

MSG meeting 2023#5

Conference Room Ministry of Natural Resources

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

13.16- 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  
Clyde Griffith  
Bernadette Cederboom  
Monique Essed - Fernandes

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 Mark Regis Mike Resomardono	<b><u>COMPANIES</u></b> Kathleen Blom Daniela Herkul
<b><u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u></b> Rayah Bhattacharji Tosca Pinas Rene Artist	<b><u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u></b> Roy Caupain
<b><u>GUEST</u></b> Michal Ramdas (Companies) Jasna Kortram ( Consultant Staatsolie)	
<b><u>SECRETARIAT</u></b> Novella Alcantra – Majana Jenusah Sanné	

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## **AGENDA 5<sup>th</sup> MSG meeting, July 12<sup>th</sup> 2023**

1. Opening remarks  
Certification of quorum
2. Announcements and correspondences
3. Short presentation by consultant Jasna Kortram about the setting up of a reporting data repository at the secretariat
4. Status validation process and upcoming pre-validation mission August 2023
5. Any other business
6. Adjournment

**Proposed date for next MSG meeting: August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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## **1. Opening remarks**

### Certification of quorum

The meeting started 13.16 hrs because when the call started at 13.00 hrs there was no quorum yet. At this meeting Raya Bhattacharji volunteered to be the chairperson. She welcomed the consultant Jasna to this meeting.

## **2. Announcements and correspondences**

- ✓ Due to some difficulties with our computer we do not have the minutes of the last meeting on time but they will be available very soon.
- ✓ Today Jasna Kortram, the consultant hired by Staatsolie will be doing a short presentation about reporting data repository.
- ✓ The secretariat had a meeting with the LAC Regional Coordinator Esteban regarding the status of Suriname. He is very concerned due to the fact that Suriname has no progress on the 19 recommendations on the last validation. After this meeting the 19 recommendations will be sent out to the MSG again. We kindly ask that the responsible members please take responsibility and take action where it's needed.
- ✓ Visit of the pre validation team from EITI Secretariat Oslo from August 7 till August 11<sup>th</sup>. The team wants to meet with the whole MSG. Proposed date is on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ In October the validation will take place in Suriname. The secretariat sent reporting templates on stakeholder engagement and also outcome and impact templates. The deadline is July 19<sup>th</sup> so the constituencies still have one week left.
- ✓ This meeting was supposed to be a physical meeting but due to the fact that next month the pre-validation team wants to meet the whole msg in persons this meeting is now virtually. This is to give the msg members time to prepare for the physical next month.
- ✓ We have not received a response from Daniela yet regarding the rotating chairmanship between the companies.
- ✓ No response yet from Sagita about the civil society statement.
- ✓ The ToR for the communication specialist firm that was approved at the last meeting was sent to the coordinator of the SCDS project. They will be doing the procurement of the firm.

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- ✓ At the last meeting we spoke about the contribution of EITI Suriname over the years 2022 and 2023. We only have to pay the contribution over these years and the EITI Secretariat Oslo hopes to receive these payments as soon as possible. These contributions are used to give assistance to the implementing countries.
- ✓ We spoke to BDO about a meeting with some of the MSG members about the presentation of June 9<sup>th</sup> and BDO will get back to us on a date.
- ✓ We also send the transparency templates to BDO about EITI reporting and they will get back to us on that. They say it takes a lot of time to fill out these documents. We hope to have updates soon.

### **3. Short presentation by consultant Jasna Kortram about the setting up of a reporting data repository at the secretariat**

Rayah welcomed the consultant Jasna Kortram and gave her the opportunity to do a short presentation.

Jasna thanked the MSG for this opportunity and shared that the aim is to facilitate the process of reporting and data gathering to have a system in place which guarantees reporting in a timely manner and having the reconciliation process which is usually done at the end of the year with the validation. The aim is to do that more periodically and to have a central place where the data is being stored, managed and analyzed. That is what will be done together with the Secretariat for the coming three months with the ultimate aim to have a data presented in a timely manner and with regard to the financial data differences being sought out in a timely manner and to have a central place where data is stored and being kept for reporting purposes.

Some of the MSG members had questions about this topic.

*Rayah:* What the timeline for the assignment?

Jasna answered that she started last month and will go on until the end of September.

*Tosca:* What kind of data are we speaking of because financial data was also mentioned?

Jasna answered that it would be data with regard to the report, financial data but also contextual data. The aim is to have a central data center. All the

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data regarding this project is being kept and a central point of focus for the Independent Administrator.

*Mark* what will happen once the database has been set up?

Will we be able continue to access the information?

How do we ensure that? Does the MSG get a test drive of what the database will look like?

Jasna answered that the information will be monitored by the Secretariat so it would mean that all the stakeholders would deliver their data and the Secretariat would do the uploading in the data center. Yes a test drive will be given.

*Rayah* asked if this would be system for which hosting has to be paid annually.

Jasna answered that cloud services will be used but nothing that needs subscriptions.

*Rayah* stated that that's what happened in the past for example the drop box was paid for a year and then when they stopped paying everything stopped. Rayah also asked whether there was anything that Jasna would need from the MSG at any point or is the counterpart mainly the secretariat?

Jasna answered that she will mainly be in contact with Secretariat but also with Ministry of Finance. She had already been in contact with Tina.

*Michiel*: Will this database be accessible to the public or will this database be used as the sole purpose of gathering date for the report and drafting and publishing development validation and other purposes.

Jasna answered the latter because it would not be accessible for the public but solely for the Secretariat.

*Tosca* asked if this database would be something like an archive documenting system.

Jasna answered that it could be something like that on one part but another part is also to facilitate the process of validation which means that in order to have a system in place you would also need to have checks being done on the reliability of the data for example the reconciliation between funds received by the government and funds being paid by the entities.

Rayah and Michiel thanked Jasna for this short introduction.

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#### **4. Status validation process and upcoming pre-validation mission August 2023**

Rayah moved on to the next agenda point and said that the Secretariat has made some announcements on this topic and asked what the status was regarding the stakeholder engagement templates for the July 19<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Michiel said that on the company's part there was some email contact between him, Mike and Bernadette on how to approach the matter of filling out the reporting templates. Somewhere along the line it was the only three big companies so the Secretariat was contacted to find out how to get in touch with SHMR and Grassalco.

Ms. Abigail from Grassalco contacted Michiel and had to explain in short about EITI and what the EITI process is, how it works and what was expected for the filling out of the templates but the representative said that she probably was not the one to represent. She would find out and be calling back, but she did not.

Michiel had been in contact with the other representatives from the companies' constituency but other than Mark, Mike and Bernadette he did not receive any responses yet.

The government constituency explained that they had a virtual call this morning and they will try to have the template filled out and hopefully to send by July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding Civil Society constituency they have not worked on the template yet but they will submit it by the deadline.

#### **5. Any other business**

Rayah asked if there are other questions or important steps that needs be taken care of.

*The secretariat* explained to the MSG that Esteban is a bit concerned about the 19 recommendations because in the report almost everything is stated no progress and that does not look good for the coming validation in October. After this meeting the list with the corrective actions will be shared again

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with the MSG. Clyde told us that the corrective actions were sent earlier because the validation should have been in April 2023 but was postponed to October this year. What the secretariat asks of the MSG is that if there is known progress anywhere on the corrective actions that it is shared so that the blanks can be filled as much as possible.

*Mark* was just wondering about this because the MSG had addressed some of the issues mentioned and asked whether some of the other members who have been on the MSG longer might be able to comment on this.

*Rayah*: I think what might have also been the case was that the independent administrator might have given the state of affairs as per a certain date so that is what I think might have happened. I'd have to double check the way they formulated it in the report so it might be that a certain earlier date for example six or eight months ago that that was the state of affairs but that in the last few months that there might have been some problems although I don't expect anything really groundbreaking.

*Michiel* said some work has been done and it was supposed to be included no matter how small so now we as MSG have to look at how the recorded chapters were formulated.

*Mark* suggested that the MSG has a look at the templates for each constituency and attack those outstanding issues, also work together on the outlook and outcomes templates.

Michiel even agreed with this and asks that everyone responsible for their part should work on that so that all the documents can be completed on time.

*Michiel* stated that it's important that the chairmanship of the MSG is addressed and carried out as soon as possible. There are a number of issues that need addressing and at this time people should respond if they are in agreement with the proposal on the chairmanship and get it done preferably before the pre-validation team arrives.

*Mark* stated that at the last meeting the decision was made that the private sector constituency would fill in the chairmanship for a year.

*Novella* stated that this was correct but still the secretariat did not receive a schedule of the rotating chairmanship e.g. which company will be the chairman the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and so on and how long. Mark would talk to Daniela and schedule a meeting with the other members of the private sector constituency and have a schedule at the next meeting.

*Michiel* reminded the members to think carefully about the period they are going to be chair because the validation period will be a very busy one and also suggested that the company who takes the period of the validation should sit through the validation process until January or February.

*Mark* suggested the mining sector to go first and then have a talk with Daniela and decide their turn.

*Michiel* will be checking with Bernadette on this one and brief the MSG at the next meeting. Bernadette is on the mine site for some days so after that he will be contacting her.

*The Secretariat* announced that there were no comments on the ToR of the communication Specialist firm and also not on the procurement process from SDCS PIU. The ToR was sent to the SDCS PIU. After the procurement specialist has revied the ToR we will be getting feedback on mentioned matter.

*The Secretariat* also reminded the MSG that comments on the statement of Civil Society on the Pikin Saron conflict were not received. NewMont, Zijin and Finance still have to submit comments on the statement.

*Rene* stated that he was a little disappointed with the slow reaction and no reaction at all. He wanted feedback from the MSG because this issue was not one we have normally but he expected more support from the other constituencies. Rene said that certain things have to be reacted upon at the moment it is happening because people need to know what is happening and one of the tasks of the MSG is to address these issues and has to be published nationally and internationally. He asked that this issue to be mentioned in the annual report 2025.

He asked if this issue was mentioned in Senegal because the validation will ask stakeholders about this and it will be mentioned.

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*Mark* asked what the status was on the procurement on the Independent Administrator for the 2021 and 2022 EITISR report.

The secretariat answered that the ToR was sent to the SDCS and have received word that the procurement specialist is working on ToR at this moment. When they have questions and or comments the secretariat will be notified. This will be the same with the ToR of the specialist firm.

*Mark* stated his concern because the reconciliation reports need to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The MSG needs to get an idea when BDO will sign and start working on the reports.

*The secretariat* answered that it will not be possible to have the reports by December because BDO was supposed to sign the contract in June in order to be done in January. This was the status when the ToR was sent.

Mark expressed the importance of having the reports on time to avoid being suspended.

## **6. Adjournment**

Before Rayah adjourned the meeting she wished everyone good luck with filling out the templates and for keeping the deadline of July 19<sup>th</sup> in mind and invites all the members to be at the physical meeting as much as possible with the pre-validation team on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.