SLEITI Sierra Leone Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

Minutes of the SLEITI Technical Committee Meeting to discuss & confirm the SLEITI 2015 and 2016 Reporting Templates
21st June 2017, SLEITI Secretariat, 17 Charles Street, Freetown

Attendance

i. Naim Merimeche,MoFED /Chair
ii. Konstantin Bon - NMA
iii. Neima Macfoy – SD. Steel
iv. Alhaji Sultan – NRA
v. Veronia Koroma – EPA
vi. Adama Hawa Bah – MoFED
vii. Sinneh Kargbo – ASSL
viii. Mina Horace – SLEITI
ix. Annie Lansana – SLEITI
x. Mohamed Fernado Conteh - SLEITI

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Discussion and confirmation of scope of the 2015-2016 SLEITI Report
   - Committee to agree on Minimum qualification and experience of key personnel on the IA team
   - Confirm whether the forestry and fisheries sectors should be included in the report. Should there be a scoping study, should templates be issued? Consider cost and time
   - Who should report at sub national level PCs, District Council, Chiefdoms, MPs. Should all these categories report on the expenditures based on surface rent, DACDF, CDF
   - Confirm reporting on expenditure side by GoSL
3. Review and approval of the 2017-19 SLEITI Work Plan (i.e. the updated work plan)
4. AOB
5. Closing

1. Opening

Naim Merimeche was nominated to Chair the meeting. Civil society representative, Abu Brima said he was not able to attend the meeting.

2. Discussion and confirmation

In providing an update on the 2015-2016 Report, the NC gave the following report:

i. The World Bank had given the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources their no-objection for disbursement of US$ 150,000.000 for report's production. The draft ToR was shared with the MMMR to give them an understanding of the scope and nature of work involved in the Report's production.

ii. Although the ToR provides information on the minimum qualification and experience of key personnel on the IA's team, the MMMR requested for more detailed and specific breakdown on experience and qualification to serve as benchmark during the short listing of the firms that will apply. The MMR attempted to draft the qualification and experience and this was shared at this meeting for discussion of the above.

iii. Endorsement of the ToR by members is still pending. Approval of the ToR is considered urgent as the World Bank would need to grant a no-objection of the ToR to allow the Ministry to commence with procuring of the IA.

iv. The NC informed members who did not attend the emergency MSG meeting of 9th June 2016 that the Chief of Staff had advised that the Secretariat should go ahead with the data collection if any delay is envisaged with procurement of the IA. However, the Report's ToR should indicate that the IA will prepare the full report.

In discussing the above,

v. Some members confirmed that the Chief's advice was conveyed and discussed by members present at the MSG meeting of 9th June however; a decision was taken to allow the IA to prepare the full report to ensure the submission of a high-quality report for Validation next year. This decision was in line with the EITI International Secretariat's advice that SLEITI should wait for the IA to agree on quality assurance, materiality thresholds, templates etc. before data collection. There were no signs of delay on procurement of the IA at the time of the meeting.

vi. With delays envisaged in procuring the IA, the technical committee requested that the MSG at its Q2 meeting of 27th June 2017 should decide on whether the Secretariat should still go ahead with the data collection. In this regard, the 2015-2016 draft reporting templates should be provided at the upcoming meeting for approval.

➢ **Confirmation on the Scope of the Report**

Only the mining and oil/gas sectors will be covered in the Report. The Secretariat should explore the possibility of approaching the EU to undertake full scoping of forestry and fisheries sectors to inform the MSG's decision to include them in future EITI reporting.

➢ **Disclosure on Revenue Expenditures**

i. The committee had agreed that Members of Parliament, District Councils and Chiefdoms that are either recipients of surface rent, Diamond Area Community Development Fund (DACDF), Community Development Fund (CDF) and/or the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF)are to report on how they spent the revenues from these payment streams. In requesting the Chiefdoms to report on their DACDF and ADF expenditures, the Champion should inform the MMMR to request chiefdoms to comply fully.

ii. All MDAs should also disclose how the extractive revenues generated are spent.

iii. The Audit Service representative cautioned that certification of the reporting templates with disclosures on expenditures in addition to the financial data would require additional time and possibly create excessive delay in cases where the templates lack proper supporting documents. In this regard, the meeting concluded that reporting on expenditures should be brought to the notice of the full MSG where a final decision will be taken. The Secretariat also cautioned that reporting on expenditures would require longer timeframe for submission of templates.

➢ **Distribution of Extraction of Extractive Revenues**

The technical committee confirmed that all MDAs are to report on how their revenues were distributed. For example, in the case of EPA, a certain percent of the revenues generated is transferred to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the amount remaining is retained by the Agency.

3. Review & Approval of the 2017-2019 SLEITI work plan

The draft 2017-19 work plan was approved pending minor adjustments to wording, timelines and cost estimates.

4. Any other business

MoFED Disclosures on Extractive Revenues Generated

i) MoFED representative informed that as of January 2018 the Ministry will publish extractive revenues, on the MoFED website and in PDF version, twice a year. The meeting noted that the Secretariat will help in disseminating the information through the SLEITI website and other communications channels.

ii) **SLEITI Recommendations**

The Secretariat should circulate a table showing progress achieved with implementation of all past SLEITI recommendations.

iii) Approval of Minutes of the Technical Committee

The Secretariat is to forward minutes of past technical committee minutes for electronic endorsements.

.....
Secretary

.....
Chair