SLEITI
Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative
Sierra Leone

17 Charles Street, Buxton Compound, 2nd Floor,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Website: www.sleiti.gov.sl

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Minutes of Emergency SLEITI MSG Meeting to plan a nationwide dissemination of Sierra Leone's 2022 Validation Report held on Thursday, 24th November 2022

Venue - Conference Room, Office of the Vice President Office, Freetown

Attendance:

Government:	**CSO:**
Mrs. Francess Piagie Alghali – OVP - Chair	Dauda Massaquoi - WoME
Aruna Abu - Audit Service Sierra Leone	Alphonsus B.M. Gbanie - HRDN-SL
Mohamed A. Salisu - MoF	Massie Bah – NACE
Sarah Kosseh - MLGRD	Emmanuel Gbondo – NaRGEJ
Mabinty Sesay - MMMR	Gertrude Karimu - WoNES
Ramatu Massaquoi - EPA	
Company:	**SLEITI Secretariat:**
Kumba S. Feika - Koidu Ltd	Mohamed Baimba Koroma - Secretary
Aminata Kamara – Sierra Rutile	Annie Lansana
	Mohamed Fernando Conteh
	Alie Brima Kamara
	Marian Turay

Apology: Amadu Mansaray – PD, Esther Kandeh – WoME, Abu Brima – NMJD, Abu Tarawalie – NRA, Cecilia Mattia – NACE.

Agenda:

1. Prayers
2. Opening

3. Dissemination of the 2022 Validation Report
   a) Dissemination scheduled
   b) Agenda
   c) Theme
   d) Facilitators/Coordinators
   e) Budget
4. Any Business
5. Adjournment

1. **Prayers**:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am followed by a moment of individual silence prayers. The Minister of State –Office of the Vice President and Chair of the SLEITI MSG chaired the meeting. All constituencies were fully represented as provided for in the SLEITI MSG MoU.

2. Opening:

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and expressed her appreciation for the group's continued support to the SLEITI process. The Chair commended members for attending the formal presentation of the 2022 Validation report to H.E. President Bio at State House. She gave an overview of the event at State House noting that it was best of its kind. She said the event was graced by the Vice President, cabinet ministers, heads of government agencies involved in the management of the sector, development partners and representatives of the Chamber of Mines. She said the overall high score of 87.5 was impressive and therefore such an event was ideal to showcase the work of the MSG. She said she singled out the entire MSG in her statement, especially the validation working committee and the SLEITI Secretariat for the additional effort they put into getting the templates completed. She then mentioned that the onus was on all stakeholders to maintain the progress recorded through effective participation in the SLEITI process.

As regards the dissemination of the Validation report, the Chair said that she was informed of the imminent closure of the EITAP project funded by the World Bank through which SLEITI activities were funded. She said the Bank's directives indicated that all World Bank approved funding projects should be completed by 31st December 2022, in order to be eligible for payment; otherwise, it will be forfeited to the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Finance for implementation of other government development projects. She said her intervention helped secure 80% of the initially amount allocated to SLEITI for

dissemination of the 2020-2021 report. However, since the report was not produced in time for dissemination, a formal request was made to the World Bank to allocate the funds to dissemination of the Validation report instead of forfeiting it. The request was approved, hence the reason for the emergency meeting to plan a nationwide dissemination.

3. Dissemination of the 2022 Validation Report

The National Coordinator cued in from the Chair's remark and informed the group that the amount approved for dissemination of the 2020/2021 Report was developed in 2020 based on price value at the time of the funding request. He said even if the initial total amount was disbursed, it will not address specific line items considering the inflation rates of goods and services. Therefore, he encouraged the group to take into consideration the shortfall in the budget and show understanding to allow successful dissemination of the report. He said the Secretariat was given strict timeline not exceeding two weeks to implement the nationwide event or forfeit the funds.

This followed review of the proposed banner and theme of the dissemination. There were a number of submissions, however, the group resolved that the text therein should read "office of the Vice President – Sierra Leone Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multistakeholder Group (SLEITI MSG) welcomes you to the dissemination of the 2022 Sierra Leone Validation Report" with the theme "EITI Validation - A pathway to transparency and accountability in the extractive sector". The Secretariat was tasked to proceed with the printing of the banner. The deliberations proceeded into the other core areas as outlined on the agenda:

a) **Scheduled and Location**: The National Coordinator led members through the locations earmarked by region. He said due to the limited resources, only district head quarter towns will be considered for the exercise. The following locations were listed for the attention of the group:
   - Portloko District (Portloko town) – 2nd December
   - Tonkolili District (Magburaka town) – 3rd December
   - Kono District (Koidu town) – 4th December
   - Kenema District (Kenema town) -5th December
   - Bo District (Bo town) -6th December
   - Western Urban/Rural District (Freetown) -7th December

In view of the above, the group unanimously approved the proposed locations. According to the dissemination schedule, the events were to held from Friday, 2nd December to Wednesday, 7th December 2022. Even though it was an impromptu exercise, the group

observed that there was hardly any time in between the dates for a break. Despites this, the group consented and committed to facilitate, coordinate and attend the dissemination in accordance with the schedules.

b) **Agenda**: The National Coordinator ran through the draft agenda for the regions which include:

I. Registration of participants
II. Prayers: Muslim & Christian
III. Welcome Address
IV. Introduction – Local Dignitaries, Visiting Delegation and Chairman
V. Chairman's Opening Remarks
VI. Purpose of meeting – SLEITI Multi-stakeholder Group member
VII. Statements by Representatives:
    - Resident Member of Parliament/Senior Member of the Community
    - Civil Society Organisation
    - Chamber of Mines
    - Government
VIII. PowerPoint Presentation of the 2022 Validation Report – National Coordinator, SLEITI
IX. Discussions/Contributions/Questions & Answers
X. Chairman's closing remarks
XI. Vote of thanks

The Western Area Urban/Rural agenda was slightly tweaked to fit the composition of the targeted audience and keynote speakers. This includes:

I. Registration of participants
II. Prayers: Muslim & Christian
III. Welcome Address & Introduction of the Chairman
IV. Chairman's Opening Remark
V. Statements by Representatives:
    - Extractive Industries Technical Assistance Project (EITAP)
    - Civil Society Organisations
    - Chamber of Mines
VI. PowerPoint Presentation of the 2022 Validation Report – National Coordinator, SLEITI
VII. Comments/Contributions
VIII. Keynote Address: Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources
IX. Wrap up & Next step
X. Chairman's closing remarks
XI. Vote of thanks

c) **Theme:** The group had earlier discussed and approved the theme for the dissemination. The Theme was restated here as follows: **EITI Validation - A pathway to enhance transparency and accountability in the extractive sector**

d) **Facilitators/ Coordinators:** The National Coordinator informed that the regional activities were to be coordinated by the MSG led by CSOs whereas the Western Urban /rural was to be coordinated by the SLEITI Secretariat. Following deliberations, the group resolved as follows:
   - Portloko - Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN)
   - Magburaka - National Advocacy Coalition on Extractive (NACE)
   - Kono – Women on Mining and Extractives (WoME)
   - Kenema – Natural Resource Governance and Economic Justice Network (NaRGED)
   - Bo - Women's Network for Environmental Sustainability (WoNES)

In addition, the group agreed that provisions will be made for only 60 participants per location and that the coordinators were to ensure that there was maximum participation that is gender sensitive. As part of their deliverables, the coordinators were to secure the following **a)** hall, **b)** tables and Chairs, **c)** Generator, **d)** food and drinks, and other necessary logistics that will allow smooth implementation of the activities. They were also tasked to submit both financial and narrative reports of their respective locations. The Secretariat was tasked to pay fuel allowance to MSG members and transport reimbursement to participants in all the Regions.

e) **Budget:** The budget was tabled for discussion and approval. A detail breakdown of each line item was initially presented, followed by summary which came up to USD31,154.63; an equivalent of NLe550,035 (exchange rate of NLe17.655/1 USD) Summary version contained the under listed line items:
   - Vehicle hire and fuel
   - Per Diem & fuel for MSG members and secretariat staff
   - Printing of IEC materials and media coverage
   - Cost of meetings in all six locations including the western area (hall, food, drinks, tables, chairs, generator, rapporteur etc.)
   - Transport reimbursement to participants
   - Local facilitators/Coordination
   - miscellaneous

During deliberations, several line items were adjusted to meet specific outputs. Like many others, the amount initially allocated for Paramount Chiefs (PCs) as transport allowance was

increased to NLe750, local rapporteur fee per location was also increased to NLe750, and compilation of the final narrative report was also increased. Members had a lengthy discussion over the amount of fuel allowance (number of liters) tagged for each location. However, this was amicably resolved. As agreed at the planning meeting for dissemination of the 2019 SLEITI report, no provision for per diem was made for drivers as MSG member institutions were required to absorb the costs as part of their support to the dissemination activity. A daily subsistence allowance as provided for by the Government was also paid to each MSG member and Secretariat staff that participated in the exercise. Having reviewed the budget thoroughly, the MSG unanimously approved the revised budget and the Secretariat was tasked to fine-tune the revised budget for circulation to the MSG for ease of reference. The Chair asked that for further enquiries and clarifications, effort should be made to contact the Secretariat. The revised budget was later emailed to all MSG members.

4. Any Business

By way of update, the Chair informed the group that the 55th EITI Board Meeting was on its way and it will be held in February 2023 in Argentina. She said members who wish to attend as Observers will be given the opportunity by the EITI Board. However, members must request for funding support from their institutions and the EITI would facilitate the invitation letters required in securing travel visas.

5. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was brought to a close. The motion for adjournment was moved by Massie Bah, seconded by Sarah Kosseh.

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Signature of Chair

10/01/2023

10/01/2023

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Signature of Secretary

10/1/2023