.28 hrs.

MINUTES

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP SURINAME

EITI Suriname

Email: info.seiti.2017@gmail.com

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Tel.No: 520761

Address: Prins Hendrikstraat #12

Certification of quorum:

Apologies were noted from:

Mark Regis (Out of office till May 8th 2023)

Present	Absent without notice
<u>GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES</u> Henk Deel Preciosa Simons Sagita Jaggan	<u>GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES</u> Ginna Leysner Tine Tjalim
<u>COMPANIES</u> Michiel Raafenberg Bernadette Cederboom Daniela Herkul Mike Resomardono	<u>COMPANIES</u> Kathleen Blom
<u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u> Rayah Bhattacharji Rene Artist Monique Essed- Fernandes	<u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u> Roy Caupain Tosca Pinas
<u>Guest:</u> Esteban Manteca	
<u>SECRETARIAT</u> 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. 9th EITI Global Conference in Dakar
4. Minutes April 5th 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

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1. Opening remarks

Certification of quorum

The appointed Chair of the MSG for this meeting Michiel Raafenberg opened the 2nd 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 1st 2023;
- Publish them on the SEITI website on October 1st 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 19th 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. 9th 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 5th 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 Pikan 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.

Annex 1: Meeting notes of the acquaintance meetings April 3rd till May 3rd 2023

Meeting 02 2023 May 3rd

Announcements and correspondences:

- A. Acquaintance meeting between secretariat EITI Suriname and the National Coordinator Sherwin Long from Trinidad & Tobago. The document was sent to the MSG on the 19th**

- B. Acquaintance meeting between secretariat EITI Suriname and the Esteban Manteca Country Manager of Latin America and the Caribbean EITI International Secretariat**

Date : Tuesday April 18th

Attendees:

Esteban Manteca	Country Manager born in Mexico, living in Oslo
Novella Alcantra – Majana	National Coordinator EITI Suriname
Jenusah Sanné	Administrative Assistant EITI Suriname

DISCUSSED:

Working at the EITI Secretariat Suriname

Novella and Jenusah started working full time on April 3rd 2023. There is still a lot we need to understand about EITI standards and procedures so we will be meeting once week. Esteban asked if we are willing to get training from him. We welcomed the suggestion very excited and we have set two training days already. On April 25th will be a training on EITI standards and processes and on May 2nd training detail of some requirements. Both are scheduled for 09o'clock. This session was cancelled due to internet problems from our side.

Challenges at the secretariat

We have expressed that our biggest challenge at the moment is that we have no office equipment. We are working with personal equipment and for printing and scanning documents relying on other departments.

MSG meeting

The last meeting was on April 5th 2023. There was quorum from the government, civil society and companies. The draft work plan 2023-2024 was sent to the MSG and the deadline for comments was on Friday April 14th 2023. The MSG members did not have a lot of comments on the draft work plan. Esteban asked to send him the draft and we did. He will review and send

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comments and or recommendations. Esteban did give us comments. He sent to us the comments that were made last year when he did a presentation for Suriname. He also gave us the example template for the work plan.

Progress report 2021-2022

Esteban received the progress report from Clyde earlier this month and he will review and send comments and or recommendation. We informed him of the decision of the MSG to work with BDO TT instead of BDO UK to reduce the costs. He asked if there was financing for the report 2021-2022. The reports will be financed by World Bank.

EITI awareness in the country

Esteban asked about awareness

Other discussed items:

- Capacity building training for the MSG and secretariat can be provided
- Loan from IDB focusses on:
 1. The 2021-2022 report
 2. Mining outreach
- Structures MSG and Secretariat. Maybe an IDB training can be arranged for Suriname.

C. Acquaintance meeting between secretariat EITI Suriname and BDO Suriname

Date : Monday April 24th

Attendees:

Robin Ferrier	BDO Suriname
Lucina Lie-A-Ling	BDO Surinama
Novella	EITI Suriname
Clyde	EITI Suuriname
Jenusah	EITI Suriname

DISCUSSED:

Presentation report 2018- 2020

The presentation of the report 2018-2020 is planned for June 9th 2023. The issue at this moment is with the venue. At the end of the week Clyde will communicate the location of the event.

Clyde thanked BDO for their part in lifting up Suriname's temporary suspension.

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Robin said that BDO is honored and expressed gratitude that Suriname wants to select BDO by direct selection to produce report 2021-2022. The message by MSG to work with BDO TT instead of BDO UK was welcomed by BDO. Robin stated that it is not a problem to work with BDO TT. He said that they have a good work relationship with both BDO TT and BDO Guyana. BDO will be discussing the price of USD 200.000 indoors and see what can be achieved with those resources.

BDO wants to take the reporting to the next level. Also we have to think ahead about development of EITI standards. Applying for an extension every year is not ideal (a couple of years is a suggestion). An ESG (environmental social governance) report should be included. BDO wants to address these above mentioned topics during a next meeting before the presentation. If agreed these topics will be part of the presentation on June 9th.

D. Acquaintance meeting between secretariat EITI Suriname and IaDB

Date : Wednesday April 26th

Subject: Preparation Transparency Policy Based Loan

Attendees:

Jason Wilks IaDB Trinidad and Tobago

Moreno Jackson IaDB Suriname

Novella Alcantra EITI Suriname

DISCUSSED:

The IaDB received a request from the Ministry of Finance for a loan to promote the EITI. IaDB is willing to do so but needed some information hence this meeting. The IaDB had these questions concerning the development in the past year:

1. Which are the developments from this past year?
 - Validation 2016-2017 EITI reports
 - Completion of the 2018-2020 EITI reports
 - Preparation for validation EITI reports 2018-2020
 - Preparation for the 2021-2022 EITI reports
2. What's the policy for the next 18 months?
 - Inclusion of the EITI standards in the draft revised mining law.

Other discussed items:

- In two weeks Mr. Wilks from IaDB will visit Suriname. They will have a meeting or meetings with the National Secretariat about the budget of EITI Suriname. Since we have no budget yet for the work plan 2023-2024 we were advised to have that ready.

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- Later this year IaDB wants to arrange a training camp for EITI Suriname and Guyana in Trinidad and Tobago. This training will be for all the workers at the National Secretariat and some MSG members (\pm 8 members per country). This to strengthen the National Secretariat and MSG members and also to create a bond between and learn from the other 2 countries mentioned before vice versa.
- IaDB asked for the draft revised mining law and it was sent to them. All documents concerning laws on transparency in the oil, gas and mining sector are welcome so they can justify for the loan application.

E. 9th EITI Conference Dakar

- We have appointments for the Schengen visa (Rayah, Daniela, Novella and Clyde)
- We have to bring a 800 by 2000mm roll up banner or similar and it's suggested that we bring small cards with QR codes due to very limited space. The secretariat is already inquiring about prices of above mentioned items.

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