SLEITI Sierra Leone Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
17 Charles Street, Buxton Compound, 2nd Floor,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Website: www.sleiti.gov.sl

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Minutes of the SLEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group Meeting of Wednesday 17th July 2019

Venue - Office of the Vice President

Attendance

Government:	**Civil Society:**
Francess Piagie Alghali - Chair, OVP Abu Tarawallie - NRA Aruna Abu - ASSL Mohamed A. Sallieu - MoF Arnold W. Nottidge - NMA Ramatu B. Massaquoi - EPA,SL Price B. Williams – CAC Jozef Masseroli - NMA	Cecilia Mattia - NACE
Mining Companies: Adam Jano - SL Mining Patrick Lynch – SL Mining Kumba S. Feika - Koidu Limited	**Secretariat:** Mina Horace Mohamed F. Conteh

Apologies: Joe Rahall- Green Scenery, Abu Brima – NMJD, Kadi Jumu- NACE,

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Opening remarks
2. Report on the 8th Global Conference in Paris, France
3. Discussion on the SLEITI 2019 Validation Corrective action
4. Closing

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Following a moment of individual silence prayers, the Chair, Francess Piagie Alghali called the meeting to order. The Chair informed the group that the meeting was to report to the MSG about

Sierra Leone's participation in the 8th EITI Global Conference held in Paris, France and to discuss the EITI Board decision corrective actions.

The Chair said she was pleased to report that the Sierra Leone delegation to the 8th EITI Global Conference had returned home safely noting that the delegation was led by the Minister of Mines and Mineral resources Hon. Rado Yokie.

The Chair also expressed her regret to those who did not make it to the conference adding that the EITI Secretariat did not yield to her plea to accommodate additional representatives from Sierra Leone despite effort made through the EITI African Regional Director and the Country Officer. She said the French Government had issued a cut -off period for the EITI Secretariat to abide by, and it was not the making of the OVP and the SLEITI Secretariat to drop members.

The Chair then thanked the company representatives for their effort made to support the participation of other delegate members, though a few were unable to fully access the support provided. However, the chair informed that the delegation was reflective of the MSG tripartite body including top government officials from key MDAs involved in the management of the extractive sector.

2. Report by the SLEITI National Coordinator on the 8th EITI Global Conference:

The SLEITI National Coordinator informed that the EITI Global Conference is provided for in the EITI Standard and it is held at least once every 3 years. She said the 8th EITI Global Conference was held in Paris from the 17-19th June and it was hosted by the French Government at the OECD Conference Centre. She said 10 senior government officials attended the conference. She said the global conference provided a platform for political commitment, fund raising and dialogue for improve governance of the extractive industries.

In relation to the outcome of the conference, the NC informed that a new EITI Board Chair was named to serve from 2019 -2022; the 2019 EITI Standard was launched introducing new sets of reporting requirements for gender, environment, mainstreaming and SOE; that the conference delegates attended key meetings and also took part in round table discussions based on their interest.

On the national expo, the NC informed that the NMA Director General Julius Mattai presented a mapping application at the pitching corner on behalf of the Sierra Leone. She said the application was a novelty that holds different extractive industries information. She informed that the application was seen as by many as a mile stone to meeting to meeting the EITI mainstreaming and systematic disclosure requirement. She said participants at the pitching corner asked whether the tool was developed by Sierra Leoneans.

A major take home from the conference was the news that Sierra Leone had made meaningful progress in EITI Implementation and that the EITI Secretariat was very pleased with the proactive steps taken by the SLEITI MSG following the release of the initial validation report and findings.
As part of the update, Prince Williams who was one of the conference delegates representing government informed that the he was due to hold a meeting with representatives of "Open Ownership" in London to discuss the SLEITI BO register could be developed. He said the meeting will now be held in Freetown anytime soon.

3. Discussion on the SLEITI 2019 Validation Corrective Action

The Chair led members through the validation corrective actions stating that parties concerned should endeavor act on the corrective actions before the next validation on 17th December 2020. The report identified 14 corrective actions. They include the following:

Req. 1.2 -Company Engagement:

To revitalize the Chamber of Mines, formed part of the corrective actions Sierra Leone was required to address. Adam Jano of SL Mining, said the chamber was up and running adding that they as members meet at least once every month to discuss relevant industry issues and find ways to resolve them collectively. On the composition of the group, he informed that the membership is drawn from operational large scale companies namely SL Mining, Sierra Rutile, Vimetco, and Koidu Holdings. In relation to the validation corrective action, the meeting resolved that SLEITI Secretariat to draft letter to Mining companies requesting them to address the corrective action.

Req. 1.3a- Civil society engagement:

The corrective action related to the CSO states that all interested civil society stakeholders must be able to fully, actively and efficiently engage in the EITI process; that all agreed policies, rules and documents are publicized online. Following deliberations, the meeting resolved that Civil Society

Members to hold a consultative meeting by 31st July 2019 to agree on how they intend to address the corrective action above. The Meeting will be facilitated by the Office of the Vice President. In addition, a letter should be addressed to all CSOs listed on the MOU dated 20th July 2011.

Req. 1.4 - Multi-stakeholder group:

The corrective action related to requirement 1.4 states that the MSG should ensure its updated MOU and Internal Rules clearly cover all provisions of Req 1.4b. During deliberations, the SLEITI Secretariat informed that the MOU is being developed adding that the draft MOU will require input from CSO and other stakeholders.

Req. 1.5: Work plan

In accordance with requirement 1.5, the EITI Board requires the MSG to ensure that its work plan is updated annually and in developing the work plan the MSG must consult a wide range of stakeholders, including those not directly represented at the MSG. In view of the above, the Chair urged the Technical Committee to expedite their review of the draft 2019-2020 work plan for submission to the MSG.

Req. 2.2: Licenses allocation

As part of the EITI Board's decision in relation to licenses allocation, Sierra Leone should publicly disclose the procedures for awarding and transferring all extractives licenses, including specific technical and financial criteria and any non-trivial deviations from the applicable legal regulatory framework.

In response, the NMA representatives informed that the information was available online, however, it is like that it is not necessarily explicit as stated by the EITI. In this regard, the SLEITI Secretariat to check whether the information is available on the Online Repository in connection with this requirement. At the same time, to contact the International Secretariat for clarity on what is required with examples of how other countries have addressed this requirement. Going forward, the MSG agreed to keep the requirement in view while the NMA is also strongly urged to address this requirement as soon as possible.

Req. 2. 6b: State participation:

As part of the corrective actions Sierra Leone should ensure that details on loans or loan guarantees provided to mining, oil, gas companies are clarified for comprehensive reporting. Owing to

previous issues related to loans issued by the government to companies but were not adequately disclosed or recorded, the group agreed to that the attention of the IA for the 2017-2018 Report should be drawn to this corrective action to ensure full disclosure by the GoSL and to also request the IA to issue reporting template to the Ministry of Finance for reporting. The MSG representative from the Ministry of Finance, Mahamed Amara Salisu committed to update the Minister of Finance and keep this corrective action in view.

Req. 3.2: Production

In accordance with requirement 3.2, the corrective action requires the Government of Sierra Leone to ensure that all production volumes and values, including ASM subsector is publicly accessible and reported on. In view of this requirement, the NMA representative spoke on the challenges associated with the ASM sector noting that the sector is yet to be formalized and that it's difficult to obtain accurate production data from ASM operators. Coupled with it opaqueness and complex chain of operations, the NMA should continue in its effort to obtain and publish the required data on ASM production.

Req. 4.1a: Comprehensive disclosure of taxes & revenues

The corrective action relating to 4.1a provides that Sierra Leone should ensure that all significant payments made by the extractive companies are considered in determining material revenue streams and that the MSG to ensure that the Government of Sierra Leone unilaterally reports on all government revenues from the sector regardless of its inclusion in the reconciliation exercise. In response to this requirement, the group said it was part of the regular scoping work of the IAs during EITI reporting. In addition, the group was of the view that reporting entities should be given an extract of the said requirement while at the same time the IA's attention is drawn to this corrective action.

Req. 4.3: Infrastructure provisions and barter arrangement

Under requirement 4.3, Sierra Leone is required to consider whether any agreements or set of agreements, involve the provisions of goods & services. Since the MSG was keen to ensure that the corrective actions were fully addressed well in time, the group said SLEITI and the Ministry of Finance to work closely on this requirement on regular basis. The group also agreed to request the IA to provide guidance on this corrective action.

Req. 4.6: Sub national payments

For provisions under 4.6, Sierra Leone should undertake a comprehensive review of which direct and indirect taxes extractive companies are subject to at sub-national level and to ensure that reporting mechanisms are established which allow for estimation of total subnational payments in Sierra Leone. in order to act on the recommendation, the MSG agreed to organize a consultative meeting involving a) **Chamber of Mines, b) Ministry of Mines, c) Ministry of Local Government, d) Ministry of Finance, e) Parliamentary Committee on Mines, d) Local Councils/Chiefdoms & f) Paramount Chiefs to i. develop policy to enable all recipients of sub national payments from extractive companies, to report on their expenditures and ii. for streamlining of these payments**. The meeting should take place prior to the arrival of the2017-2018 IA and the MMMR will take the lead on this. The SLEITI Secretariat should draft letters to the effect to all stakeholders involved.

Req. 4.9a: Data quality and assurance inefficiency

In relation to requirement 4.9.a, the MSG and the IA should 1) agree on reporting templates ahead of data collection 2) ensure that the administrator provides a clear and categorical assessment of comprehensiveness and reliability of the financial data presented 3) ensure that the IA provides an assessment of whether all companies and government entities within the agreed scope of the EITI reporting process provided the requisite information. In response, the MSG said the corrective action will be kept in view and addressed during the 2017-18 reporting cycle.

Req. 5.2 - Sub national reporting and Req. 13 – Req. 6.1..-Social Expenditures by extractive companies

The group was of the view that both requirements were interrelated and much dividend could be realized if they were discussed together at the proposed stakeholder consultative meeting on subnational payment streamlining.

Req. 7.1: Public debate

On requirement 7.1, Sierra Leone should ensure timely dissemination of the EITI data and findings as well as effective outreach to key stakeholders. In view of this, the Secretariat informed that it had commenced public awareness activities and work was in progress to undertake additional media activities in the western area and the provinces. In response, the MSG resolved that the Secretariat should circulate the regional media plan to popularize the EITI Board's decision on S/Leone's compliance with the EITI Standard and that MSG members are to participate in the media outreach

events. Further, all 3 constituencies on the MSG should secure funding to disseminate the SLEITI reports by constituency. In developing the SLEITI work plan, the Secretariat should allocate adequate funds for outreach activities.

Update on SLEITI 2018/ 2019 Reporting Timelines:

As part of the Secretariats update, the NC informed that EITAP through the MMMR shortlisted 7 firms for the SLEITI 2017/18 report and SLEITI MSG members from the 3 constituencies were represented at the evaluation meeting facilitated by SLEITI and hosted by the MMMR. She said the next stage which involved sending out RFI would take at least 4 weeks, which means the final report will likely be published around November.

Following deliberations, it was stated that the Secretariat during preparation of their budget proposal in September 2019, should make adequate provision for production of the next SLEITI report and dissemination of the report; the office of the Vice President will pursue SLEITI's allocation from GoSL and that the SLEITI MSG representative from the Ministry of Finance, Mohamed Salisu should keep this in view. Furthermore, the group said for future reporting members of the MSG should provide input on the reports' production to reduce the cost of producing the SLEITI reports.

4. **Closing**.

The Chair in her closing thanked members for their continued support and participation in the EITI process noting that she was pleased with the progress being recorded, and hoped that SLEITI will achieved satisfactory progress with significant improvement in its next validation.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was brought to an end. The motioned for adjournment of the next meeting was moved by Ramatu Massaquoi, seconded by Arnold Nottidge.

..... **Signature of Chair**

..... **Signature of Secretary**