

MSG meeting 2024 # 9

Teams

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

13.07- hrs. – 14:15 hrs.

Chair: Bernadette Cederboom

## MINUTES

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative  
MULTI STAKE HOLDERS GROUP SURINAME



**Certification of quorum:**

Apologies were noted from:

Tosca Pinas (studies abroad until November 2025)

Present	Absent without notice
<b><u>GOVERNMENT</u></b> Georgetine Tjalim Sagita Jaggan Rachele van der Scheur Henk Deel Rafiq Ilahi	<b><u>GOVERNMENT</u></b> Preciosa Simons
<b><u>COMPANIES</u></b> Bernadette Cederboom Vanessa Breidel Daniela Herkul Mark Regis Michiel Raafenberg Kathleen Blom	<b><u>COMPANIES</u></b> Adriaan Asodanoe
<b><u>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</u></b> Rayah Bhattacharji Monique Essed - Fernandes Rene Artist Roy Caupain	
<b><u>SECRETARIAT</u></b> Novella Alcantra – Majana Varsha Jhagroe Jenusah Sanné	
<b><u>GUEST</u></b> Andrew Hepburn (Shell) As of January 1 <sup>st</sup> new MSG member, replacing Mark Regis.	

## **AGENDA**

1. Opening remarks  
Certification of quorum
2. Announcements and correspondences
3. Update on Minutes June 13<sup>th</sup> and Minutes August 14<sup>th</sup> 2024
4. Minutes October 9<sup>th</sup> 2024
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Approval
  - c. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Status reporting years 2021/2022
6. Draft TOR on EITI reporting
7. Evaluation year 2024
8. Any other business
9. Adjournment

### ***Upcoming events:***

**LAC(Latin America & Caribbean) /NC/MSG consultation validation model**

**Date: December 12<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Time : 12.15-13.15 hrs.**

**Venue: Online Zoom**



## **AGENDA**

### **1. Opening remarks**

The chairman Michiel welcomed the members and started the meeting at 14.07 hrs. At 14.10 hrs. there was quorum.

### **2. Announcements and correspondences**

Announcements from the Secretariat:

- On October 29<sup>th</sup> from Mr. Karel Eckhorst gave a very interesting presentation. After the presentation the workshop determining the materiality threshold should have been held but due to overtime of the above-mentioned presentation another date will be set.
- EITI Suriname was invited by IDB to the knowledge exchange in Trinidad & Tobago. It was an insightful learning experience.  
On day one of this exchange Preciosa and Daniela were in a panel where they discussed topics on EITI as a catalysator for change: Addressing corruption in the extractives and state-owned enterprises, their responsibility and challenges in the governance of oil and gas and critical minerals.  
On the second day Bernadette gave a thorough recap of day one. Day two started with a National Coordinators session in which challenges of implementing EITI in Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the Dominican Republic were addressed.  
In the last panel of the day Rene addressed bringing data-use from a civil society perspective.  
Day three focused mainly on assessing the environmental impact of the extractive sector and the race to renewable energy.  
On the last day of the knowledge exchange participants had a field visit to the National Quarries Company Limited. National Quarries Company Limited is a fully state owned company and is a profitable, market-driven producer of quality aggregate operating safely and effectively while managing the environment. Two active mining sites , some abandoned sites and a rehabilitation site were visited.
- In Trinidad the team had the pleasure to meet with Mrs. Mel Flanagan from Nook. She visited Suriname after the event and met with the VIDS and with the National Secretariat to discuss ways to make the website user friendlier with graphics and such but also to bring the EITI message to indigenous communities. One of the VIDS villages will be a pilot in this project and this activity will be most likely funded by the IDB.
- The kick off meeting was held on November 26<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> capacity building workshop was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This was done in the context of creating EITI report 2021/2022.

- A draft was submitted to the US Embassy to fund EITI activities. In this draft 3 priorities were outlined. The priorities for next year are capacity building, data collection and storage, and awareness. A small group consisting of Novella, Kathleen, Bernadette and Mark have been working on this. An amount of USD 205.000,00 was budgeted in which 100.000 for awareness. The funds for this draft come from the [Fiscal Transparency Innovation Fund](#). Many projects from all over the globe are applying to the funds (any country that was assessed for the Fiscal Transparency Report is eligible) so it's a competitive fund.
- A letter was received from the International Secretariat that Suriname should ask for an extension for publishing EITI report 2021/2022 since the report will not be finished at the end of December 2024.
- The LAC session tomorrow will take place from 12.15-13.15 hrs. This session will give insights on the validation process and members can ask questions.

#### Announcements from the members:

- Monique indicated that an invitation "business engagement" from Newmont has been extended to EITI Suriname. Newmont presented a lot of disaggregated data. This could be used as a model for other companies.  
Some members expressed their gratitude towards Newmont for this invitation because EITI can learn a lot from their environmental strategies and the engaging strategies with communities. They also expressed more collaboration with Newmont needed especially learn from the way they report and present information. Some members also asked if the presentations which presented data could be shared with the members who were not present.
- Mark announced his stepping down from the MSG because at the oil and gas election he was replaced. He formally introduced Andrew Hepburn, his colleague from Shell, who will be taking over his place in the MSG.  
All the constituencies thanked Mark for his great contributions, continuous guidance, support and all the wisdom throughout the years in the MSG and welcomed Andrew in the MSG. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> Andrew will be the principal oil and gas constituency representative and this will be communicated in a formal letter to the National Secretariat. Mark will be staying on as the EITI advisor.

Andrew expressed his gratitude to Mark who has done a fantastic job and is looking forward to meet with the group and hopes to represent the constituency as best as he can.

### **3. Update on Minutes June 13<sup>th</sup> and Minutes August 14<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Rene and Roy were the ones who needed to approve the minutes. In the meeting they approved the minutes of the above-mentioned meetings.

#### **4. Minutes October 9<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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

Members need more time to review the minutes. Bernadette has sent comments and the secretariat will include these comments in the minutes.

The members decided to review the minutes and send comments to the national secretariat by December 18<sup>th</sup> 2024. If by that time there are no comments received the minutes are deemed to be approved and will be closed off.

#### **5. Status reporting years 2021/2022**

Since Michiel has not been very active the past three months he asked support from the MSG or the secretariat to lead on this agenda item and to give a quick recap on the status of the reporting, the preparation and from there on exchange views.

Novella gave a brief recap on the progress of EITI report 2021/2022:

- The contract with BDO is signed;
- The kick off meeting was held;
- The first capacity building has taken place;
- The stakeholder meetings are scheduled through the national secretariat;
- Some members already had video call stakeholder meetings with BDO;
- The secretariat has weekly meetings with BDO on Tuesdays about the progress and
- At this point we are on track with the proposed schedule.

Bernadette added that BDO has a schedule in which they meet individually with reporting entities and Newmont already had a stakeholder meeting with BDO and their UK counterpart David Quinn.

Michiel informed the meeting that Rosebel participated in the kick off and the capacity building session. He involved the financial data analyst from the Finance Department who deals with the data, financial detail and so on. Rosebel also had the stakeholder meeting with BDO and as far as financial data is concerned they have established a structure with the Ministry of Finance. Reconciliation of data is done on a monthly basis aiming at minimizing the workload and the burden when it comes to EITI reporting. Michiel is a bit concerned because they have not received the templates yet.

Michiel also raised an issue which was put on the table by the secretariat about the extension letter that has to be sent to the International Secretariat since the report 2021/2022 will not be finished by the end of December. A letter has to be drafted and the aim is to send this letter before Christmas. The permanent secretary of Natural Resources and the secretariat are tasked with communicating this to the minister since he will have to sign this letter also. Michiel and Kathleen will work with Novella to draft this letter.

Monique informed the meeting that Projekta also had a stakeholder meeting with BDO. At first BDO wanted to postpone the meeting and postpone it to somewhere in February but they strongly objected to this. Apparently BDO had a perception that Civil Society was not relevant in this phase of the process of EITI reporting. Monique managed to convince them differently by explaining to them that in this phase it is very important for Civil Society to be in conversation because BDO is now working on the scope of the report. Some of the broader issues as social development and data could be available for the report. She wanted to express that after all it was a productive meeting with BDO after the explaining the role of Civil Society in the whole process. She added that the concerns raised came from a person who was new to the BDO group.

In addition, in terms of reporting Monique took the initiative to set up the subgroup and expressed gratitude that so many members joined. She and Mark have sent out materiality documents to give some sense of urgency in what needs to be done. If the MSG is serious about having the EITI 2021/2022 report ready in six months then the MSG is required to define the materiality for these years as soon as possible.

The members' proposed deadline to define the materiality for BDO is set by mid-January 2025 at the latest.

Michiel expressed that Civil Society in the MSG has always been an inclusive body and integral part thereof and has always been an important part to the EITI process. He complimented Monique on making this clear when met with BDO. He further expressed that Civil Societies' participation in the MSG remains vigilant, strong and must improve and should not be eroded because people have certain perceptions. Important is that it should be made clear that everybody in the MSG is equally important. He concluded that he was very surprised that this happened.

Civil Society members answered that it is probably the accountancy perceptive that since it had to do with mostly getting the data as soon as possible Civil Society has not much to do with that.

Some members expressed that this was not correct and it had never been an issue before with this same firm that has produced all the EITI Suriname reports before. The members decided that this goes for the record that Civil Society's position in the process is not up for discussion, not negotiable and that they are part of the process from start to finish. This should be communicated with whomever will help creating EITI reports in the future.

Rachele mentioned also having the stakeholder conversation with BDO. BDO will be requesting data mostly from the GMD. The project which is financing the publishing of this EITI report is the SCDD so BDO is going to have a stakeholder meeting also with the component coordinator Clyde. This is her first time with BDO and she was wondering if they really are in touch with the Suriname circumstances. Rachele was not surprised with what Projekta experienced with BDO. She believed that BDO was not in touch with the reality, circumstanced and how things are. When it comes to data and to certain groups that will definitely have an influence in this whole initiative. She was a bit surprised that BDO was not quite familiar with certain questions. She is

asking if they are orienting in this first meeting to come up with some kind of framework in which frame, they will conduct this whole audit. Rachele had some questions like:

- Is BDO aware of the challenges Suriname faces?
- Is BDO aware of some of the stakeholders who are not in the front?
- Was the BDO group just new or just oblivious?

Maybe it has to do with accounting and numbers but Civil Society has a very vital role in this whole initiative. Especially when looking how the industries are conducted and what kind of influence these platforms have. The minister of Natural Resources will be informed and urged to talk to his management when it comes to the Mining Department to provide the required data to BDO.

Michiel stated that BDO has been preparing reports since 2016. All the EITI reports that have been published have been prepared by BDO so they are supposed to be familiar with the process. Since BDO brought in new people to prepare the report it is their responsibility to brief them about the procedures. Michiel suggested to pick this conversation up in the next meeting and to formally address this issue to make sure this is not repeated.

Daniela informed the meeting that their meeting with BDO is postponed till the coming Friday. It is very disappointing to hear that this happened again. BDO should know better since they have been producing the EITI reports for Suriname since the beginning.

## **6. Draft TOR on EITI reporting**

From the Secretariat the following update was given on the ToR:

The secretariat has asked help from Jessica from the International Secretariat because up to date no comments on the ToR were received by the MSG. Jessica is on leave till January 17 and will after that schedule an appointment and go through the ToR with us. Several members will be asked to join this meeting so we can finish this ToR. This because we need to send the ToR to the SCSD PIU so they can start procurement on time.

The previous ToR was sent on time but we have seen how long the procurement for report 2021/2022 took and this time it will not be direct selection but a selected group of National and International persons/firms will have the opportunity to participate in the procurement process. A list with persons/ firms was already sent to SCSD but it will be sent again when the TOR for the next report is approved.

Michiel suggested that the members give their comments and fill out the blanks before meeting with Jessica. Members promised to review the TOR and send in comments to the Secretariat the first week of January 2025.

Bernadette reminded the MSG that there are several issues like the validation comments, the defining the materiality and the TOR for EITI reporting. Looking at the issues she proposed to prioritize the validation comments and determining materiality over the ToR. She proposed to



have a meeting next week December 18<sup>th</sup> from 11.00 to 15.00 hrs. at the Newmont Office to address these priorities.

Michiel reminded that December is a very busy month for all members and asked if the meeting for next week is possible. Monique suggested the meeting to take place next week as was proposed because one of the requirements for defining the materiality is that the discussions need to be recorded.

Members agreed that whoever is available will join the discussion on materiality and also that the members have the option to send comments before the meeting next week. A link will be provided to Mark and Andrew if they are available to join. Members are asked to sent in their availability either physically or virtually due to logistics.

### **7. Evaluation year 2024**

Michiel urged the members to work on the progress report 2024. Members agreed on reviewing the 2023 progress report, if there is need for improvement or additions, the evaluation of the validation report and the evaluation of workplan 2024. Michiel proposed that members volunteer in a working group to start working on this report.

Members proposed to have this report ready by the end of January 2025.

### **8. Any other business**

Members were reminded of the LAC(Latin America & Caribbean) /NC/MSG consultation validation model, which will take place on Date: December 12<sup>th</sup> 2024, Time : 12.15-13.15 hrs. Venue: Online Zoom. Michiel urged members to participate as much as possible.

Kathleen and Michiel volunteered to write the draft letter of extension for EITI report 2021/2022.

### **9. Adjournment**

Michiel thanked everyone for participating and contributing to this meeting. Also wishing all Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025. He adjourned the meeting at 13.11 hrs.

