

MSG meeting # 3

Location : Spice Quest  
Date : May 7<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Time : 12.00 – 15.00 hrs

## MINUTES

### Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP SURINAME MEET AND GREET ENGAGEMENT



## **UPDATED AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and Speech Master of Ceremonies National Coördinator  
Novella Alcantra - Majana**
- 2. Speech Rayah Bhattacharji**
- 3. Speech Bernadette Sabajo - Cederboom**
- 4. Speech Preciosa Simons**
- 5. Presentation EITI Michiel Raafenberg**
- 6. Recognitions**
- 7. Closing of official part**
- 8. Lunch and get together**

EITI Suriname

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Address: Mr. Jaggernath Lachmonstraat #81

**Attendance:**

- 1. Rachele van de Scheur – Rijker**
- 2. Georgetine Tjalim**
- 3. Sagita Jaggan**
- 4. Preciosa Simons**
- 5. Rayah Bhattacharji**
- 6. Monique Essed – Fernandes**
- 7. Rene Artist**
- 8. Michiel Raafenberg**
- 9. Bernadette Cederboom**
- 10. Kathleen Blom**
- 11. Andrew Hepburn**
- 12. Vanessa Breidel**
- 13. Adriaan Asodanoe**
- 14. Varsha Jhagroe**
- 15. Jenusah Sanné**
- 16. Novella Alcantra – Majana**
- 17. Esmay Sabajo**
- 18. Clyde Windzak**

**Apologies were noted from:**

- 1. Henk Deel**
- 2. Roy Caupain**
- 3. Daniela Herkul**
- 4. Tosca Pinas**
- 5. Rafiq Ilahi**
- 6. Minister David Abiamof**

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## **1. Welcome and Speech Master of Ceremonies National Coördinator**

Novella welcomed the members, especially Andrew, the newest member in the MSG, team PR of the Ministry of Natural Resources and also the Staff of the National Secretariat. Firstly she announced that the Minister of Natural Resources will not be joining due to other commitments but Preciosa will be speeching on his behalf. Furthermore, she announced Suriname celebrates eight years of being an EITI implementing country on 24<sup>th</sup> of May. She thanked the MSG members for their contribution even though there are a lot of challenges. Suriname is suspended at the moment but all efforts are done to uplift this suspension due to members' continuous contribution. There is still a lot of work to achieve more transparency and higher scores but for today she highlighted some of the achievements like:

- ✓ Overdue payments to EITI International for years 2022 and 2023 have been paid. Payment requests for years 2024 and 2025 are already submitted to the council of ministers.
- ✓ EITI report 2021-2022 is in the progress of being published before the second half of 2025.
- ✓ The ToR for EITI report 2023 was revised and updated to 2023-2024 since the World Bank gave permission to do so.
- ✓ The council of ministers approved the allowance of the MSG.

She concluded by saying that we should celebrate the achievements and work on the challenges together with all the stakeholders who have a part in EITI reporting.

## **2. Speech Rayah Bhattacharji**

Rayah expressed gratitude for this National Secretariat and highlighted the challenges that EITI Suriname has faced throughout the years, as there were previously continuous changes in the staffing of the Secretariat and a lack of institutional memory. Civil society played an active role in advocacy for and practical support of EITI in Suriname since 2011, and in the past years the companies' group has increased their support significantly. Despite the increased stability and professionalism of the NS, there is still work to be done and expectations for the future:

- ✓ Recognition of collective land rights for ITPs, and institutionalized FPIC
- ✓ Combating environmental destruction by extractive activities such as gold mining
- ✓ Strengthening institutions
- ✓ Finalization of legislation and then actual and effective operationalization of the Mineral Authority
- ✓ Ensuring timely report, so that EITI can contribute more to public debate and dialogue

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- ✓ Preparing for the expansion of extractives sectoring in upcoming reports, e.g. logging
- ✓ Broader awareness and engagement in/by CS

### **3. Speech Bernadette Sabajo – Cederboom**

Bernadette thanked the National Secretariat for all the work they are doing. She also highlighted the challenges that EITI faces and she calls for active participation of all the members. She highlights that the engagements with relevant stakeholders are very crucial and necessary for EITI reporting.

### **4. Speech Preciosa Simons**

Preciosa applauded the National Secretariat for all the work that has been done up till now and for the collaboration between the other MSG members.

### **5. Presentation EITI Michiel Raafenberg**

Mark drafted a power point presentation last year. This PPP was revised by Monique and Kathleen and presented by Michiel to the wider MSG because this PPP is used to engage with relevant stakeholders. This was already presented to the Central Bank of Suriname and the Ordening Kleinschalige Goud Sector (Small Scale Gold Sector Regulation) and later it will be presented to the Chamber of Commerce Suriname.

Novella thanked all the representatives of the constituencies for their speeches and Michiel for the presentation which reminded us of how it all started and progressed.

### **6. Recognitions**

All the MSG members received a token of appreciation from the National Secretariat except for Bernadette who has to confirm first with her organization, whether she may receive the gift.

### **7. Closing of official part**

Novella thanked the PR team and the members for the presence and wished everyone a nice time.

### **8. Lunch and get together**

All the participants had lunch and groups of people discussed EITI related and other topics.

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*The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is an international initiative of member countries committed to disclosing information about the extractive industry value chain - from how extraction rights are awarded, to how revenues make their way through government and how they benefit the public.*

<https://eiti.org/>

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