SLEITI
Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
18 Soldier Street, 2nd Floor,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Website: www.sleiti.gov.sl

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Minutes of SLEITI MSG Quarter One (1) Meeting held on 20th March 2025

Venue: Conference Room – Office of the Vice President, Tower Hill, Freetown.

Attendance:

Government:	Civil Society:	Chamber:	Secretariat
Manty Tarawalli – MoS OVP - Chair	Dorcas Sitta Dauda - WoME- SL;	Kumba S. Feika – Koidu Ltd	Mohamed B. Koroma - Secretary
Samuel Gandi – ONS;	Cecilia C. Mattia – NACE		Annie Lansana
Peter Mangol – ASSL;	Joseph R. Kailie – NACE		Nadine Manley
Sheku B. Samai - OVP;	Emmanuel Gbondo Esq. – NaRGEJ-SL;		Alie Brima Kamara
Joseph M. Ganda – OVP;	Esther Kandeh – WoME-SL;		Marian Turay
Ramatu B. Massaquoi - EPA-SL;	Samuel J.Y. Turay – WoNES;		Mahawa Bai Kamara
Mabinty Sesay - MMMR;	Tom Sandi - NACE		Dr. Sahr D. Karku
Alimatu Bangura – NMA;			Joseph Moigua
Mohamed S. Bah – NMA/PMT;			
Abu Bakarr Conteh – MoF;			
Christiana Moiwo – PD - SL;			
Amadu Mansaray – PD - SL;			
Sarah Kossseh – MLGCA			
Edward A. Ngaujah – OVP;			
Mohamed Turay – OVP;			

Apology: Aminata Kamara – Marampa Mines; Tommy Kaizer Koker – Sierra Diamonds; HussinatuYilla – Sierra Rutile Ltd; Solomon M. Sogbandi– HRDN, Abu A. Brima - NMJD

Agenda

1. Prayer & Opening
2. Reading of minutes of the meeting of 17/12/ 2024
3. Matters arising from minutes of 17/12/ 2024
4. Review and approval of 2025 Work Plan
5. SLEITI MSG MoU (2024-2027)
6. Update on changes of MSG CSO constituency
7. Update on the development of SLEITI Policy
8. Dissemination of 2022-2023 Report
    - Concept Note
    - Budget
    - Theme
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

1. Prayer & Opening

The meeting was officially called to order at 10:40am by the National Coordinator (NC) of SLEITI, Mohamed Baimba Koroma. This was followed by individual silent prayers and an opening statement by the MSG Chair – Minister Manty Tarawalli, Minister of State, Office of the Vice President. She welcomed members and appreciated their hard work in implementing the EITI Standard. She stated that she will continue to count on their support and expertise of the sector to effectively coordinate and collaborate with the relevant stakeholders in implementing the EITI Standard.

2. Reading of Minutes of the 17th December 2024 meeting.

The minutes of the 2024 MSG quarter four meeting held on 17th December 2024 was shared to members ahead of the quarter one meeting of 2025. However, it was projected by Dr. Sahr Dauda Karku - Monitoring & Evaluation Officer of SLEITI page by page for ease of reference. He guided members through the minutes for any input/comment. After thoroughly examining the minutes and there being no corrections, Mr. Mohamed Sallieu Bah of the National Mineral Agency moved the motion to formally adopt the minutes. This was seconded by Esther Kandeh – WoME-SL hence the minute was approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the 17/12/ 2024 MSG Quarter Four Meeting

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer also guided members through this agenda item by going through the action points, persons responsible for each action point and their corresponding updates from the 2024 MSG quarter four meeting.

The points below formed the matters arising and their corresponding updates of the minutes of the 2024 fourth quarter MSG meeting held on 17th December 2024:

1. **Action Point:** The MoS to engage her colleague Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources on the EITI expansion of scope and evidence of any letter written to the effect.

Update: The MoS updated members that she had discussions with her colleague Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources and she is willing for her Ministry to be included in the scope of the SLEITI process. She said the SLEITI secretariat will now follow up with the ministry on the technical aspects.

2. **Action Point:** Technical Committee to meet and finalize the draft 2022-2023 SLEITI Report on the 23rd December 2024.

Update: This task was completed and the revised document was sent to the IA for inclusion into the final 2022-2023 SLEITI report.

3. **Action Point:** To do a formal letter signed by the MSG Chair to put a hold on the processing documents of Gold Lion Mining Company for non-compliance of the IA reporting templates.

Update: Due to the Christmas break and early closure of offices, there was not enough time to send the letters. However, the Director of Mines was contacted on the issues who said the documents have already been processed.

4. **Action Point:** The SLEITI 2025 work plan was to be reviewed in early January 2025 by the MSG and SLEITI Secretariat.

Update: This was reviewed and updated with activities of 2025. Additionally, a stakeholders' consultative workshop on the development of the 2025 work plan was held on Thursday, 6th March 2025.

5. **Action Point:** To share the EITI International Secretariat BO and Energy Transition slides on the MSG capacity-building workshop with the MSG

Update: Due to poor health of a staff member at the EITI International Secretariat, SLEITI still awaits the PowerPoint presentation slides.

6. **Action Point:** The SLEITI National Coordinator to liaise with Aminata Kamara of Marampa Mines to get an updated list of mining companies in the Chamber of Mines to be updated in the SLEITI MSG MoU.

Update: This is complete. Aminata Kamara provided a comprehensive list of companies that are currently part of the Chamber of Mines and was subsequently updated in the SLEITI MSG MoU.

4. Review and approval of the 2025 Work Plan

The National Coordinator updated members that as part of the EITI Requirement on work plan, stakeholders that are not on the MSG must have input into the development of the annual work plans. As a result, the SLEITI secretariat organized a one-day stakeholders' consultative workshop on 6th

of March 2025 to ensure that the work plan development followed a wider consultative process and activities aligned with national development plan and the EITI Standard. He stated that the draft 2025 SLEITI Work Plan was developed by carrying over relevant activities that were not implemented in 2024 and updated with corresponding national priorities for 2025. He said the workshop was very interactive and successful. The National Coordinator noted that the updated draft work plan following the stakeholders' workshop is now ready for the MSG to review and approve so it can be updated on the SLEITI website and shared with the EITI International Secretariat. Following this statement, few members requested for additional time to review the work plan. As a result, it was agreed that members be given up to the 27th March 2025 to send comments to the SLEITI secretariat. However, the work plan was approved in principle with a note that if no comments are received by 27th March, the SLEITI secretariat can proceed to upload the work plan accordingly.

5. SLEITI MSG MoU (2025-2028)

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was presented to the MSG for approval and signature of the three constituency representatives. Emmanuel Gbondo raised a concern about a provision in the MoU relating to a permanent seat of a particular civil society organization. He said this provision was expunged from the MoU at the 2024 quarter four MSG meeting so he was surprised to see it still being included in the MoU that was shared as part of the working documents for the meeting. The National Coordinator responded that the wrong version was mistakenly shared and that the correct version being projected at the meeting does not have such provision, as it was removed following the agreement by members at the last meeting. Mr. Gbondo also stated that since the provision has been expunged from the MoU, it is only right that it is also expunged from the Draft SLEITI Bill. Peter Mangol of the Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL) echoed Mr. Gbondo's view of also eliminating the permanent seat from the Draft SLEITI Bill.

The MSG Chair urged members to endorse and sign the correct version of the MoU as she said the issue of the permanent seat which has delayed the signing has now been removed. In response to Mr. Gbondo's comment of removing the provision of permanent seat from the Draft SLEITI Bill, the Chair replied that the focus for now is on the MoU, and discussions about the provisions in the Bill will happen through the consultative stages of the Bill where the public will have the opportunity to revise the Bill accordingly.

Madam Cecilia Mattia also encouraged members to endorse the MoU as she said it is a "gentleman's agreement" and needed to guide the MSG in its operations of implementing the EITI in Sierra Leone. She said until the MSG gets a Bill, the MoU will be the terms of reference for all members.

Madam Esther Kandeh inquired whether there would be additional meetings to further discuss the draft SLEITI Bill and make input into it. The Chair confirmed that several sessions will be held before the Bill goes to cabinet and several more consultations when it gets to Parliament.

Mr. Abu Bakarr Conteh of the Ministry of Finance suggested that a date should be added to the signature page of the MoU for clarity of date it was signed by the constituency representatives.

Following the discussions around the MoU, the Chair put the MoU to members for endorsement. This was unanimously endorsed and the SLEITI Secretariat will get the MoU ready for it to be signed by representatives of the three constituencies.

6. Update on Changes of MSG CSOs Constituency

The National Coordinator updated members of the changes in the civil society representation on the MSG. He said a letter was received from the Interim Chair of the National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE) on changes they have made to the NACE representation on the MSG. The Chair requested Cecilia Mattia to provide further update. In her update, she stated that one of the NACE representatives, Society for Democratic Initiative (SDI) has been very dormant in MSG activities. Therefore, the NACE Secretariat thought it fit to replace them with another institution in order to make the NACE representation on the MSG more effective. Therefore, she stated that Green Scenery has replaced SDI on the MSG and Joseph Rahall will be the substantive member and Tom Sandy the alternate member. She said that the change will enhance the overall effectiveness and diversity of perspectives represented in the MSG.

The National Coordinator urged Madam Cecilia to ensure that there is documentation of how the processes and decision to replace SDI was reached as he noted that during validation, the EITI International Secretariat would normally request for evidence of how the decision was reached.

7. Update on the Development of SLEITI Policy

Madam Chair expressed her gratitude to the National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE) for their invaluable support in facilitating the development of a Draft SLEITI Policy which was part of the working documents for the meeting. She emphasized the urgency of the SLEITI Policy highlighting the necessity for the Technical Committee to convene and thoroughly review it and make recommendations to the MSG. A key point of discussion was whether to revitalize the existing Technical Committee to review it or to establish an entirely new committee. Members agreed that the current Technical Committee be convened to review the draft Policy and if there is a need to co-opt any other member based on their expertise, this will be done.

Madam Cecilia added that the consultant of the Draft SLEITI Policy had set a three-week deadline for feedback submissions. She cautioned that if the MSG did not meet this timeframe, they would incur additional costs for the consultant to incorporate the inputs at a later date. With this critical deadline in mind, Cecilia inquired whether there was a specific timeline established for finalizing both the Draft SLEITI Policy and the SLEITI Bill. In reply, the Chair reaffirmed that all activities related to the Policy and Bill were expected to take place within the second quarter of the year, underscoring the need for swift action to ensure compliance with the deadlines. This timeline not only reflects the urgency of the matter, but also sets a clear framework for the committee's future activities.

The National Coordinator also informed members that the Draft SLEITI Policy was also shared with the EITI International Secretariat who will send their comments to the SLEITI secretariat to be added to those that will be provided by the Technical Committee and share with the consultant.

8. Dissemination of the 2022-2023 SLEITI Report

The National Coordinator provided an update on the ongoing discussions regarding the dissemination of the 2022-2023 SLEITI Report. He reminded the MSG members that it is a requirement of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to ensure that EITI reports produced are effectively shared with all stakeholders especially at community level where people are mostly affected by mining operations. He also highlighted that GIZ has offered to fund this vital process. However, he pointed out that there are some implementation challenges that both SLEITI and GIZ are working to address in order to move the process forward.

The other documents that were approved at the meeting:

- **Concept note** - This was presented to member highlighting the justification of a national dissemination of the 2022-2023 SLEITI Report. It was reviewed and approved.
- **Budget** – The budget will be discussed at a later meeting when the challenges with GIZ have been addressed.
- **Theme** – Three themes were presented to members for their inputs. After deliberation and thoughtful exchange of ideas, members reached a consensus and agreed on the theme: ***"Strengthening Trust between Government and its Citizens through Information Sharing on the Extractive Sector."*** The theme emphasizes the importance of transparency and collaboration in consolidating a trustful relationship between the Government and its citizens concerning the exploration and management of the country's natural resources. The theme was officially approved by members.

9. Other Business

Madam Cecilia underscored the pressing need for increased engagement with the Vice President, who is the Champion of the EITI in Sierra Leone. She expressed that the Vice President must be proactively involved in the SLEITI process as this will motivate MSG members and stakeholders to be more engaged in the process. She said MSG members are playing a significant role in moving the process forward and his presence would greatly enhance their efforts.

The National Coordinator expressed gratitude to GIZ for their commitment in hiring a consultant that has redeveloped the SLEITI website. He said the new website is now running effectively and encouraged members to take a tour of the website. He also informed members that with support from the GIZ, the consultants have set up official emails for SLEITI staff members and they will start using them to communicate officially with stakeholders.

Additionally, the National Coordinator acknowledged the support of the Minister of State (MoS) and Chair of the MSG in facilitating the relocation of the SLEITI Secretariat to Soldier Street. He warmly invited members to visit the new office which he said is an ideal office environment compared to the previous office space at Charles Street.

Furthermore, the Chair shared insights about the Anti-Corruption Commission's Strategy Committee, which she has been appointed to lead. She said as part of the committee membership; she has nominated SLEITI to be a committee member. She said this would enhance cooperation in the Anti-Corruption Commission and would help in combating corruption.

Madam Cecilia also took the opportunity to update her colleagues on the initiatives of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), focusing particularly on their expectations from SLEITI regarding beneficial ownership transparency. She proposed convening a meeting with the Chairman of the OGP to discuss possible areas of collaboration. The Chair expressed her full support for Cecilia's suggestion, reinforcing the importance of engaging with OGP. Therefore, she requested the Secretariat to set up a meeting between herself and the Chairman of OGP.

10. Adjournment

In the absence of any other business, Madam Ramatu Massaquoi, representing the Environment Protection Agency - Sierra Leone (EPA-SL), formally moved the motion to adjourn the meeting. Her proposal was seconded by Madam Cecilia Mattia, a representative from NACE. This marked the conclusion of the MSG quarter one (1) meeting.

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Signature of Chair

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Signature of Secretary

Action Points

No.	Action Points	Update
1	*MSG Chair, Minister Manty Tarawalli to meet with the Chairman of OGP to discuss possible areas of collaboration.*	Hon. Minister Manty Tarawalli, met with Mr. Joseph Bindi, the chairman of the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED) and the Open Government Partnership (OGP). In that meeting, partnership and advancement of shared objectives were discussed. It was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding be developed between SLEITI and OGP.
2	*To convene a meeting of the MSG Technical Committee to review the Draft SLEITI Policy*	*The Technical Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, 3rd April 2025. The comments provided on the Draft SLEITI Policy including those by the EITI International Secretariat have been sent to the consultant to incorporate into the Draft Policy.*