



MSG meeting 2024 # 4

Teams

March 21st, 2024

13.10- hrs. – 16.20 hrs.

Chair: Daniela Herkul / Michiel Raafenberg

MINUTES

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP SURINAME

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Certification of quorum:

Apologies were noted from:

Preciosa Simons

Tosca Pinas

Rene Artist

Vikaash Soerdjbalisingh

Rayah Bhattacharji

Rene Artist

Present	Absent without notice
Georgetine Tjalim Henk Deel Sagita Jaggan	<u>GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES</u> Suraksha Hirasingh
<u>COMPANIES</u> Mark Regis Bernadette Cederboom Michiel Raafenberg Daniela Herkul Vanessa Breidel	<u>COMPANIES</u> Adriaan Asodanoe Mike Resomardono Kathleen Blom
<u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u> Monique Essed- Fernandes	<u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u> Roy Caupain
<u>SECRETARIAT</u> Jenusah Sanné Varsha Jhagroe	

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AGENDA

1. Opening remarks
Certification of quorum
2. Announcements and correspondences
3. Validation assessment EITI report 2018-2020
4. Any other business
5. Adjournment

Upcoming events:

Tuesday March 26th MSG meets International Secretariat to discuss comments and possible additions.

Thursday March 28th MSG last day to submit any comment till 12.00 hrs.

Wednesday April 3rd Secretariat submits document to Validation team.

March 14th:

Implementing the EITI standard 2023(How to add the new requirements to the work plan? What to prioritize?)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83837500572?pwd=AanigiKartGRbGSXq87ncDivsN4Nq8.1>

Meeting ID: 838 3750 0572

Proposed date for next MSG meeting: April 03rd 2024

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1. Opening remarks

Certification of quorum

Daniela started the meeting at 13.10 hrs. There was no quorum throughout the meeting.

2. Announcements and correspondences

- First the National Coordinator is not well yet and will be on sick leave this whole week.
- Tuesday March 26th: Validation session with LAC team from 16.00 hrs. – 18.00 hrs.

Invitation from the LAC team to the following sessions:

- **Anticorruption Session:**

Date: Apr 11, 2024, 03:00 PM Oslo

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpd-uhpjIvG9xse47dIZj8FA90xa9tgSUx>

- **Beneficial Ownership Session:**

Date: May 9, 2024, 03:00 PM Oslo

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocumspjIjHddjbUJ8cOK0i6Qx09Vexfpj>

- **Environmental Disclosures Session:**

Date: Jun 6, 2024, 03:00 PM Oslo

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMucu6hqDwtG9I2SyVq35RnMnMG9JqKpi>

- **Energy Transition Session:**

Date: Aug 8, 2024, 03:00 PM Oslo

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsduGsyz8jH9adRRB8OmH3M16eyhdk012X>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you do not register you will not be able to join the sessions.

- The secretariat also like to add that Vikaash had called the Secretariat to note his absence for today's meeting. He also said he will try to e-mail the MSG the list of mining licenses from the ministry of natural resources.

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3. Validation assessment EITI report 2018-2020

Areas of recommendation	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government entities should address inefficient and opaque gold royalty payment processes in both the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector and to the mining state-owned enterprise (SOE), Grassalco. Inclusion of gold houses in EITI reporting would address unclear royalty rates paid by ASM miners while the Central Bank's membership in the MSG would improve understanding around how royalty payments flow from Rosebel Gold Mines to the Central Bank and whether they first are paid to Grassalco, as well as to strengthen an overview on export data, in particular of gold. Req: TT to disclose correspondence of agreement. Momentum to maintain an up-to-date license register in the mining sector has waned, with the existing register no longer in use. Efforts, both within the MSG and via broader government, to create a replacement have not yet yielded a working product. While EITI reporting helps to fill the gap, government entities should redouble efforts to establish a publicly accessible license register in the mining sector to enable the public to easily understand who owns mining rights in Suriname. Ongoing debate to reform the Mining Law should include provisions to establish a beneficial ownership register with an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for collection and disclosure. In establishing these registers, Suriname is encouraged to link beneficial ownership and license registers to aid public understanding of the full ownership chain of extractive contracts and licenses. Invitation to participate in the MSG should be extended to government entities such as the Central Bank, the Bauxite Institute and the Bureau of Statistics of Suriname, given their historical and current engagement in the extractive sector and amid prospects for new mining projects in the context of the energy transition that could bring renewed interest to commodities currently thought to be economically unviable. Likewise, Grassalco should be included in the MSG to improve governance and encourage the disclosure of financial data. This is of particular importance given that Grassalco has decision-making power on the board of SEMiF, which receives in-kind gold and silver royalty payments. MR ass secr (Minister of NH) to invite other MSG members 	<p>(TT) Min Fin to provide info. Agreement reg. loan not updated/adjusted. Cons. Loan incl. roy payment to repayment loan. No rev to gov. RGM payment based on mineral agreement.</p> <p>RGM submits update on concisions rights. Staatsolie does not disclose PSC BO is available oil contracts. (NH)Vikash to provide the listing mining license from NH</p> <p>Rekenkamer to add to MSG? Other Gov entities? To Add NIMOS/NAM Draft letters for participation from these entities mentioned. Secr., Michiel, MSG</p>

Commented [DH1]: Future minerals institute/ DAS

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2. Outcomes and Impact	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 1.5, Suriname should ensure that the current work plan is fully costed Suriname must ensure that the work plan is the results of consultation with key stakeholders. The MSG is encouraged to include in the work plan innovative and cost-effective dissemination activities that facilitate interaction between stakeholders and systematic disclosure on key extractive sector issues. Suriname must ensure that the MSG work plan is reviewed and updated annually. In reviewing the work plan, the multi-stakeholder group should consider extending the detail and scope of EITI implementation. Identify major action WP and specific ask. WP working group overview and dev. Action plan 	TT: Min NH put in budget Min NH'24 financed gov. budget. Add. Fund to be funded/donated by companies, int org.(IDB/WB/US Dept State)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 7.1, Suriname must ensure that the information disclosed by EITI Suriname is widely accessible and distributed to key audiences, including civil society, the media and the communities where extractive activities take place. The multi-stakeholder group is encouraged to make EITI information more understandable and relevant to citizens through thematic reports and other mediums and make these available online. Suriname must also ensure that EITI disclosures are available in appropriate languages, specifically Dutch, and consider access challenges and information needs of different genders and local mining communities. Suriname may wish to consider innovative ways to strengthen the EITI's contribution to public debate and the production of summary reports focused on key national priorities. To strengthen EITI Implementation, Suriname may wish to consider undertaking capacity building efforts to improve understanding reports and online disclosures. 	Company Group to provide guidance on further engagement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 7.2 a) and 7.2 b), Suriname must agree on a clear open data policy on the access, release and re-use of EITI data. To strengthen EITI Implementation, Suriname EITI is encouraged to make systematically disclosed data machine readable and interoperable, and to code or tag EITI disclosures and other data files so that the information can be compared with other publicly available data. 	MR finished draft Open data policy and will send to us for circulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 7.3 Suriname must act upon lessons learned, particularly by strengthening procedures to analyse and follow up on recommendations resulting from EITI implementation with a view to strengthening the impact of EITI in the extractive sector governance and transparency. 	Think about a set up monitor mechanism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 7.4 the MSG should publish an annual progress report, or any other document agreed by the MSG that identifies, investigates and addresses the causes of any information gaps and discrepancies and to include an assessment of progress towards achieving the objectives stated in 	If we have a monitor mech, then we can publish annual progress report.

Commented [VJ2]: WP working group has to plan meeting to come together. To make an overview to make an actionplan to implement it. (to get fundings)

Commented [VJ3]: Req 7.2 and 7.3 put them together.

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<p>Suriname's 2023-2024 work plan. The MSG is encouraged to take gender considerations and inclusiveness into account. The MSG should also include an assessment of progress for the recommendations from the previous Validation and the reconciliation process.</p>	
3. Stakeholders engagement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 1.1, the government should ensure that senior government officials and government entities are fully, actively and effectively engaged in the EITI process through attendance to MSG meetings, outreach to stakeholders that are not members of the MSG and use of EITI data to promote public debate. Ask.Secr to make overview to get better view of attendance. To encourage the others to participate as well. In accordance with Requirement 1.2, oil, gas and mining companies should ensure full, active and effective engagement in the EITI. The SHMR should ensure systematic participation in the MSG's work and provision of data for EITI reporting. Oil and gas companies should ensure comprehensive reporting of EITI data. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 1.3, umbrella organisations that represent the interests of individual CSOs should establish formalised communication channels to ensure regular and comprehensive dissemination of data. Given concerns about self-censorship raised by independent third parties and some civil society members, the MSG is encouraged to closely monitor future allegations of self-censorship and possible limitations of press freedom. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 1.4, the MSG and national secretariat should ensure that comments and issues tabled by each constituency are reflected in final documents and given adequate time for discussion during MSG meetings. The MSG should consider expanding to include other key stakeholders from government, such as the Central Bank and Bauxite Institute to improve information sharing and oversight. 	<p>Attendance reports at MSG meeting and evaluate and improve. TT: More engagement NH ME.: Gov. make more use of EITI data</p> <p>Encourage part. SHMR group. A lot of confidentiality issues. Note: have complete listing of oil, gas , mining companies.</p> <p>Req 1.3 and 1.4 has to be discussed with the int. EITI.</p>
4. Transparency	
New corrective actions and recommendations	actions

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 3.1, Suriname should disclose an overview of the extractive industries, including any significant exploration activities and comprehensive disclosure of recent, ongoing and planned significant exploration activities. Third-party ASM estimates should be referenced through EITI reporting, especially when drawn from government sources. In accordance with Requirement 6.3, Suriname should provide estimates of informal extractive activities, including artisanal and small-scale mining, for the fiscal year(s) under review. The MSG is also encouraged to strengthen its efforts aimed at systematic disclosure of information on the contribution of the extractive industries to the economy, including companies that are not included in the scope of EITI reporting. 	<p>To request gov (min. of NR) for this data info. Small scale mining data. Michiel can provide us of report from IAMGOLD done by a consultant.</p> <p>Registration of royalty payments must be transparent. ask gov to keep it transparent. Msg must encourage the companies that are not listed.</p> <p>MSG to discuss this further.</p>
5. Legal environment and fiscal regime	
New corrective actions and recommendations	<p>Actions</p> <p>list of documentation legal framework. small team (with legal background) must draft of document framework legal. Discuss the deadline The gov must provide draft policy on contracts and barriers on disclosure</p>

6. Licenses and property rights		
New corrective actions and recommendations		Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Requirement 2.2, Suriname should comprehensively disclose the rules and practices related to the allocation and transfer process, including the technical and financial criteria assessed, and any non-trivial deviations from statutory procedures in practice. Where licenses or contracts are awarded through a bidding process, Suriname is required to disclose the list of applicants and the bid criteria. The MSG is encouraged to assess the efficiency of the license and contract allocation procedure and consider approaches to strengthening systematic disclosure of relevant information. • In accordance with Requirement 2.3, Suriname should maintain a publicly available register or cadastre system with timely and comprehensive information on all mining, oil and gas licenses, including coordinates, type of commodity produced, date of application, date of award, duration of the license, and the name of the license holder. In establishing the license register, Suriname is encouraged to link license and beneficial ownership registers to aid public understanding of the full ownership chain of extractive contracts and licenses. 		Daniela and NH respond on this. Role of Gliss? All concessions or oil or for goldmining, gliss was supposed to have a list on this. Enquire the info at Gliss system.
7. Beneficial ownership		
New corrective actions and recommendations		Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Requirement 2.5, Suriname is required to disclose the beneficial owners and politically exposed persons of all companies holding or applying for extractive licenses. To ensure public disclosure of this information going forward, Suriname should undertake the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure there is a legal and regulatory framework in place to ensure the collection and public disclosure of beneficial ownership information on all companies holding or applying for extractive licenses. ○ Request all companies holding oil, gas and mining licenses to disclose beneficial ownership information and provide adequate assurances for data reliability. ○ Require all applicants of oil, gas and mining licenses and contracts to disclose their beneficial owners at the application stage. An assessment of the comprehensiveness and reliability of this information should be undertaken by the MSG. ○ Develop a strategy aimed to increase information-sharing among government entities that maintain beneficial ownership registers, with an eventual goal of unifying these various processes into one 		BO work group. How to make agreement with KKF. Get info .

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central public beneficial ownership register that is also linked to Suriname's license register. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publicly identify any entities that failed to disclose their beneficial ownership. ○ Ensure public disclosure of legal owners of all companies holding or applying for extractive licenses. 	
8. State Participation	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Requirement 2.6, Suriname should ensure that a comprehensive overview of Grassalco is publicly disclosed, including an explanation of the prevailing rules and practices related to Grassalco's retained earnings, reinvestment and third-party funding. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 2.6, the MSG is encouraged to publish the rules and practices related to SOEs' operating and capital expenditures. • In accordance with Requirement 4.2, the MSG should provide information on in-kind volumes or values sold, revenues transferred to government and materiality determinations. Volumes sold and revenues received should be disaggregated by individual buying company and to levels commensurate with the reporting of other payments and revenue streams. The MSG should include buying companies in the scope of reporting, as was indicated in the previous assessment, to allow for reconciliation of these payments as opposed to unilateral reporting by government entities. • In accordance with Requirement 4.5, Suriname should clarify the procedure used in the transfer of mineral royalties from Rosebel Gold Mines, either to Grassalco, or directly transferred to the Central Bank. This clarification would include a decree establishing the transfer procedure, whether royalties are paid in cash or in kind, and in the case of the latter, relevant information about the sale of these in-kind royalties, including buying companies. Government stakeholders should also clarify whether these royalty payments are being used to repay Government of Suriname loans. • In accordance with Requirement 6.2, Suriname should undertake a comprehensive review of all expenditures undertaken by extractive SOEs that could be considered quasi-fiscal expenditures, such as the provision of oil for electricity generation by Staatsolie in return for a reduction in dividend payments. If these or other expenditures are deemed to be quasi-fiscal, Suriname should develop a reporting process to achieve a level of transparency commensurate with other payments and revenue streams, and the MSG should discuss them and include them in its EITI reporting processes. 	Who is buying gold from them and put in report. Tine and team / min fin. Transparency from Grassalco. Min of fin and min of nat.resources. Daniela can respond on this, also Vanessa.
9. Production and exports	

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New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 3.2, Suriname is required to disclose timely production data. Including production volumes and values by commodity. Suriname is encouraged to disaggregate production volumes and values by region, company or project, and include sources and the methods for calculating production volumes and values. The MSG is encouraged to provide their opinion on the reliability of production data and consider providing an estimate of ASM production. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 3.3, Suriname is encouraged to disaggregate export volumes and values by region, company or project, and include sources and the methods for calculating export volumes and values. The MSG is encouraged to provide their opinion on the reliability of export data and consider providing an estimate of ASM exports. 	<p>MSG to put on agenda for further discussion.</p> <p>This is for NH , MSG to put on agenda for further discussion.</p>
10. Revenue collection	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 4.1. a) Suriname should demonstrate progress in addressing the corrective action from the previous Validation by ensuring that all material payments and revenues are comprehensively disclosed by government entities and extractive companies. In addition, Suriname must assess the relevance of disclosing data from the medium scale mining companies. When disclosing this information, Suriname should consider routine government and corporate reporting. To improve the comprehensiveness of information and in accordance with Requirement 4.1. b), Suriname must ensure that all government entities receiving material revenues from oil, gas and mining companies and extractive sector companies making material payments to the government are required to comprehensively disclose these revenues in accordance with the agreed scope and in accordance with level of disaggregation described in Requirement 4.7. Suriname should ensure that its materiality decisions related to selecting companies and revenue streams for reconciliation are followed in practice without significant deviations from the standard procedures. In addressing this Requirement, the MSG might wish to clarify the fiscal obligations and the payments received by the medium and small-scale sector. In addition, Suriname should disclose a description of each revenue flow that could allow citizens to identify and understand the contribution of the extractive industries to government revenues. In accordance with Requirement 4.7 and to improve the EITI data's contribution to public debate, Suriname is required to revise its project-level reporting definition for all payments and revenues levied on a per-project basis for EITI reporting. 	<p>Ask internat secr .: comprehensive disclosure?? further discussion in group MSG</p> <p>Work from MSG, ask clarification from EITI coordinator.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 4.8, Suriname must improve on the timeliness of EITI data disclosures, by strengthening existing systematic disclosures by companies and government. The MSG is encouraged to revise legal and administrative barriers that could delay the implementation of EITI activities such as the EITI Report. In accordance with Requirement 4.9.a, Suriname is required to address the gaps described in the assessment made by the Independent Administrator and secure that payments and revenues are subject to credible, independent audit, applying international auditing standards. In fulfilling this Requirement, Suriname is encouraged to involve the high auditing agency in this process. To improve the reliability of information and in accordance with requirement 4.9.b., the MSG and the Independent Administrator should guarantee that the auditing and assurance procedures in companies and government entities participating in the EITI reporting process are credible. The Independent Administrator team should exercise professional judgement and apply appropriate international procedures to determine the extent to which reliance can be placed on the existing controls and audit frameworks. The MSG is required to apply the standard procedure agreed with the Independent Administrator without any material deviations. 	<p>Late reporting of EITI report, agenda point for MSG</p> <p>Discuss in MSG.</p>
11. Revenue management	
New corrective actions and recommendations	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 5.1, Suriname should provide a clear explanation as to which extractive revenues are recorded in the national budget and which are not. These explanations should be published on the Central Bank or MoFP websites with EITI Reports used to document and reference where this information is disclosed systematically. For extractive revenues that are retained by SOEs or allocated outside of the national budget, Suriname should ensure that there are financial reports associated with these SOEs and funds that publicly indicate how these revenues are allocated. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 5.3, the government is encouraged to disclose mineral and petroleum revenue forecasts and the assumptions underlying different scenarios. The MSG is encouraged to publicise information related to revenue projections and plans for their management to improve public comprehension. The MSG is also encouraged to engage in overseeing the management of the Suriname Savings and Stabilisation Fund as the fund begins to receive extractive revenue allocations.

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12. subnational contribution	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
In accordance with Requirement 6.1, Suriname should disclose whether any mandatory social expenditures by mining companies are undertaken in cash or in kind and disclose beneficiaries, when those are not government entities. The MSG should review whether small and medium-scale mining companies are obliged to undertake mandatory and voluntary social expenditures. Mandatory oil and gas social expenditures should be disaggregated by payment type, between cash or in-kind and whether they are made to non-government beneficiaries. Suriname EITI should ensure that EITI reporting clearly states materiality decisions concerning mandatory environmental payments to government. The MSG should agree on a procedure to address data quality and assurance of information on social and environmental expenditures, in accordance with Requirement 4.9.	Info on oil and gas, Daniela? Rosebel/ involve NIMOS.

4. Any other business

There was no other business to this meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 16.20 hrs.