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

SLEITI MSG METTING TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2020-2021 Draft Final SLEITI Report

Held at the SLEITI Secretariat Conference Room, 17 Charles Street on Friday 24th March 2023

Attendance:

Government: Mrs. Francess Piagie Alghali – OVP - Chair Peter Mangoh - Audit Service Sierra Leone Mohamed A. Salisu - MoF Mabinty Sesay - MMMR Ramatu Massaquoi – EPA Prince B. Williams – CAC Sheku B. Samai – OVP Amadu Mansaray – PD-SL Mohamed Sallieu Bah – NMA/PMT Mohamed Jalloh – NRA Yusuf Dauda Suma - NMA	**CSO:** Esther F. Kandeh – WOME Cecilia C. Mattia – NACE Solomon M. Sogbandi – HRDN-SL
Company: Wilfred P. Kamara – Sierra Rutile	**SLEITI Secretariat:** Mohamed Baimba Koroma - Secretary Annie Lansana Mohamed Fernando Conteh Alie Brima Kamara

Apology: Abu Brima – NMJD, Abu Tarawalie – NRA, Dr. John J. Cooper – MMMR, Mary Elliott – ONS, Alusine A. Joeque - MLGCA, Alphonsus B.M. Gbanie – HRDN-SL, Kaiza Koker – Sierra Diamonds, Aminata Kamara – Sierra Rutile.

Agenda

1. Prayer and Opening
2. Reading of Minutes of 10th January 2023
3. Matters arising from minutes of the meeting of 10th January 2023
4. Review of draft final 2020-2021 Report
5. Funding for the Production of 2022 EITI Report
6. Nomination of Mrs. Alghali on the EITI Board

7. 9th EITI Global Conference –Dakar, Senegal
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

1. Prayer & Opening

The MSG Chair, Mrs. Francess Piagie Alghali called the meeting to order. This was followed by ~~silence~~ silent individual prayers. As part of the agenda, she welcomed her colleague MSG members and thanked them for being supportive in the processes leading up to the final stages of the 2020-2021 Report production. The Chair also thanked specific MSG constituencies for their active participation, effectiveness and personal commitments to the process. However, the Chair expressed concerns regarding the approaches and procedures instituted by the World Bank in adverting the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the recruitment of an IA, and how it partly contributed to missing the initial deadline of 31st December 2022 for publication of the final report. She was pleased that the EITI Board granted Sierra Leone three-month extension of 31st March 2023 to publish the final report; otherwise, Sierra Leone would have been suspended from the EITI process. She added that its consequences could have been detrimental to the progress being recorded by the Government in implementing the EITI.

The motion for adopting the agenda was moved by Mrs. Ramatu Massaquoi, seconded by Madam Esther Finda Kandeh.

2. Reading of Minutes of Meeting of 10th January 2023

The Chair stated that the minutes of meeting of 10th January was circulated to members for review and comments ahead of the meeting of 24th March. Notwithstanding, the Chair led members through the reading of minutes. Members observed that on agenda item eight, "Any Business" should be replaced with "Other Business".

Mr. Sheku Brandon Samai and Peter Mongor moved and seconded the adoption of the minutes respectively.

3. Matters arising from the minute of 10th January 2023

Beneficial Ownership (BO) Implementation: Members were concerned that the BO Technical Working Group was yet to be reconstituted following report that its Chair-Daniel Gbondo Esq. no longer work with the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, and was therefore no longer eligible to Chair the committee or attend MSG meetings. Mr. Prince Williams, who is Deputy Chair of the committee was also out of the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone. During deliberations, members stated that there were several issues bordering on BO implementation in Sierra Leone which must be addressed as soon as possible. The Chair was of the view that a functional BO Technical Working Group could contribute to addressing key BO related issues in accordance with the MMDA 2022 and the EITI Standard, including recommendations from the BO report and other previous SLEITI reports. Going forward, members asked the Secretariat to expedite the process immediately after publication of the 2020-21 SLEITI Report.

Artisanal Mining (ASM): The EITI Requirement on reporting data on ASM remains an issue the SLEITI Secretariat was required to address regarding publication of production and export figures by the National Minerals Agency (NMA) and Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL). The Precious Minerals Department (PMT) of the NMA and the Bank of Sierra Leone publish data on ASM. However, there is a need to synchronize the data to enhance SLEITI reporting on ASM. During deliberations, members learned that ASM reporting will also need to consider actual projection in production and export as it is being proposed in the proposed refinement of the 2019 EITI Standard. The National Coordinator (NC) informed members that the Independent Administrator (IA) incorporated BSL data into the draft report; however, members stated that since PMT/NMA is the primary source of such data, the IA should use their data instead of those from BSL which is a secondary source. To this end, the Secretariat was tasked to expedite the meeting between PMT and BSL in order to find solutions that will ensure that their data speak to each other.

Letter to Society for Democratic Initiative (SDI): Members had taken note that since appointment to the MSG, some substantive members have never attended meetings or SLEITI activities. Particular focus was on the substantive member of SDI who has been absent from MSG meetings and other activities. Therefore, members urged the Secretariat to address a letter to SDI in line with the provisions of the MOU prior to the next MSG meeting.

Refinement of the 2019 EITI Standard: Upon submission of its responses to the EITI International Secretariat regarding the proposed refinement of the 2019 Standard, the MSG was informed that the EITI Board was to further discuss the implementing countries submissions. Members were also informed that there was array of concerns put forward by all stakeholders including the fast pace at which the Standard was evolving. Members were informed that the Working Committee on the Refinement was doing additional work on the proposed refined Standard based on comments received from stakeholders in implementing countries. The final draft is expected to be approved at the EITI Global Conference in June 2023; however, it was not clear when the refined Standard will come into effect.

With regards to the refinement of terminologies, it was reported that all other terminologies be expunged except the following; **expected & encouraged**. The objective is to ensure that the EITI Standard is effectively implemented without ambiguity of reference.

4. Review and approval of Draft Final 2020-2021 SLEITI Report

The draft final report was presented for comments and approval following its submission by the Independent Administrator (IA) as provided for by the report ToR. The Secretariat had earlier copied the draft report to the MSG. The comments received were well documented in addition to tracked changes. Members also made the following comments:

- All corrections deemed appropriate to strengthen the report should be sent to the Secretariat by 27th March 2023
- Figures captured under revenue generation in the draft report were to be corroborated with NRA's data set and reporting templates.

- The Secretariat was tasked to follow up on Marampa Mines Ltd to ensure that all reporting data were submitted including export details which stood out clearly in the report.
- Precious Minerals Trading ~~Department~~ (PMT) should be replaced with National Minerals Agency (NMA) as the parent institution, and must ensure that the institution's reporting templates were certified by Audit Service Sierra Leone as provided for by the EITI Standard.
- The MSG was concerned that MPs were not directly issued reporting templates and the process adopted by the IA with regards sub-national revenue collection was not effective.
- On whether to published the Innoson's contract with the Government of Sierra Leone, it was agreed that Petroleum Directorate should take the lead to publish the agreement on their website.
- The narrative by the IA on the status of the Mines and Minerals Development Act 2022 was stale and incorrect. Therefore, it should be updated with the MSG's track changes related to the Act.
- The MSG to further engage line ministries and agencies involved in the management of Direct and Subnational transfers to beneficiary especially DACDF transfers as it was noted that no transfers were made into the DACDF bank account and therefore no transfer to communities. Members were concerned about the lack of transfers. However, the NMA representative assured them that the appropriate deductions were made and money put aside, ready to be transferred into the DACDF bank account as soon as certain administrative matters are addressed.
- Sierra Rutile was to be engaged by the Secretariat in order to reconcile its reporting templates as there were issues of concern raised by the IA. This is with regards to a minor discrepancy in the production figures reported by them and those by NMA.

5. Funding for the Production of 2022 SLEITI Report

The SLEITI National Coordinator (NC) reported that there was no commitment from development partners to fund the 2022 Report production. He said the pervious reporting round was marred by delays resulting to numerous challenges in the processes leading up to the final report production. He warned that if the 2022 report was to be published on time, it was high time funding is secured.

Following deliberations, members tasked the Secretariat to develop a budget covering 'must do' activities for the consideration of the Government of Sierra Leone through the Office of the Vice President. In addition, members also tasked the Secretariat to work with the Technical Committee to develop the 2022 ToR and to advertise the procurement of the IA while funding is being pursued.

6. Nomination of Minister Francess Alghali on the EITI Board

Due to the completion of the EITI Board's current tenure, the Chair, Mrs. Francess Piagie Alghali reported that the EITI International Secretariat encouraged her to vie again for a position of Board member in order to continue her good work and provide quality representation for Anglophone Africa Region; especially so when the substantive member (Ian Mwiingo) was stepping down. She said she welcomed the proposal and is happy to serve for a second term. However, she stated that as an appointed government official, her mandate could change as a result of cabinet reshuffle or otherwise. She also informed members that her nomination will only be confirmed after MSG members have endorsed her

and the Government of Sierra Leone has provided a written commitment that she will be supported in time and resources to attend EITI Board meetings and other activities.

The MSG welcomed the proposal of the EITI Board and members sounded optimistic that Minister Alghali was the most fit person for the region following her experience as alternate during the previous Board tenure. During deliberations, some members committed to canvass stakeholders in the sub-region to vote for Minister Alghali as substantive Board member. In the end, the MSG unanimously endorsed her second term bid which was moved by civil society groups, seconded by the Chamber of Mines. The Secretariat was tasked to coordinate all activities related to the election process.

7. 9th EITI Global Conference – Dakar, Senegal

MSG members were informed that the 9th EITI Global Conference was on its way and members who benefitted from the EITI Board sponsorship were reminded of their obligations. At the same time, members who wished to attend as self-sponsored delegates were also urged to register on the conference portal before the deadline. During deliberations, members agreed that letters should be addressed to all heads of MDAs to extend the conference invite including requesting institutions to fund the participation of their MSG representatives. It was the view of members that the Chamber should be approached for possible funding opportunities for some members.

8. Other Business

Members reminded the MSG Chair of the commitments made by President during presentation of the Validation report at State House, where he promised the MSG of a handsome reward for Sierra Leone's impressive performance at its recent EITI Board Validation assessment. In response, the MSG Chair said they were still looking forward to hearing from the President through his Vice President. She said she has no clue of what was promised but she will keep members updated accordingly.

9. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was brought to a close. The motion was led by Yusuf Dauda Suma, seconded by Wilfred P. Koroma.

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Signature of Chair

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Signature of Secretary

General Actions points and status update

No.	Action Point	Update
1	BO Technical working Group meeting be convened in order to reconstitute the group's membership.	In Progress - Initial discussions were held with some members. However, the election process overtook this activity.
2	Secretariat to follow up with NMA and BSL to ensure that progress is made in addressing the ASM sector data gap on production	In progress – This is a continuous engagement and discussions are ongoing.
3	Secretariat to write to SDI on the non-attendance of substantive member	In progress – A letter was drafted but not sent. This was as a result of views expressed by some members that the institution was represented through the Alternate member who has attended several meetings and activities.
4	Members to send all comments on the report to the Secretariat	Achieved – Members comments were compiled and sent to the IA.
5	Secretariat to corroborate revenue figures in the report with NRA	Achieved – Figures were checked with NRA and were correctly stated.
6	Secretariat to follow up with Marampa Mines Limited to ensure that all reporting data were submitted including export details.	Achieved – Export figures were submitted and correctly stated.
7	Secretariat to inform IA to update report by replacing Precious Minerals Trading (PMT) with NMA and to also update recent development on the MMDA 2022 including comments by the MSG.	Achieved – IA was informed and the report was updated accordingly.
8	Members to engage relevant MDAs on non transfers and disbursements of DACDF	Not started – This activity may have been overtaken by the election process.

9	Secretariat to engage Sierra Rutile Limited on reconciliation of Reporting templates	Achieved – Reporting templates were reconciled.
10	Secretariat to develop a budget of critical activities for consideration of Government of Sierra Leone through Office of the Vice President.	Achieved – Budget of NLe2,889,000 was sent to Secretary to the Vice President who submitted the request to Ministry of Finance (MoF) on 17th April, 2023. Only NLe1,700,000 was approved.
11	Secretariat to develop a comprehensive ToR for recruitment of an IA to produce the 2022 EITI Report, which will be reviewed by the Technical Committee and the MSG.	Achieved – Draft ToR was shared with members for comments.
12	Secretariat to coordinate activities on the voting process of Mrs. Alghali as a substantive Board member on the EITI Board.	Achieved – The Secretariate and few MSG members canvassed other implementing countries to vote for Mrs. Alghali. She was re-elected to serve for a second term.
13	Secretariat to send invitation letters of the EITI Global conference to the media, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA).	Achieved – Letters were sent and few MDAs attended including a Reporter from Radio Democracy FM 98.1