

MSG meeting # 6

Location : Teams Online
Date : August 6th , 2025
Time : 13.00u – 14.26 hrs.
Chair : Bernadette Cederboom

MINUTES

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP SURINAME

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	X		
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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AGENDA

1. Opening remarks
Certification of quorum
2. Announcements and correspondence
3. Minutes July 23rd 2025
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Approval
 - c. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Preparation presentation EITI reporting 2021-2022
5. Status preparation report 2023-2024
6. Discussion Chair MSG
7. Annual Progress report 2024
 - a. Set workshop date
8. Communication funding World Bank
9. Status funding by the US Embassy
10. Any other business
11. Adjournment

Upcoming events:

Presentation EITI report 2021-2022 August 19, 2025

Next proposed MSG meeting September 3rd 2025

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1. Opening remarks

Certification of Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Bernadette, who confirmed the presence of a quorum at 13.08 hrs. and introduced the agenda.

2. Announcements and correspondence

- ✓ Novella informed the MSG that she has formed a small working group- consisting of Sagita, Henk, Michiel, and Roy-to draft a one-page document in Dutch. This document will be distributed to participants at the upcoming presentation of the 2021/2022 EITI Report. The email with instructions has already been sent to the working group.
- ✓ Michiel agreed to provide feedback on the one-pager at a later stage.
- ✓ Sagita notified the group that she would be leaving the meeting early due to another commitment.

3. Minutes July 23rd, 2025

a. Discussion

b. Approval

c. Matters arising from the minutes

- ▣ Organize the presentation of EITI report 2021/22
Discussed at agenda point 4
- ▣ Workplan (WP) 2025/2026
Some comments were received by members stating the importance of mentioning the new ministry of oil, gas & environment in the WP.
- ▣ Annual Progress Report 2024
Discussed at agenda point 7
- ▣ Discussion of a chair
Discussed at agenda point 6
- ▣ Update from SCSD on contract signing for report 2023/2024
No updates available. The Coordinator is on leave till August 12th, 2025.
- ▣ Request courtesy call to the Vice President of Suriname
Bernadette emphasized the importance of formally requesting a courtesy call with the Vice President and proposed drafting an official letter.
Monique, currently abroad, indicated she had already provided several date options for a meeting.
Michiel supported the idea of the meeting but advised caution regarding the issues to be discussed. Michiel will send a courtesy draft letter to the Secretariat.

- ✚ Crucial stakeholders

The crucial stakeholders will be invited to the presentation of EITI report 2021/2022. Michiel noted that clarity on the engagement's objectives is critical for effective preparation. He suggested hosting a preliminary session to emphasize the importance of stakeholder involvement in the EITI process.

- ✚ Members clarified that references should be made to the Green Development Strategy instead of a National Development Plan. More information on the strategy will be obtained following the establishment of the new Ministry of Oil, Gas & Environment.

- ✚ The draft letters requesting funding for EITI activities have not yet been sent. This activity remains pending.

With the discussion and addressing of the action points the minutes of **July 23rd, 2025**, **were approved** by the members present.

4. Preparation presentation EITI reporting 2021-2022

Novella provided an update, noting that funding for the presentation had been secured from the Ministry of Natural Resources' Mining Department of SRD 15,545 and a contribution from Staatsolie of SRD 20,000.00.

5. Status preparation report 2023-2024

There is no new information regarding the status of the procurement process for the Independent Administrator for the 2023/2024 EITI Report. MSG reporting entities are encouraged to begin gathering their data to ensure a head start once the process begins.

6. Discussion Chair MSG

Bernadette expressed concerns about the current system of rotating MSG chairmanship and proposed a move toward a more stable leadership model. Michiel agreed, citing challenges under the current system and suggested a review of the MSG's Terms of Reference.

Rayah and Roy revisited the idea of appointing an external chair, a proposal previously discussed but not pursued due to budgetary constraints. Sagita confirmed the financial limitations.

Michiel proposed a dual approach: firstly, the MSG should inform the Minister about the current situation along with recommendations of potential candidates, and secondly, Vice Chairs should be appointed for each constituency. Bernadette noted that while the MSG can recommend a candidate for Chair, the final appointment lies with the Minister.

Monique emphasized the need to appoint three Vice Chairs to ensure consistent leadership. Novella explained that while the Council of Ministers can cover the chair's compensation, the current remuneration of SRD 5,000 is seen as inadequate. Michiel warned that this amount may not be attractive enough for qualified candidates and suggested a discussion with the Minister to consider increasing the amount.

Bernadette suggested talking to the World Bank about funding the Chair. Sagita raised concerns about the feasibility of hiring a chair, given that World Bank funds cannot be used for salary payments. Michiel concurred, noting the importance of preparing a range of proposals for the Minister. If payment of the MSG-Chair is not included in the scope of the World Bank Project, chances are they may not approve this request, but the MSG can still table the request to them and see how it goes. He added that any salary costs need to be budgeted by the government.

7. Annual Progress report 2024

a. Set workshop date

Novella underlined the urgency, citing inquiries from the EITI International Secretariat. Georgetine noted potential scheduling conflicts due to ongoing parliamentary discussions on the 2025 national budget.

The group discussed scheduling the workshop for either August 14th or 15th. A date was set for the workshop: **Thursday, August 14th, from 09:00 to 12:00 hrs.** Bernadette and Georgetine will check the availability of their respective meeting rooms. The following members have confirmed their attendance at the workshop:

- Georgetine
- Bernadette
- Sagita
- Michiel (available after 09.00hrs)
- Rayah (available before 11.00hrs)
- Henk
- Rafiq
- Vanessa
- Rene

Other members still have to indicate their availability.

8. Communication funding World Bank

Novella reported that, according to the SCSD Coordinator, the communication procedure is expected to commence in August. She had no further updates on this matter. Bernadette emphasized the importance of securing financing for the EITI Desk.

9. Status funding by the US Embassy

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A meeting was held last week Friday with Economic Officer Chris from the U.S. Embassy and his assistant. There may be a small window of opportunity to secure funding for the EITI proposal that was submitted. Further details will be shared with the MSG as soon as more information becomes available.

10. Any other business

Neither Preciosa nor Sagita has received a draft contract for the 2023/2024 EITI reporting cycle. Further information will be available once the SCSD Coordinator returns from leave after August 12th.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 14.26 hrs.

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 *Daniela *Novella *Varsha	Meeting to be held August 7 th with the working group members. Bernadette to arrange the meeting to discuss preparations in detail. Outcome to be shared with the MSG.	In Progress
2.	Working group one pager for EITI presentation	Working group: *Sagita *Michiel *Henk *Roy	All information shared. Deadline August 12 th . One pager in Dutch	Pending

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