

MSG meeting 2023#4

Online Google Meet

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

13.15- hrs – 14.25 hrs

# MINUTES

## Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP SURINAME

EITI Suriname

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### **Certification of quorum:**

Apologies were noted from:

Sagitta Jaggan  
Daniela Herkul  
Rene Artist  
Roy Caupain  
Clyde Griffith

Present	Absent without notice
<b><u>GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES</u></b> Preciosa Simons Georgetine Tjalim Henk Deel	<b><u>GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES</u></b> Ginna Leysner
<b><u>COMPANIES</u></b> Michiel Raafenberg Bernadette Cederboom Mark Regis Mike Resomardono	<b><u>COMPANIES</u></b> Kathleen Blom Michael Naarendorp
<b><u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u></b> Rayah Bhattacharji Tosca Pinas	<b><u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u></b> Monique Essed- Fernandes
<b><u>GUEST</u></b> M. Ramdas (Companies)	
<b><u>SECRETARIAT</u></b> Novella Alcantra – Majana Jenusah Sanné	

## **AGENDA**

1. Opening remarks  
    Certification of quorum
2. Announcements and correspondences
3. Minutes May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
4. Minutes May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
5. Workplan 2023/2024
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
6. ToR Specialist Firm
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
7. Evaluation Presentation by BDO on reports 2018-2020
8. Chairmanship MSG EITI Suriname
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
9. Any other business
10. Adjournment

**Proposed date for next MSG meeting: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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## **1. Opening remarks**

### **Certification of quorum**

The meeting started 01.15 pm because when the call started at 01.00 pm there was no quorum yet. At this meeting Raya Bhattacharji volunteered to be the chairperson. She welcomed everyone to this meeting and stated that there are some agenda items which need approval of the MSG.

## **2. Announcements and correspondences**

- ✓ A new agenda item has been added to the proposed agenda and that is agenda item 7 evaluation presentation by BDO on EITI reports 2018-2020. This was asked by Michiel from Zhijin Rosebel.
- ✓ The delegation from Suriname went to the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Conference in Dakar Senegal. At this conference the new board 2023 – 2026 was chosen. Also the new 2023 EITI standard was officially presented. There were several sessions about stakeholder's engagement, beneficial ownership, contract transparency, energy transition, gender social and environmental issues etc. Two of the members were on a panel at two of the sessions.
- ✓ In October the validation will take place in Suriname. After this meeting Jenusah will send reporting templates on stakeholder engagement. The constituencies will have three weeks (**that is till 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023**) to fill out the stakeholder engagement templates. For every constituency two contact persons, the rest are members. Meaning that the secretariat will be feed backing about the documents with the two contact persons.

**Government:** Contact persons: Tine Tjalim / Preciosa Simons

Members: Henk Deel, Sagitta Jaggan and Gina Leysner.

**Private Sector:** Contact persons: Michiel Raafenberg/ Mike Resomardono. Members: Daniela Herkul, Mark Regis, Bernadette Cederboom, Kathleen Blom and Michael Naarendorp.

**Civil Society:** Contact persons: Rene Artist / Rayah B

Members: Tosca Pinas, Monique Essed and Roy Coupain

This is important because we have to send these documents to the EITI International Secretariat. We kindly ask the constituencies to send us these documents as soon as they are finished. The constituencies do not have to wait till the deadline but if they are finished before that the templates can be sent to the secretariat.

- ✓ For the proposed meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting physically.
- ✓ A letter was sent to New Mont for donating office equipment to the secretariat. Office equipment like laptops, printer, chairs, desks, beamer and so on.

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- ✓ A letter received from the EITI International secretariat in which the contribution of Suriname 2022 and 2023 are not paid yet. The amount is \$10.000 a year.
  - On this announcement Preciosa mentioned that she has never received an invoice but she will look into this matter, if it still possible to include this amount in the next year's national budget.
  - Rayah asked the secretariat to inquire if there are more overdue payments. She suggested if a percentage of the contribution could be included in the work plan budget as well.
  - Bernadette asked if paying the contribution can be spread over the year. She also announced that at July 12<sup>th</sup> she will not be attending the meeting due to fact that she will be visiting the mine.
  - Michiel asked if the secretariat can find out what the consequences are when dues are not paid in a timely matter or when there are payments overdue. He also suggested to negotiate with the International Secretariat for an arrangement if there are more payments overdue.

Michiel and Tine both consider paying the contribution a matter of the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- ✓ Michiel announced that his colleague miss Ramdas, who is assisting him with EITI matters, is joining the meeting today.
- ✓ Rayah announced that at the World Conference was said that a pre validation team from the International Secretariat will be coming to Suriname probably at the end of July or the beginning of August.
- ✓ Tosca said that she missed the invitation to this meeting because the emails were going to her spam.

### **3. Minutes May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

The minutes were adopted ad referendum. Meaning that Sagita will have time to send her comments on the civil society statement in the case of what happened at Pikin Saron. Tine will ask her to send her statement. If no comments are received within a week then the minutes are considered adopted by the members present.

### **4. Minutes May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The minutes were adopted by the members present.

### **5. Workplan 2023/2024**

Mark stated that at the SEOGS he and Daniela gave a presentation to the Managing Director Jagessar of the Suriname State Oil Company, Staatsolie. The budget was also shared and some of the items have no cost to them. The presentation will be shared with Novella to send it around to the MSG members.

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Rayah thanked Mark for the clarification on this and is looking forward to the presentation. She also asked if there are comments on this from the MSG members. Bernadette said she could not find the documents on the ToR and the budget of the work plan 2023/2024 in her email box but Rayah told her that these were sent on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the subject was Terms of Reference EITI implementation support in Suriname. So the Communications Terms of Reference and the Work Plan budget were both sent in one e-mail from the secretariat and the deadline for feedback was June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 o'clock. The secretariat was asked to send these documents once more to Bernadette.

The secretariat announced that nobody responded to the email that was sent and Rayah said that she felt hesitant postponing this decision longer and just threw it out on the table since there was quorum.

Michiel's suggestion was to at least have a provisional approval if people feel the need to take more time to go through the budget and come back so that for now we have at least a provisional approval. Other than that, he suggested to go ahead and approve it if there were no further comments. The MSG members present did not have further comments and the work plan 2023/2024 including the budget were approved.

## **6. ToR Specialist Firm**

Rayah stated that this next agenda item was also sent in the same e-mail as the work plan, which is the terms of reference for the specialist firm. And this also had a deadline and there were also no responses on the terms of reference.

This Terms of reference is a little less ambitious, because the previous terms of reference also had, much more external activities, but from which we have also seen in the past, is not very feasible to ask of an external communications firm who often does not have all the expertise. So there is a new draft now and all the Secretariat needs is the MSG's approval so that they can move forward with the procurement process.

Mark gave some more context on this: So when we were looking at it and coming up with the new Terms of Reference, we took the learnings that were shared with us about the previous exercise and why it failed and determined that instead of looking for which is probably impractical because it's a mix of different communication skills that we need what we're looking for primarily. Set up a firm that would deliver all of the full gamut of services. We have to be looking for a consultant who would then contract the various aspects of services. So instead of trying to get one firm to, which may be good in two things but not in the other four, we'd have the consultant who would give us the overarching plan and then seek expertise from different firms or entities. The ToR Specialist Firm was approved by the members present.

## **7. Evaluation Presentation by BDO on reports 2018-2020**

Michiel stated that the data provided in the presentation was only from oil and gas companies. Rosebel contributed but the data was not presented. The major mining companies were left out because there was no reconciliation of the data and as such it was not included so Robesel does not feel that is correct. The basis of this whole process is transparency whether the data is reconciled or not it should have been included in the presentation. Rosebel is not in agreement with the way the presentation was done. Michiel stated that this must be corrected and if this is repeated Robesel will not be participating in this process anymore. This must be communicated to BDO. Michiel said he wanted this to be recorded in the minutes for the history and to show his organizations disagreement on the way the presentation went. He hopes that this never happens again next time because if it does it will have consequences. Michiel said further that he was very angry but he did not express it because it would not have ended well and that he did not want to shift the emphasis but he felt that speaking out at this MSG meeting was the place to do so.

Bernadette stated that if there is a report you have to present the data in the report. She had some questions like:

- Was the media invited? Because at such an event we should have had mayor media coverage and why the media was absent at such an important presentation. Where the media houses called?

Tine mentioned that the presenter said that this was flexible reporting and mentioned only the oil and gas companies but that was wrong. The big mining companies provided data so you have to share that data with the public. She just wanted to confirm what Michiel stated earlier.

Michiel commented that he wanted to add to the statement that even if it was flexible reporting BDO was the entity responsible for producing the final report so the reconciled parts as well as the non-reconciled parts. They should have presented therefore a totality of the whole report even if some of it was non reconciled otherwise it really gives only a partial overview.

Michiel asked the secretariat if they had received any communication beforehand on why these choices were made or the further content of the presentation and also on the invitation to the media.

Jenusah answered that all the media houses were invited even CDS but only CDS responded and said due to the fact that the President of India was in Suriname for the celebration of the Indian Immigration and a lot of activities had to be covered during that period, they did not attend. In the invitation there was also text to explain what EITI is and what the reason was for the invitation but they were not called.

The secretariat did not receive any communication from BDO beforehand. What the secretariat knew was that mr. Malej was going to do the presentation. At the day of the presentation the MC

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was told that mr. Ferrier was going to do the presentation because mr. Malej his flight was delayed and would not be able to do the presentation.

The secretariat will make an appointment with BDO to have these questions answered

Bernadette said that usually the experience with mobilization not just of the press but also of other stakeholders is that an email followed by a WhatsApp and in some cases also followed by phone calls are more effective but in this case also the fact that there were so many activities regarding the visit of the president of India was also a very unfortunate combination of activities at the same moment.

Mark said not to take part here for BDO at all but it might be that he would understand on the point that the report is really supposed to be a Reconciliation report and so they tend not to want to present information data that is unreconciled because the base requirement of BDO is to do that accounting exercise, reconciling information they get from the companies so that may be it but I think it also had a lot to do with the senior consultant not being present.

Rayah said that she can relate to what Mark said but that in any case even if that would have been their standpoint if they would have communicated this upon receiving the invitation by the Secretariat because the Secretariat invited BDO to do the presentation and BDO should have said at that moment you know we only feel comfortable presenting the reconciled part and if the Secretariat and the MSG would have known that beforehand then maybe a combined presentation could have been discussed. They could have presented one part and the MSG and Secretariat presented the rest so that at the end of the day that in any case there was a presentation of the entire report. Mark said that most times it is the independent administrator that speaks in the report content meaning the numbers, key elements, the background on the industry, the other types of reporting areas other than revenue.

Rayah agreed on what Mark just said and stated that it is such important information and it is the whole revenue chain and not just the licensing etc. She thinks that this was a missed opportunity which could have been solved if BDO had just communicated clearly to the MSG. The MSG could then have stated what the expectations were for the presentation because we have to be sure which message we want to convey. Because at the previous presentation of the report the whole MSG was present and also one representative from each stakeholder group was included in the official program beforehand so this is a lesson learned for the next time. She hopes that the communications firm will support in these types of presentations in the future.

The MSG supports Secretariat's intention and proposal to hold a meeting with BDO and also convey this message. Mark said especially since we're looking to rehire them so it's important that they know what the expectations are and that the MSG did not set aside the way things went.

Rayah and Mark stated that the secretariat has the MSG's full support when talking to BDO on these matters.

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Michiel suggested that two members at the meeting with BDO would be best and he will be one of the volunteers.

## **8. Chairmanship MSG EITI Suriname**

The companies present are content with appoint interim chairmanship between the companies chairing for one quarter during one year in which the MSG will have a full year to find a chair. The only company that has to give consent is Staatsolie. Michiel and Mark will be talking to Daniela about this and the companies will then decide who will take turns on the chairmanship and get back to the other MSG members on the decision.

## **9. Any other business**

Procurement of the Independent Administrator. A letter of no objection was signed by the Director Mining of the Ministry of Natural Resources and sent to the Coordinator of the SCSD project. The procurement officer of the SCSD project will further advice on this matter. After approval of the World Bank the process of signing the contract with BDO will be a fact.

## **10. Adjournment**

Rayah thanked everyone for their participation and contribution and invited them for the physical meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned on 14.25 hrs.

## Action points after this meeting

No	Action points	Responsible	Remarks	Status	Target date
1	Arrange a meeting with BDO concerning the presentation of 2018-2020 EITI reports	Secretariat	2 or 3 MSG members to attend the meeting	BDO has not set a date yet.	
2	Chairman ship roulating system between the companies	Companies	Mark and Michiel will talk to Daniela.	Pending	
3	Stakeholder engagement templates to be sent to the MSG members	Secretariat	Every constituency was assigned 2 contact persons		Deadline July 19 <sup>th</sup>
4	Include the 2022/2023 contribution of EITI in the national budget	Preciosa	Preciosa will find out if it is possible.	Pending	
	Comments on the CS statement regarding the conflicts in Pikin Saron	Sagitta	Tine will ask her to send the statement		1 week from now

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