

MSG meeting # 5

Location : Teams Online

Date : July 23<sup>th</sup> , 2025

Time : 14.00u – 15.43 hrs.

## MINUTES

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

EITI Suriname

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## **AGENDA**

1. Opening remarks  
Certification of quorum
2. Announcements and correspondence
3. Minutes March 19<sup>th</sup> 2025
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
  - c. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Minutes March 24<sup>th</sup> 2025
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
  - c. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Minutes May 7<sup>th</sup> 2025
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
  - c. Matters arising from the minutes
6. Minutes June 10<sup>th</sup> 2025
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
  - c. Matters arising from the minutes
7. Status EITI reporting 2021-2022
8. Preparation for report 2023-2024
9. Plan engagement with stakeholders
10. Set date workplan review / actions
11. Set date to finalize Annual Progress report 2024
12. Discussion Chair MSG
13. Any other business

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#### 14. Adjournment

**Upcoming events:**

**Tentative : Presentation EITI report 2021-2022 between August 18- August 20, 2025**

**Next proposed MSG meeting August 6<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**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			
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 Jhagroe	Techn.	X		
Mark Regis	Advisor			

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## 1. Opening remarks

### Certification of quorum

The meeting commenced at 14:03 hrs. Bernadette opened the session despite the lack of quorum, choosing to begin while waiting for the remaining members in order to make efficient use of time.

## 2. Announcements and correspondence

- ✓ The **2021–2022 EITI Report** has been finalized and uploaded to the EITI Suriname website. The International Secretariat's Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) team is currently reviewing the report and is expected to send their feedback shortly. The Secretariat will be informed once Suriname's suspension is officially lifted, following approval by the International Board.
- ✓ On **June 26<sup>th</sup>**, a **National Secretariats Meeting** took place. During this meeting, Novella gave a presentation on the progress of EITI in Suriname, which had already been shared with MSG members.
- ✓ Michiel, Rayah, and Georgetine reviewed the proposal from the Independent Administrator (IA) for the **2023–2024 report**. The National Secretariat has not received any further updates from SCSD on this matter.
- ✓ **Reporting entities** are kindly requested to begin filling out the **2023–2024 EITI reporting templates**, as there will be little to no changes. Early submission is encouraged to avoid delays, as the report must be finalized by **December 31st, 2025**.
- ✓ A **meeting with the Economic Officer of the U.S. Embassy** is scheduled for coming **Friday** to explore potential funding opportunities. This meeting will take place at the **Newmont office**.
- ✓ The **EITI Global Conference** will be held in **June next year in Manila, Philippines**. The International Secretariat encourages interested companies and organizations to begin preparations early, given the significant travel distance from Suriname.

Bernadette extended sincere condolences to Sagita on behalf of the entire group, acknowledging the recent passing of her husband, who was, among other roles, a well-respected Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice and Police.

Bernadette also confirmed that quorum had been reached, allowing the meeting to proceed with decision-making.

## 3. Minutes March 19<sup>th</sup> 2025

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

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There was no discussion on the minutes. Bernadette made a comment on the first sentence, two times the word later. It should be longer instead of later. The Secretariat will make this modification. The Minutes from March 19<sup>th</sup> were approved.

#### **4. Minutes March 24<sup>th</sup> 2025**

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

There was no discussion on the previous minutes. However, matters arising included several follow-up points noted in the minutes. The letter to the SCSD PIU was sent, and the progress report is included on today's agenda. Additionally, the drafting of letters to request supplementary funding for upcoming activities still needs to be addressed. The minutes of march 24<sup>th</sup> were approved .

#### **5. Minutes May 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**

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

There was one comment on the minutes: the attendance list was not included. The Secretariat will update the minutes to incorporate this. With that correction noted, the minutes of the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

#### **6. Minutes June 10<sup>th</sup> 2025**

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

There were no comments on the minutes. The minutes of June 10<sup>th</sup> were approved

#### **7. Status EITI reporting 2021-2022**

Novella mentioned that BDO is aiming to present the EITI Report during the period of August 18–20. However, due to limited funding and the lack of a confirmed venue, no final decision has been made. Some members noted that this presentation could serve as a valuable opportunity to invite key stakeholders, such as relevant ministers, representatives from the Office of the President and the President herself.

Sagita suggested that preparing a brief, engaging summary would help new participants better understand the content. Andrew added that it would be helpful to include a basic overview of EITI in the presentation to familiarize attendees with the initiative.

A working group will be formed to support the preparation of the presentation. Bernadette, Preciosa and Monique have volunteered, and other members are also welcome to join.

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## **8. Preparation for report 2023-2024**

Rayah and Georgetine mentioned that they had signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), which limits what they are able to share. However, they noted that some comments had been made which the Independent Administrator (IA) should consider before finalizing the contract. No further details on this matter were disclosed. Preciosa was asked to follow up with the Component Coordinator regarding the status of the contract signing.

## **9. Plan engagement with stakeholders**

Novella shared an updated MSG engagement list. The Bauxite Institute has been removed from both the list and the priority engagements. The current priorities include a courtesy meeting with the Vice President, as well as engagement sessions with Grassalco, gold exporters, the National Environmental Authority, and the Foreign Exchange Commission. Additionally, a face-to-face meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources is being planned.

It was advised that proposed dates and times be included in the planning to allow members to confirm their availability in advance.

## **10. Set date workplan review / actions**

The team discussed the comments made by Andrew regarding the systematic disclosure. The National Secretariat (NS) will incorporate some of this input and send the revised Work Plan (WP) to the MSG. The members present approved the WP, and if no additional comments are received within a week, the Work Plan will be uploaded to the website.

## **11. Set date to finalize Annual Progress report 2024**

Novella noted that there has still been no feedback from the MSG regarding the Annual Progress Report (APR). The report has been shared multiple times, and members will now have one week to review the document, provide comments, and complete any remaining sections.

## **12. Discussion Chair MSG**

This discussion is moved to the next meeting. Bernadette urged members to start thinking about a solution.

## **13. Any Other Business**

Novella mentioned that the National Accounting Office had identified an error in the information included in the 2021–2022 EITI Report. In response, BDO asked how this issue would be addressed, as they had assumed the Secretariat was responsible for sharing the draft report with all relevant stakeholders.

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The National Secretariat clarified that BDO had requested them to arrange an introductory meeting between David Quinn and the National Accounting Office during his second visit to Suriname. However, any follow-up discussions between BDO and the National Accounting Office were not communicated to the Secretariat. Since the National Accounting Office was not within the defined scope, the Secretariat did not include them in the report preparation process. After the report was published, the Secretariat did send a copy to the National Accounting Office.

Monique then asked whether the National Accounting Office had been involved from the beginning, and the answer was no.

#### **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 15.43 hours.

See below the action points



**Follow up points:**

No.	Action points	Responsible	Remarks	Status
1.	Organize the Presentation of EITI report 2021- 2022.	Working group: *Bernadette *Monique *Preciosa *Novella *Varsha	Other members are welcome to join	Pending
2.	Workplan 2025-2026	MSG	To comment on in a week's time. Already approved by the members present with addition of a minor comment on systematic disclosure.	In Progress
3.	Annual Progress Report 2024	MSG	One week to comment	Pending
4.	Schedule discussion of Chair in next meeting	MSG	MSG to think about a workable solution	Pending
5.	Ask SCSD for update on preparation of next report/ contract signing BDO	Preciosa	After scoring the proposal , no updates from SCSD	Pending
6.	Request a courtesy call to Cabinet of Vice President	Monique	Plan this asap	Pending
7.	Crucial stakeholders' engagement with *Minister NR *Gold exporters *Grassalco *Foreign Exchange Commission *NMA	NS MSG	Plan dates and time, to schedule members according availability.	Pending
8.	Preciosa mentioned the National Development Plan of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment. Also mentioned within the EMSAGS project there is data on gender.	Preciosa to share plan and gender data with the NS		Pending
9.	Draft letters requesting funding for EITI activities	MSG		Pending

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