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

Minutes of SLEITI MSG Quarter Two (2) Meeting held on 22nd May 2025

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

Attendance:

Government:	Civil Society:	Chamber:	Secretariat
Manty Tarawalli – MoS-OVP (MSG Chair)	Cecilia C. Mattia – NACE, Joseph R. Kailie - NACE	Aminata Kamara – MML	Mohamed B. Koroma - Secretary
Alimatu Bangura – NMA,	Tom Sandi – NACE,		Nadine Manley
Sarah Kosseh – MLG&CA,	Joseph Rahal – Green Scenery,		Marian Turay
Amadu Mansaray – PD-SL,	Esther Kandeh – WoME,		Dr. Sahr D. Karku
Samuel Gandi – ONS,	Dorcas Sitta Dauda – WoME,		Joseph Moigua
Bilkissu Jalloh – ONS,	Alphonso B.M. Gbanie – HRDN-SL,		Deborah Massaquoi
Mabinty Sesay – MMMR,	Samuel Turay – WoNES,		
Christiana Moiwo – PD-SL,	Gertrude Karimu – WoNES		
Miatta Kamara – OVP,	Emmauel Gbondo - NaRGEJ		
Joseph M. Gando – OVP,			
Jeneba P. Kaikai – NRA,			
Abu Bakarr Conteh – MoF,			
Ramatu B. Massaquoi – EPA-SL,			
Aiah W. Kembay – EPA-SL			

Apology: Mohamed Sallieu Bah – NMA/PMT, Abu A. Brima – NMJD, Solomon M. Sogbandi – HRDN-SL, Hussinatu Yilla – Sierra Rutile, Morrie Lansana – ASSL, Kumba S. Feika – Koidu Ltd.

Agenda

1. Prayer & Opening
2. Reading of minutes of the quarter one meeting of 20/03/2025
3. Matters arising from the quarter one meeting of 20/03/2025
4. High-Level EITI Mission to Sierra Leone
5. Recruitment of SLEITI Programme Manager
6. Update on BO Implementation in Sierra Leone
7. Update on the draft SLEITI Policy
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

1. Prayer & Opening

The meeting was officially called to order at 11:20 a.m. Members were requested to observe individual silent prayers. This followed a brief statement by the MSG Chair – Minister Manty Tarawalli, who apologized for starting the meeting slightly late, as we awaited a quorum. She expressed her appreciation to members for their time and continuous support in the implementation of the EITI Standard in Sierra Leone. She said the meeting will discuss significant issues relevant to EITI implementation in Sierra Leone, especially the visit of the EITI Executive Director and his team to Sierra Leone. She said the visit of the high-level mission is a testament to the progress Sierra Leone has made in implementing the EITI Standard. She encouraged members to attend the MSG meeting with the Executive Director and help facilitate the meetings with Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Civil Society members, development partners, and the Chamber of Mines.

2. Reading of Minutes of the quarter one meeting of 20/03/2025

The minutes from quarter one MSG meeting, held on March 20th, 2025, was projected for members to review and make necessary input. To ease discussion and save time, the draft minutes was sent to members for input and comments, and the updated version was shared as part of the working documents ahead of the quarter two meeting. The MSG Chair guided members through the document. This provided an opportunity for members to comment or make amendments. Following the review of the minutes, and with no corrections required, Madam Cecilia Mattia from National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE) moved the motion to adopt the minutes. This motion was seconded by Madam Mabinty Sesay of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources (MMMR), leading to the approval and adoption of the minutes.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the quarter one meeting of 20/03/2025

After adopting the minutes, Dr. Karku of SLEITI proceeded to present the matters arising in the form of action points noted in the previous MSG meeting. He provided updates on the status of each action point. The following points represented the matters arising and their corresponding updates from the minutes of quarter one MSG meeting, held on 20th March 2025:

1. **Action Point:**

   MSG Chair, Minister Manty Tarawalli, to meet with the Chairman of Open Government Partnership (OGP) to discuss possible areas for collaboration.

Update:

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.

Esther Kandeh sought clarification regarding the meeting with the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The SLEITI National Coordinator explained that OGP is a government-led initiative aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in governance. He added that the partnership is designed to support SLEITI's objectives, promoting greater public disclosure. The MSG Chair reinforced this by highlighting the collaborative nature of the relationship with OGP, stating that it presents a mutually beneficial opportunity for both institutions. Cecilia Mattia further elaborated that OGP was previously situated within the Presidency, and now operates under NaCCED. The discussion concluded with a consensus that the partnership is beneficial for all parties interested in promoting good governance and transparency in Sierra Leone.

2. **Action Point:**

   To convene a meeting of the MSG Technical Committee to review the Draft SLEITI Policy.

Update:

The Technical Committee met on Tuesday, 3rd April 2025, to review the Draft SLEITI Policy. The committee's inputs, including those by the EITI International Secretariat, were sent to the consultant for incorporation into the final Draft SLEITI Policy.

Cecilia Mattia of NACE inquired about the timeline for the consultant to submit the revised version of the SLEITI Policy. In response, the National Coordinator assured members that the consultant was still actively working on the document, with an expected completion within the next two weeks, noting that he had emphasized the urgency of the task.

4. High-Level EITI Mission to Sierra Leone

Members were officially informed about the upcoming high-level EITI mission to Sierra Leone, which is scheduled for the 5th and 6th June 2025. The MSG Chair emphasized the significance of the visit, noting that the team would engage in multiple meetings with Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Development partners, including sessions with the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Chamber of Mines on separate occasions. The Chair encouraged all members to actively support these meetings, highlighting the importance of their full attendance and input during such a critical period.

The purpose of the EITI mission is to enhance transparency in the management of the country's extractive resources, and to receive full political support from the highest Government office of the process. The Chair underscored that the EITI visiting team should be given the fullest support and consideration, as their work is vital to the advancement of good governance practices in Sierra Leone. She further stated that the planning committee for the visit is diligently working behind the scenes to ensure a successful and impactful visit.

During the discussion, Madam Cecilia Mattia from NACE inquired whether there are any arrangements for a nice treat to properly welcome the visitors. In response, the chair confirmed that plans are indeed in place to provide the EITI team with a warm reception and a gift that will be provided by the Office of the Vice President, to be presented by a member of the MSG at the proposed MSG meeting. She emphasized the need to ensure they feel welcome and valued during their stay in Sierra Leone.

Aminata Kamara, representing the Chamber of Mines, suggested hosting a cocktail dinner for the EITI guests to create a good atmosphere for engagement. Additionally, she proposed that since the Chamber has relaunched, any proposal for assistance by the MSG should be directed to the Chamber as a collective entity, rather than to individual companies, thereby streamlining communication and support efforts. The proposal was welcomed by members.

5. Recruitment of SLEITI Programme Manager

Following the untimely passing of the previous Programme Manager of SLEITI, the SLEITI team has experienced an increased workload, particularly as they prepare for an impending validation process. Recognizing the urgency, the chair of the MSG declared the position of Programme Manager officially vacant and invited members to participate in deliberations regarding the recruitment to that position.

Aminata Kamara from the Chamber of Mines raised a question about whether any specific candidates were under consideration for the role. The Chair reiterated past experiences where recruitment processes initiated by the Government caused dissatisfaction among MSG members. With a commitment to avoid such recurrences, she emphasized the need for a more collaborative approach in appointing a suitable replacement.

It was collectively agreed that efforts should begin by identifying qualified candidates from within the SLEITI secretariat, where appropriate skills and knowledge may already exist. Christiana Moiwo from the Petroleum Directorate- SL echoed this sentiment, advocating for internal scouting before looking externally. Mr. Gbanie from HRDN-SL proposed that the recruitment process should remain open, allowing interested staff members to formally apply and adhere to established protocols.

Mr. Abubakarr Conteh from the Ministry of Finance added that to maintain staff morale and a clear path for career growth, it would be prudent to focus first on identifying capable individuals within the SLEITI secretariat for this critical position. Mr. Rahall commented that the EITI has made

substantial progress in refining its procedures, thus suggesting a dual approach; conducting internal and possibly external searches to ensure that the most qualified individual is selected. He emphasized that the entire recruitment process should uphold the principles of transparency that EITI embodies.

Cecilia C. Mattia of NACE further advised that previous recruitment required the MSG to carefully vet potential candidates and compile a list that was submitted to the Office of National Security (ONS) for thorough background checks, ensuring integrity and competence of the candidates for the role are observed. However, members noted that this could be done for a National Coordinator role, but not required for the recruitment of a Programme Manager.

In conclusion, the Chair indicated that the anticipated timeline for completing the recruitment process would be three months, allowing adequate time to find a qualified candidate who would contribute positively to the SLEITI initiative. She suggested that a small committee of MSG members be set up to oversee the process, including developing a ToR and internal scanning. Their recommendations will be submitted to the MSG for further action.

6. Update on Beneficial Ownership (BO) Implementation in Sierra Leone

Mr. Baimba Koroma provided an update regarding the ongoing implementation of the Beneficial Ownership (BO) initiative in Sierra Leone. It was announced that a preliminary meeting had been held with key technical stakeholders, resulting in the formation of a dedicated technical working group. The technical group is chaired by the head of Financial Intelligence Agency, with the deputy chair from the National Investment Board. Currently, efforts are underway to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for this technical working group, which will establish guidelines for its operations. The technical working committee's first official meeting is scheduled to be convened soon, where members will work to set foundational processes for the BO initiative. Additionally, the Chair of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), as highlighted by the National Coordinator of SLEITI, emphasized the necessity of a robust legal framework to underpin the BO process. This framework will be essential in shaping regulations regarding money laundering, terrorist financing, etc., to ensure full and strong BO disclosure compliance.

7. Update on the Draft SLEITI Policy

During the discussion on the draft SLEITI Policy, Mr. Baimba Koroma reported that all feedbacks received from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) International Secretariat, the MSG Technical Committee, and the secretariat were forwarded to the consultant for consideration of incorporating into the SLEITI Policy. Mr. Rahall of Green Scenery raised an inquiry regarding the potential interconnections between the BO initiative and the SLEITI Policy. The Chair of the MSG responded affirmatively, asserting that the Policy serves as a foundational document that will harmonize efforts in both areas. Esther Kandeh, representing Women in Mining and Extractives (WoME), questioned what the next step of the SLEITI Policy was. The Chair clarified that it would be part of the parliamentary process after the Cabinet has endorsed it.

Cecilia Mattia of NACE proposed that the draft policy should be circulated among other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to facilitate broader discussion and input. While the Chair appreciated the suggestion, she also encouraged MSG members to present the policy to their respective MDAs and CSOs for input. It was noted that once Cabinet approves the policy, it will subsequently be disseminated to a wider range of MDAs for further dialogue.

8. Other Business

Cecilia Mattia highlighted that since the publication of the latest SLEITI Report, there has been no public engagement and discussions around the report's findings. She urged the SLEITI Champion to advocate for funding that would allow for effective nationwide public outreach on the report's contents, especially in mining communities. The Chair acknowledged her concerns and assured that her suggestion would be taken into serious consideration.

Mr. Baimba Koroma thanked members for their support and valuable contributions, particularly concerning the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was officially signed and uploaded on the SLEITI website. Additionally, he emphasized that the MoU, which serves as the guiding document outlining the strategic direction for the MSG through 2025 to 2028. He also expressed gratitude to the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Mr. Julius Mattai, for his commitment to the systematic disclosure of EITI-related data on the ministry's official website, highlighting the importance of transparency through proactive disclosure.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to address, Cecilia Mattia moved to adjourn the meeting, and Christiana Moiwo of the Petroleum Directorate-SL seconded the motion. The meeting was officially adjourned, with plans to reconvene in the next quarter to continue discussions and monitor the progress of SLEITI implementation.

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Signature of Chair	Signature of Secretary

Action Points

No.	Action Points	Update
1.	To form a committee and develop a ToR for the recruitment of a SLEITI Programme Manager	Completed – The ToR has been developed. Committee members include: Aminata Kamara, Ramatu Massaquoi, Esther Kandeh, Amadu Mansaray, and Sheku Samai.
2.	To do skill mapping internally for a SLEITI Programme Manager	Not started – Awaiting formal submission/s of expression of interest.
3.	A three-week ultimatum for SLEITI to draft a MoU for institutional coordination between SLEITI and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) - 12th June 2025.	SLEITI developed a draft and shared it with OGP for their input. SLEITI awaits OGP's input and comments.
4.	A three-week deadline for the consultant to submit the final draft of the SLEITI Policy – 12th June 2025.	Awaits final draft from the consultant. SLEITI has made several follow-ups.