

MSG meeting 2024 # 6

Teams

June 13th, 2024

12.00- hrs. – 13.10 hrs.

Chair: Bernadette Cederboom

MINUTES

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP

SURINAME

EITI Suriname

Email: info.seiti.2017@gmail.com

Website: eitisuriname.org

Tel.No: 520761 / 8446612

Address: Prins Hendrikstraat #12

Certification of quorum:

Apologies were noted from:

Preciosa Simons

Daniela Herkul

Suraksha Hirasingh

Sagita Jaggan

Georgetine Tjalim

Novella Alcantra – Majana

Rene Artist

Tosca Pinas

Michiel Raafenberg

Vikaash Soerdjbalisingh

Henk Deel

Present	Absent without notice
<p><u>GOVERNMENT</u></p> <p><u>COMPANIES</u></p> <p>Mark Regis Bernadette Cederboom Vanessa Breidel Adriaan Asodanoe Kathleen Blom</p> <p><u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u></p> <p>Monique Essed- Fernandes Rayah Bhattacharji Roy Caupain</p> <p><u>SECRETARIAT</u></p> <p>Jenusah Sanné Varsha Jhagroe ** There was some confusion with the starting time of the MSG meeting that is why there were so many members absent.</p>	

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AGENDA

1. Opening remarks
 Certification of quorum
2. Announcements and correspondences
3. Minutes May 8th, 2024
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Approval
 - c. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual Progress Report 2023
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Approval
5. Draft EITI open data policy
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Approval
6. Validation Assessment outcomes
7. Update recruitment Independent Administrator
8. Any Other Business
9. Adjournment

Upcoming events:

Lac invitations to the MSG:

EITI 2023 Standard, Session 4: New Social and Environmental Provisions

Training session on the new social and environmental provisions of the EITI Standard 2023, particularly relevant for Latin America given the growing importance of these issues in the region. The session will be held on **Thursday, June 13, 2023 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM** (Oslo time). **Local time:**

- Paramaribo, Suriname: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The session will be held on the **Zoom platform**. To register, please click on the following link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMucu6hqDwtG9l2SyVq35RnMnMG9JqKpi_r

In this session the following topics will be covered:

Overview of the new social and environmental provisions of the EITI Standard 2023

- Examples and good practices of implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Opportunities and challenges for implementation in the region
- Q&A

Proposed date for next MSG meeting: July 9th, 2024

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1. Opening remarks

Certification of quorum

Bernadette welcomed the members to the meeting and stated that there was no quorum yet and waited for 5 more minutes. There was still no quorum at 12.05 hrs.

2. Announcements and correspondences

- On the 27th May the negotiation meeting with BDO took place. Present at the meeting were Novella, Clyde Griffith and 2 members of the PIU, the Procurement Specialist Jean van Eenaeme and Robin Ferrier and Lucinda Lie A Ling from BDO. The comments made by the technical team were discussed. In this meeting BDO assured to deliver a high-level report and will provide capacity building to EITI Suriname.
- There are still members who have not shared the recommendation letter from their organization and / or id card with us. The council of ministers already approved but the ministry will not get the approval letter until all the mentioned documents are sent.
- June 10th meeting with Jean van Eenaeme. Clyde cancelled due to another meeting. The NC stressed the decision of the MSG to van Eeneame that they want the contract signed with BDO as soon as possible. The MSG will monitor process and quality of the report closely. Jean van Eenaeme is not convinced of the proposal of BDO. Another meeting will be planned with Clyde Griffith to talk further about this.
- Yesterday EITI Suriname had a meeting with minister David Abiamfofo. The following topics have been discussed. The MSG members present were Bernadette, Tosca, Tine together with Novella and Varsha. Topics discussed are the performance of the National Secretariat and the MSG Challenges EITI Suriname faces, Procurement of the Independent Administrator and the collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- From June 5th till June 7th the Suriname Energy Oil and Gas Summit (SEOGS) took place. Later in the meeting this will be addressed.
- The National Coordinator will be at the National Coordinators meeting which will take place in Geneva next week. She will be on leave after that until June 27th.
- Civil Society members and State Owned company members and the National Coordinator are invited to the training in Strengthening SOEs Governance and Responsible Commodity Trading in Latin America and the Caribbean in the

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context of the energy transition which will take place on July 2nd and 3rd in Colombia. Vanessa, Rene, Novella and Tosca will attend this training.

- After the announcements were made, Bernadette added 2 more agenda points to be discussed in today's meeting: agenda point Meeting with the minister of Natural Resources on June 11th 2024 a brief information on this meeting.

Also agenda point brief information about the meeting with two representatives of the US Aid.

3. Minutes May 8th 2024

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

Because there was no quorum, the minutes could not be approved by the members. The MSG suggested the members send their approval through email. In this meeting Bernadette, Kathleen, Rayah, Mark and Vanessa already approved the minutes.

4. Annual Progress Report 2023

- a. Discussion
- b. Approval

The Annual Progress Report was put in a drive by Novella, so everyone was asked to put their comments there. After everyone has put their comments, a rewording will be done on the document and made more professional. Members who were not present today will be asked to approve this document via email.

5. Draft EITI open data policy

- a. Discussion
- b. Approval

In the last MSG meeting during the presentation of the draft open data policy, there was a document presented by Mark. Not all MSG members have given their consent on this. There was still no response from the companies on the new EITI standards. Newmont does support the EITI, but Bernadette can't give her consent yet on the new standards. For today's meeting a majority vote could not be taken because there was no quorum. This will be done in the next quorum meeting. Mark suggested to look through pages 2 to 4 to agree and accept, and look at these requirements. Members are asked to review again so that the adoption of the draft open data policy can be finalized in the next MSG meeting.

6. Validation assessment outcome

The Secretariat has placed all the contributions from the workshop from the different groups in one document. Because there was no quorum today, the members suggested to work in small group sessions on this document. Mark suggested to work with small group approach, to look at the recommendations and agree on an action plan on these recommendations.

7. Update recruitment Independent Administrator

There were some updates mentioned on this topic in the announcements. In short the follow up meeting with Clyde and the procurement officer with BDO was cancelled. Although the MSG said to agree on the comments from BDO, there were some hesitations on the side of the procurement officer.

8. Any other business

Update on the two meetings held last week.

The meeting with the minister of Natural resources,

In this meeting were present Novella, Bernadette, Tosca, Georgetine and Varsha. At the meeting there was said that the MSG is very satisfied with the performance of the Secretariat. There was also mentioned a meeting between EITI Suriname and the US Embassy, including Mr. Christopher Valdes and Ms. Lesly Eldridge. The US Embassy is willing to provide support to EITI Suriname and has opened a funding window. EITI Suriname needs to submit a project proposal to receive this support.

The minister emphasizes the need to avoid situations, like the suspension of Suriname, in the future and suggests meeting with the SCSD PIU Coordinator, Clyde, the following week.

Action point: *Meet with Clyde and MSG to address this promptly. Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 18th, at 2:00 PM.*

Other topics discussed were Raising awareness among Indigenous and Maroon communities is crucial, requiring an active website and community engagement and MSG stresses the importance of organizing the artisanal mining sector, which falls under NH's purview. The minister explains the delay in formalizing the OKGS unit but mentions the establishment of a committee and the necessity of EITI Suriname representation.

(For more info on this meeting see attached file)

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The meeting with the US Delegates

In this meeting some highlights were: The US delegation informed that funding, technical assistance and capacity building may be available for the MSG with set parameters and conditions.

The US delegation was also appraised on the progress made on the national EITI front, reporting and validation. The condition the MSG must meet is to present a detailed plan how to execute the programs and explicit political will that the Surinamese Government will support the plans and aide in their successful execution.

(For more info on this meeting see attached file)

9. Adjournment

Bernadette thanked the members for the efficient meeting and adjourned at 13.10 hrs.

Action points after this meeting

No	Action points	Responsible	Remarks	Status
1	Comments on the Draft Open Data Policy	MSG	email comments for approval next quorum meeting	Approved
2	Approval of minutes May 8th	MSG	Email approval	Approved
3	Annual Progress Report 2023	Mark/Betty	Professional rewording Approval via email	Approved
4	Validation assessment outcome	MSG, NS	Some MSG members will work on this.	In progress