SLEITI
Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative
Sierra Leone
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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Draft Minutes of SLEITI MSG Quarter Two Meeting held on 27th June 2024
VENUE: Conference Room – Office of the Vice President, Tower Hill

Attendance:

Government:	**Civil Society:**	**Chamber:**	**Secretariat**
Hon Manty Tarawalli – OVP- Chair	Esther Kandeh -WoME-SL;	Tommy Kaiza Koker – Sierra Diamonds Ltd	Mohamed B. Koroma - Secretary
Sheku B. Samai - OVP;	Dorcas Sitta Dauda - WoME- SL;	Kumba S.Feika - Koidu Ltd;	Mohamed F. Conteh
Ramadan Sawaneh- OVP	BoimaMonyeh – WoNES-SL	Aminata Kamara-Marampa Mines Ltd.	Nadine Manley
Christiana Moiwo – PD-SL;	Cecilia C. Mattia –NACE		Alie Brima Kamara
Samuel Gandi – ONS	Joseph R. Kailie – NACE		Deborah Massaquoi
Isatu Barbar Bah – NMA/PMT	Samuel J. Turay-WoNES;		Marian Turay
Amidu Kamara-NMA/PMT	Abu B. Brima - NMJD		Mahawa Bai Kamara
Peter Mangoh - ASSL;	Emmanuel Gbondo Esq. – NaRGEJ-SL		Joseph Moigua
Mabinty Sesay - MMMR;			Sahr D. Karku
Tombo Kamara- CAC			
Sarah Kosseh- MLGCA			

Apology: Aphonso B.M. Gbanie–HRDN-SL; Solomon M. Sogbandi- HRDN-SL; Ramatu Massaquoi- EPA-SL; Mohamed Salisu- MoF; Amadu Mansaray- PD-SL; Husinatu Yilla- SRL

Agenda

1. Prayer & Opening
2. Reading of minutes of the meeting of 27/02/ 2024
3. Matters arising from minutes of 27/02/2024
4. Review and signing of SLEITI MSG MoU (2024 - 2027)
5. Update on production of 2022-2023 SLEITI Report - Funding gap
6. Beneficial Ownership Implementation (Peer Learning Exchange to Liberia)
7. Update on draft SLEITI Bill (Extractive Resources Transparency Bill)

8. Capacity Building for MSG members - In-country visit by the EITI or Virtual workshop
9. Update on National Coordinator & EITI Board meetings in Geneva
10. Other Business:
    i. *National Coordinator workshop in Zambia - 2nd - 6th September 2024*
    ii. *SLEITI Secretariat staff update*
11. Adjournment

1. Prayers & Opening

The meeting was called to order by the National Coordinator of SLEITI, Mohamed Baimba Koroma, and apologized for not starting on time due to the late attendance of a few MSG members. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of State, Office of the Vice President, Hon. Manty Tarawalli who is also chair of the SLEITI MSG.

The meeting commenced at10:33am with a brief remark by the Chair, who welcomed members and requested for individual silent prayers to be observed. Immediately after the observance of individual silent prayers, she asked members to introduce themselves because she noticed that there were few new faces present in the meeting.

2. Reading of Minutes of the Meeting of 27th February 2024.

The Hon. Minister of State, led members through the process of reading the minutes of the quarter one meeting held on the 27thof February 2024. Even though the minutes were shared with members ahead of the meeting, it was projected on the screen for ease, and read page by page. There being no corrections, the minutes were endorsed by members.

3. Matter arising from Minutes of 27th February 2024

Mohamed Farnando Conteh, led members through matters arising from the meeting of 27th February2024. During this session, he highlighted the following action points and updatesfrom the previous meeting:

i. Minister Manty Tarawalli to submit a concept note and flowchart on Beneficial Ownership (BO) disclosure to the Vice President.
ii. Minister Manty Tarawalli to engage large-scale and ASM companies on effective participation in the EITI process.
iii. SLEITI to engage Mr. Fasalli - NMA, and MMMR on clarity of ASM representation on the MSG.
iv. A one-day stakeholder consultative meeting to be held to finalize the draft work plan, followed by the MSG endorsement and publication.
v. Ministry of Fisheries to be invited to one of the MSG meetings to provide insight into the sector.
vi. To set up a meeting with the NMA, BSL, and other stakeholders involved in the collection and publication of production and export data to agree on a format for publication.

vii. The secretariat to extract areas related to the relevant MDAs, and share with those MDAs including engaging them to discuss and agree on action plans in addressing the relevant corrective actions.

Having stated the above and their subsequent updates by Mr. Conteh, the minister asked if there were any comments. With that, Mr. Abu Brima of Natural Resource Governance and Economic Justice Network (NaRGEJ) commented on the third point that borders on SLEITI to engage Mr. Fasalli, NMA, and MMMR on clarity of ASM representation on the MSG. He stated that the supply chain of the ASM is a bit long. He went on to state that, NMA and MMMR have a bigger role to play in organizing the ASM since there is a need for them to have total representation in the MSG. There were also suggestions by members of the MSG that, the NMA and MMMR should provide direction to the MSG in terms of whom to contact/engage to represent the ASM sector on the MSG. Following the deliberation, the representative from Precious Minerals Trading proposed that, she would contact the Director of Mines at the National Minerals Agency and update the MSG/Secretariat accordingly.

4. Review and signing of SLEITI MSG MoU (2024 - 2027)

Mr. Mohamed Baimba Koroma presented the draft MoU for members to review and possibly sign on behalf of the three constituencies on the MSG. The SLEITI MSG MoU covers 2024-2027. He went on to request for the three constituencies to nominate their representatives who will serve as signatories to the MoU. Madam Cecilia Mattia was selected to represent Civil Society, Mr. Kaizer Koker was nominated on behalf of the Chamber, whilst Minister Tarawalli was to sign on behalf of the Government. Mr. Abu Brima interjected and raised a concern that, page 3 of the MoU does not indicate or make room for the Vice Chair of the MSG. He further said, that since the MSG is a tripartite body, it would be prudent to also have a tripartite leadership representation in the MoU such as Chair and Vice Chair from either the CSO or Chamber. This opened room for members of the MSG to give the MoU a proper scrutiny where few inconsistencies were highlighted including the number of individual representations from each constituency which was deemed to not be balanced as government representation seems to be more. In response, the National Coordinator (NC) stated that, the Government representation might look more, but in fact, they are not, because they are individually representing their ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), and not by an umbrella group, unlike civil society and chamber of mines who are on the MSG representing a large consultum of other civil society groups and companies. The NC continued that, not all civil society organizations will be represented on the MSG. Thus, those representing should relay matters discussed to their constituent members for onward deliberations. He noted that at the just concluded National Coordinators and Board Members conference in Geneva, Switzerland, the need to refresh/rotate the civil society members was emphasized by the EITI International Secretariat to bring in new members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

With regards to the number of institutional representations, the NC stated that, the draft Bill made provision to have nine (9) representations per constituency. However, he expressed the challenge faced in deciding which three (3) of the current twelve (12) MDAs to drop. He stated that due to the various issues that may arise in the governance of the sector that require the MSG's response, the

relevant government institutions were added to provide adequate response to those issues. The NC also highlighted that, by the provisions of the new EITI Standard, other institutions such as the Minister of Energy, Gender, Financial Intelligence Unit, Bank of Sierra Leone, etc. could be added, but that would just further increase government representation. Following the discussion, the Secretariat was asked to set up a committee to review the MoU and align it with the draft Bill, which will then be presented to members at the next MSG meeting.

Below are the other points raised:

- The inconsistency with the use of chairman/chairperson was also highlighted which the NC agreed to amend during the MoU review so that the document is consistent with the use of the word "chair person"
- There was also the issue of "SHALL" and why not "SHOULD" referencing the role of the Secretariat and whether this is not overriding the MSG's mandate. The NC replied that it does not override the MSG as it is the MSG who directs the operations of the Secretariat. However, he promised that it would be looked into as part of the MoU review process.

5. Update on production of 2022-2023 SLEITI Report - Funding gap

The National Coordinator briefed members that, the process to procure the service of the Independent Administrator (IA) has been completed and it is now left for the contract to be signed.

The Minister informed members that, the IA initially charged $99,000 for the production of the 2022-2023 SLEITI report, but she is pleased that, the MSG negotiation committee negotiated and brought the production cost down to $75,000. Mr. Koroma thanked the committee and gave a summary of how the payment terms will be done for the production of the report. He stated that, in most government contract agreements, a 30% upfront payment is made upon signing of contracts. However, due to the lack of adequate funds, the payment terms will be done in four installments as follows:

- 1st installment payment of 30% of the agreed total amount upon approval by the MSG of the inception report.
- 2nd installment payment of 30% of the agreed amount upon approval by the MSG of the draft final report
- 3rd installment payment of 30% of the agreed amount upon approval of the final report
- 4th installment payment of 10% of the agreed amount upon approval by the MSG of the summary report and summary data template.

The NC emphasized that, time is of concern as only six months remain for the completion and publication of the SLEITI 2022-2023 report. He furthered that, the validation period has been extended to 1st January 2026, but that should not be seen as a leeway for complacency. The extension was given by EITI to ensure that, SLEITI followed the implementation of the 2023 EITI Standards. He said, the 2022-2023 Report will likely be used for the validation. He appealed to

members to make themselves available when emergency meetings are called to address issues relating to the report completion and publication.

Minister Tarawalli informed members that, funding constraints were now a reality because development partners such as the World Bank and others have reduced or stopped their support and funding to SLEITI report production. She continued that, a write-up is currently being put together to promote the values and benefits of EITI so that companies in the extractive industries would buy the idea of providing funding support to SLEITI. The funding partners are now requesting that EITI implementation should be incorporated into its national budget and be fully funded by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Abu Brima concluded that internal and external research on the values and benefits of EITI should be conducted. He said, if the benefits of EITI are glaring, more funding could be secured from members of the extractive industries.

Madam Cecilia Mattia requested that, the minister engage government entities and mining companies to mainstream EITI data as that will significantly reduce the cost of report production.

6. Beneficial Ownership Implementation (Peer Learning Exchange to Liberia)

Beneficial Ownership (BO) is one of the seven (7) corrective actions of the 2022 EITI validation. The NC updated members that, the trip to Liberia was facilitated and funded by GIZ as a way of addressing the corrective action on BO. He said the peer learning and exchange mission was attended by representatives from NMA, CAC, NRA, NACE, NMJD, FIU, MMMR, and SLEITI.

He said the key recommendations from the mission are:

1. To develop a BO Regulation that covers domestic companies, and
2. Establish a National BO Register.

He emphasized the need for Sierra Leone to develop a regulation and establish a national register. He stated that, the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) has confirmed that they already have a BO register, but will need to tweak it to accommodate the details that may be required by SLEITI. He said the CAC is ready to work closely with SLEITI and other stakeholders towards the establishment of the register.

Madam Cecilia Mattia of NACE gave a brief update on the trip that, the EITI in Liberia is anchored in the office of the presidency. She furthered that Liberia EITI has development partners who sit on the MSG but as observers only. She stated that, it was great learning, especially in the way Liberia developed it's Regulations and the key role played by the civil society (Publish What You Pay). However, she expressed dissatisfaction with the way participants were treated by GIZ, especially in the disbursement of funds. She said, had it not been for the interest of SLEITI, she would not have gone to Liberia, as participants were not treated with respect and were asked to collect their meal money on the roadside and some members were asked to pair up with others to share $50 or $100

notes. She insisted that proper collaboration and coordination are needed among government stakeholders and that, more stakeholders should be added to the BO technical working group to enhance the effectiveness of the MSG on the BO process.

Cecilia suggested that, the Liberia Act needed to be shared for learning and to see where some extractions can be drawn from to build up the SLEITI proposed Act. She said the sharing of knowledge between the two countries brings mutual benefits.

7. Update on draft SLEITI Bill (Extractive Resources Transparency Bill)

The Minister stated that, a committee should be set up to review the Bill and make input on behalf of the MSG. She said the current state of the Bill is like a "wish list". However, it will have to be presented to the Law Officers Department and Cabinet for proper scrutiny and ownership before it will be presented to Parliament. She further said, at present the Bill is a SLEITI bill, but after it would have gone through Cabinet, it will come out as a Presidential Bill ready to be endorsed by Parliament. She continued that, after the Bill would have gone through Cabinet's scrutiny and is taken to Parliament, MSG members should then be ready to lobby and explore all avenues to influence the passing of the Bill into law. She however cautioned that; it will take some time for the process to complete; therefore, patience has to be exercised by the MSG.

The NC said, through the support from NACE and ACEP, a stakeholder meeting was held at Mamba Point and at Parliament to review the Bill. He said the draft was shared with the EITI International Secretariat, ACEP, and MSG members. However, he said, only the EITI provided comments which have been incorporated. He said, since no other comments were received by members; it was assumed that, they were fine with the draft Bill. He also said that due to funding constraints to SLEITI, a provision of a certain percentages of funds to SLEITI by NMA, EPA, and MMMR were included in the Bill.

8. Capacity Building for MSG members - In-country visit by the EITI or Virtual workshop

The NC updated members that, the EITI International Secretariat is planning a virtual capacity workshop for MSG members which will be conducted in the first week of August 2024. He said, the focus will be on the new 2023 Standard, with a particular focus on energy transition, anti-corruption, and others. He said, details will be shared close to the date and encouraged members to register and participate. His appeal was echoed by the MSG Chair who said members will need to be fully capacitated on the new standard to be in a position to make informed decisions on EITI implementation in Sierra Leone.

9. Update on National Coordinator & EITI Board Meeting in Geneva

The NC informed members of the MSG that, the meeting in Geneva was attended by himself and the Minister of State, Office of the Vice President, who is also Chair of the MSG. He said,the meeting was very interactive and successful. He said, one of the key items was for the National Coordinators to approve the new Terms of Reference for EITI reporting. However, upon consultations among themselves, they resolved that, the EITI should give them more time to review

and understand the document including the consequences at validation. He informed members that, he was finalizing a report of the conference which he will share with the MSG. The Minister, in her brief update, emphasized that, Sierra Leone was recognized by the EITI Board in the Geneva meeting. She therefore encouraged members to continue the good work as it is being noticed by the relevant people. She furthered that funding constraint is not unique to Sierra Leone alone as her observation from the conference is that, most of the other implementing countries are also struggling with funding. She said as a new way of working going forward, the MSG needs to look at close collaboration with other prominent integrity institutions like ACC and must be willing to undertake studies on thematic areas instead of just focusing solely on the annual report as a way of communication extractive sector information to the public. She said, EITI is now looking at corruption, energy transition, revenue mobilization, gender, environment, etc. To this, Madam Cecilia stated that, there is a lot of work to do and civil society alone cannot push the EITI Standard. Therefore, the Government must give its full support to drive the EITI agenda.

10. Other Business

i. National Coordinators workshop in Zambia- 2nd – 6th September 2024

The NC informed members that the EITI International Secretariat will hold an in-person regional peer exchange for the Anglophone and Lusophone Africa region workshop in Lusaka, Zambia. The regional convening, themed "Harnessing Homegrown Revenues: Extractive Resource Transparency for Domestic Resource Mobilisation in Africa" is scheduled to take place from September 3rd to 5th 2024.

The NC informed members that, unlike the National Coordinators & EITI Board Meetings in Geneva that were limited only to the National Coordinator and Minister, the workshop in Lusaka, Zambia is open to MSG members, national coordinators, and stakeholders from other institutions. He encouraged members who are interested to participate, to register through the web link that will be shared by the Secretariat. He stated that to avoid any disappointment, interested participants who are yet to confirm their participation should register against the registration deadline date. The closing date for registration was Monday, 15th July 2024.

ii. SLEITI Secretariat Staff Update

The National Coordinator informed members that, there has been a recent recruitment of four staff; Finance Officer, Communication and Outreach Officer, Programme Officer, and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer by the Office of the Vice President (OVP) through the Human Resource Management Office (HRMO). This is as a result of the Office's previous assessment of the staff capacity at the secretariat in 2021, and the restructuring process that was ongoing in the other units under the OVP. The four staff were duly presented to the MSG. Madam Cecilia Mattia challenged the recruitment process on the basis that, the MSG was not informed nor involved in the process. The National Coordinator responded that the decision to recruit the four staff for the Secretariat was taken by the MSG at a previous meeting in 2021, and promised to share the minutes of the meeting with members. He added that, at that meeting, the MSG gave their blessing to the former MSG Chair – Madam Francess Piagie Alghali to include SLEITI with the other units in the restructuring process that was being undertaken for units under the Office of the Vice President. However, the

process was stalled due to the lengthy government procedures and budget constraints. The Minister added that, the Government protocols and procedures in the recruitment of its staff are different from other recruitments. She mentioned that, her understanding of the process is that, the MSG expresses the need to have staff recruited for the secretariat, and the recruitment process is exclusively left under the purview of the Government ensuring the exercise is conducted in a competitive, fair, and transparent manner, following Government procedures of recruitment.

Aminata Kamara and Kaizer Koker, representing the Chamber of Mines said, the Chamber does not have any problem with the OVP conducting recruitment for lower cadre staff of the Secretariat, especially so, when the MSG had already initially endorsed the recruitment of such staff. They stated that if the recruitment were for higher cadre staff like the National Coordinator, the MSG may have been fully involved in the process. Other Government representatives supported the point raised by the Chamber of Mines. However, Mr. Abu Brima disagreed and instead supported the point raised by Madam Cecilia Mattia. He said, the civil society constituent is not happy with the recruitment process and he thinks it should be reviewed. He said the precedent has been that, the MSG, with support from the Government, recruits secretariat staff including developing the terms of reference, setting of salary scale (as SLEITI is a specialist unit), form part of the interview process and hiring committee. Following brief exchanges of views on the recruitment process, it was agreed that the CSOs and the Minister of State should have a separate meeting to address the issue. This meeting was later held in the office of the Minister of State on Thursday, 4th July 2024 which was attended by Minister Manty, SLEITI NC, Abu Brima of NMJD, Raymond Kailie and Cecilia Mattia of NACE, Solomon Sogbandi of HRDN-SL, Esther Kandeh of WoME and Samuel Turay of WoNES.

With all the agenda items exhausted the Chair drew the cotton down for the end of the meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

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Signature of Chair

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Signature of Secretary

Action Points

No.	Action point	Update
1	*The SLEITI MSG MoU (2024 - 2027) should be reviewed by the SLEITI secretariat to be in sync withsome aspects that border on the same issues within theExtractive Resources Transparency Bill (SLEITI Bill)*	*This has been reviewed by the MSG Technical Committee and SLEITI Secretariat on 6th August 2024 at the SLEITI Conference room.*
2	*A Committee is to be set up to review the Extractive Resources Transparency Bill ensuring that it covers a wide range of areas that will facilitate the implementation of the EITI Standard*	*The committee was setup and has completed the review of the Draft Extractive Resources Transparency Bill on 6th August 2024.*
3	*Interested MSG members to register their interest for the workshop in Zambia from the 3rd-5th September 2024.* ***The closing date for registration is Monday, July 15th for all self-sponsored delegates.*** *SLEITI Secretariat will share the link with members as soon as possible.*	*Interested MSG members registered their names and attended the EITI Anglophone and Lusophone Africa Peer-Learning Dialogue workshop in Lusaka, Zambia on 3rd-5thSeptember 2024. The delegation from Sierra Leone included the SLEITI NC, Ramatu Massaquoi of EPA-SL, Gertrude Karimu of WoNES and Kenei Lamin of State House.*
4	*Madam Cecilia raised a concern about the recruitment of SLEITI staff without the consent and involvement of the MSG. After some discussions on the matter which still remained unresolved, it was agreed that the CSO constituency have a separate meeting with the Minister of State to address the matter*	*The meeting was held on the 4th July 2024 in the office of the Minister of State, which was attended by five of the six CSOs on the MSG. The meeting was successful and the issue was amicably resolved. It was agreed that going forward, the MSG will be adequately informed and involved of any recruitment accordingly.*