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

Minutes of SLEITI MSG Emergency meeting held on Thursday 11th April, 2022 at 10:00am at the Conference Room – Office of the Vice President

ATTENDANCE:

Government	CSO	Company	SLEITI Secretariat
Francess Alghali - OVP/Chair	Iyesha J. Koroma; WoNES	Aminata Kamara; SRL	Annie Lansana
Peter Mangoh; ASSL	Solomon M. Sogbandi; HRDN-SL	Tommy K. Koker; SDL	Mohamed B. Koroma - Secretary
Richard Ashley; CAC	Alphonsus B.M. Gbanie; HRDN-SL		Mohamed F. Conteh
Mohamed A. Salisu; MoF	Gbondo Emmanuel; NaRGEJ-SL		Alie Brima Kamara
Daniel Gbondo; MMMR	Dauda Massaquoi; WoME-SL		Amadu Rogers
Joseph M. Ganda; OVP	Cecilia C. Mattia; NACE/CSO		Deborah Massaquoi
Harold S. Campbell; ONS			
Ramatu B. Massaquoi; EPA			
Swalilua K. Jusu, OVP			
Sheku B. Samai; OVP			

Apology - Hon. Amadu Kanu; Member of Parliament, Amadu Mansaray; PD, Yusuf Dauda Suma; NMA, Mohamed Sallieu Bah; PMT/NMA, Alusine A. Joaqu; MoLGRD,

Agenda:

1. Prayer
2. Opening
3. Refinements of the EITI Standard Opportunity to address ambiguities
   a) Highlights of issues identified
   b) Comments/Discussion/Action Points
4. Dissemination of 2019 SLEITI Report
   i. Theme/Concept Note
   ii. Budget
   iii. MSG representation per location

5. Any Other Business
6. Adjournment

1. Prayer

The meeting commenced with a moment of silence individual prayers. This was followed by a unanimous decision to revise the agenda items to allow the MSG discussed dissemination before other agenda items. In the revised agenda, item 3 was moved to number four; and four to item three. In addition, the Chair requested that "Observer Status" be included in the agenda under any other business. This was approved by all.

2. Opening

Having welcomed all into the meeting, the Chair informed members that the SLEITI Secretariat received a circular from the EITI Board requesting implementing countries and stakeholders to give views on the scope of refinements to the EITI Standard. As agreed, the MSG should first discuss the dissemination of the 2019 report. In this regard, the Secretariat was asked to lead the MSG through the agenda items listed therein.

3. Dissemination of the 2019 SLEITI Report

The National Coordinator and the Finance and Administrative Manager gave a vivid presentation of the planned dissemination with focus on the theme, concept note and budget.

- **Concept Note:**

The MSG was informed that the concept note was circulated to members for feedback prior to the SLEITI MSG emergency meeting. The Concept note explained the objectives of the dissemination, a description of the locations where the events will be held, and among others. During deliberations, the Secretariat said it has tweaked the concept note in order to make room for Zimmi which was not initially chosen as a location. Members agreed to the slight adjustment because they learned that artisanal mining activities were building up in the communities along Zimmi Magbele section-Pujehun District. Members were of the view that holding a dissemination activity in Zimmi could help deepened stakeholders' understanding of the SLEITI process and the reforms regarding the ASM sector. Furthermore, the group was of the view that stakeholder engagement should not be limited to Western Area or provincial headquarter towns only; rather, none mining communities should be considered, where possible. There being no other comments, members unanimously endorsed the concept.

- **Dissemination Theme:**

The MSG's dissemination has always been driven by a theme, often developed from the report and the overall objective of EITI implementation in Sierra Leone. In discussing the theme for the 2019 report dissemination, members were divided on which text should stand. The proposed themes were assessed based on its appropriateness, syntax, and the purpose of the dissemination. At the end, the group agreed on **"Promoting sustainable development through a transparent and accountable extractive sector"** as the theme for the 2019 report nationwide dissemination exercise.

- **Dissemination Budget**

The MSG was informed that the Secretariat received $50,000 for implementation of dissemination activities related to the 2019 report. The budget covered several line items, each with an accompanying amount. The MSG critically reviewed each and drew the Secretariat's attention to areas deemed ambiguous.

During discussion, the MSG was also informed that the regional activities will effectively commence on Monday, 9th May 2022 in Lunsar in the North, and ends on 16th May 2022 in Moyamba in the South. Western Area was scheduled for 31st May, 2022.

In terms of implementation, the Secretariat informed that the MSG was to lead the dissemination process in general, while CSOs were to coordinate implementation of the activities in the regions. For Western Area, the group agreed that the SLEITI Secretariat should coordinate the dissemination. When asked about the targeted audience, the Secretariat informed that the maximum per location was seventy (70) participants excluding MSG members and Secretariat staff. In all of these, the Western Area activity was deemed highly important and members were concerned about the venue and the targeted audience. Following deliberations, the Chair volunteered to request support from NASSIT to assist with a befitting hall from one of its establishments.

In discussing the budget, the following issues stood out clearly:

a) **Rapporteur-** The MSG was of the view that implementing CSOs should endeavour to submit the proceedings of the dissemination in their areas of coordination. The report should cover all aspects of the dissemination including an executive summary, overview of the activity, issues raised, stakeholder concerns and recommendations, and among others. Following deliberations, members were strongly advice to tailor the report in accordance with the agenda and they must submit it against the deadline set by the Secretariat. Following which, a consultant will be hired to synchronize the reports using a standard approach. The Secretariat was requested to revisit the amount allocated for that purpose to ensure that the consultant was pleased with the fee. Finally, the group considered that a template for report writing be adopted for circulation to all. The CSO constituency opted to find a suitable template for circulation.

b) **IEC Materials-** While discussing the line items under this heading, the MSG was informed that 50 copies of the summary report will be printed and circulated to at least 40 participants per region. Summary versions were deemed appropriate and easy to understand by all. Furthermore, the MSG was also informed that a robust media plan was developed for effective coverage of the events. According to Secretariat, AYV, SLBC and 98.1 will be invited to cover the first leg of dissemination in Lunsar for airing on the following day. Also, SLBC 'Morning Coffee Reporter and AYV TV will be invited to cover the event in Magburaka, and regional radio stations will be contacted to provide coverage throughout the dissemination.

c) **Fuel/Gas** – The MSG was informed that each will receive a fixed amount for gas and a DSA to cover other subsistence activities. When asked about DSA for MSG drivers, members were encouraged to request such from their parent institutions as the budget was not designed

to cover DSA for MSG personal drivers. Earlier, the MSG was informed that the OVP will provide a vehicle which will convey members. This approach was partly welcomed; following deliberations, members resolved to go by themselves due to several reasons.

- **MSG Representation**

The Secretariat informed members that each dissemination location will only accommodate 6 MSG members i.e., two from each constituency including the coordinating CSO for the location to be visited. During deliberations, members agreed that they could only attend at most two locations, excluding the National Minerals Agency. Furthermore, members were also asked to nominate a focal person from among the two CSOs groups coordinating a particular event to receive the necessary inputs and funding. The focal person per region or location will bear the greatest responsibility of ensuring that the event is well organized, well attended and submit all financial and narrative reports to the Secretariat against the reporting deadline set by the Secretariat.

There being no other issues under this agenda item, the dissemination budget and other necessary line items were approved.

4. Refinements of the EITI Standard – Opportunity to address ambiguities

The Chair informed that as part of its stakeholder consultation for the refinements of the EITI Standard ahead of the 9th Global Standard, the EITI Board has outlined key priorities for consideration. The Strategic priorities were **a) Energy transition, b) Anti-Corruption, and Domestic resource mobilization. On the other hand, the Board was also seeking consultations on existing EITI requirements including 1) data quality assurance, 2) systematic disclosure, 3) Gender, 4) other topics, in addition to logic and accessibility**. Feedback received from stakeholders and implementing countries could help improve and clarify the EITI requirements, address ambiguities in the existing text, and refine the EITI Standard.

In view of the foregoing, the Chair said the MSG was obliged to submit its position on the said issues adding that each constituency should endeavour to hold consultations with the wider body to seek their views on the EITI priority areas.

During deliberations, members were of the view that understanding the issues internally could contribute to greater outcomes, if they were to facilitate such consultations; otherwise, seeking the views of their wider members without having foreknowledge of the issues will not help.

With regards to Energy transition, reference was made to a consultation at the African Oil Week in Dubai, where the EITI Board sounded the views of African countries on this priority area was brought to the fore. In the said event, the Board was informed that African countries were yet to buy-in to the issues-because many African countries were in their exploration or development stages of fossil fuel and its revenues have been earmarked for development projects. Therefore, African countries needed ample time to exploit their natural resources for development purposes.

This followed several submissions from members –for instance, on Anti-corruption; it was observed that the MSG does not have the force of law to hold people to book. The enforcement rights to implement such anti-corruption requirements were vested in the Anti-Corruption Act.

Following deliberations, the Chair proposed a one-day workshop to further build capacity and to ensure that valid inputs were generated from members and perhaps the wider constituency consulted. In view of this, the MSG agreed to request an extension of the deadline for submission of its inputs to the EITI Board's strategic priorities.

5. Any Other Business

The Chair informed that GIZ has requested to sit on the MSG as "Observer". While the objective was not made clear, the Secretariat was of the view that the GIZ wanted to increase its institutional expertise and financial support to EITI implementation in Sierra Leone, but should be granted an observer status to see deliberations of the MSG and how decisions are taken. During deliberations, members were of the opinion that some development partners used to sit on the MSG, however, private matters on issues discussed ended up in the public domain before a final resolution was made by the MSG. Following this, it was agreed that the SLEITI MSG MoU was silence on observer status, therefore, the GIZ will be engaged as a key stakeholder as and when necessary. The MSG also agreed that the GIZ's request will be taken into consideration when reviewing the SLEITI MSG MoU in the future. The Secretariat was requested to address a letter to GIZ stating the MSG's position on their request to sit on the MSG as observer.

Other related matter discussed by the MSG was the issue of non-recognized alternate representation for sustentative MSG members. The Chair said she has noticed that some people are attending MSG meetings to represent substantive MSG members. She emphasized that substantive members who are unable to attend meetings should send their alternates instead of just random people. She said the onus is on those who are being required to serve; anyone who wishes to send a proxy to represent the institution, must sought the MSG's approval. The objective was to ensure that the SLEITI MSG MoU was adhered to, and implemented according to its spirit and intent.

6. Adjournment

There being no other matter to discuss, the meeting was brought to close. The motion for adjournment was moved by Alphonsus B.M Gbanie, seconded by Mrs. Iyesha Kamara.

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Signature of Chair

16/8/2022.....
Date

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Signature of Secretary

16/8/2022.....
Date