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

Minutes of SLEITI MSG Quarter Four Meeting held on 10th December 2025

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

Attendance:

Government:	Civil Society:	Chamber:	Secretariat
Jeneba Kaikai – NRA	Tom Sandi – CCA – SL/NACE	Kadijatu Kamara – CTC	Mohamed B. Koroma – Secretary
Mabinty Sesay – MMMR	Samuel J.Y Turay – WoNES		Annie Lansana
Sarah Kosseh – MLGCA	Gertrude Karimu – WoNES		Joseph Moigua
Christiana Moiwo – PDSL	Cecilia Mattia – NACE		Nadine Manley
Ramatu B. Massaquoi – EPA-SL	Joseph R. Kailie – NACE		Mahawa Bai Kamara
Mohamed S. Bah – NMA	Dorcas S. Dauda – WoME-SL		Deborah Massaquoi
Samuel Gandi – ONS	Joseph Rahall – Green Scenery		Dr. Sahr D. Karku
Abu Bakarr Conteh – MoF	Emmanuel Gbondo - NaRGEJ		
Manty Tarawalli – OVP - Chairperson			

Apology: Abu A. Brima - NMJD, Peter Mongor - ASSL

Agenda

1. Prayer & Opening
2. Reading of minutes of 25/9/2025
3. Matters arising from minutes of 25/9/2025
4. Production of Sierra Leone 2024/2025 EITI Report
5. Update on Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Anti-Corruption Commission
6. Development of 2026 work plan
7. Update on replacement of SLEITI Programme Manager

8. Update on the development of BO Regulation
9. Update on the Draft SLEITI Policy
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

1. Prayer & Opening

The meeting was called to order at exactly 11:33 a.m. by the National Coordinator (NC) of SLEITI - Mohamed Baimba Koroma, who apologized for starting a bit late. Members were asked to observe a moment of individual silent prayers. The National Coordinator thanked and welcomed all members for taking the time to attend. He further expressed gratitude for their ongoing commitments to SLEITI. He emphasized that 2026 is going to be a busy year on the SLEITI calendar due to the production of report and preparation for EITI validation. However, he said he will continue to count on the support of the MSG to implement the work plan successfully. The Honorable Minister of State, Office of the Vice President - Manty Tarawalli, who doubles as Chairperson of the MSG, stated that the MSG meeting was the last for 2025, and expressed her thanks and appreciation to members for their commitments to EITI implementation in Sierra Leone, and wished them a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2026.

2. Reading of Minutes of 25/09/2025 MSG Meeting

The minutes from the third quarter MSG meeting, held on September 25, 2025, was projected for members to review and provide input. To facilitate discussion and save time, the draft minutes was sent to members in advance for their comments, and an updated version was included in the working documents for the fourth quarter meeting. The MSG Chair, Hon. Minister Manty, guided members through the document, giving time for comments and amendments. After reviewing the minutes and with no corrections required, the minutes was adopted by members.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 25/09/2025 MSG meeting

After adopting the minutes, Dr. Sahr D. Karku, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer-SLEITI, presented the matters arising in the form of an action points noted during the last MSG meeting. He further provided an update on the status of the action points. The point below summarizes the action point and the corresponding update from the minutes of the third quarter MSG meeting, held on September 25, 2025:

1. **Action Point:**

Consultant to share the clean copy of the draft SLEITI Policy with the Secretariat by Monday, 29th September, who will then share it with the MSG members.

Update:

The updated version of the SLEITI Policy was received from the consultant and shared with MSG members.

4. Production of Sierra Leone 2024/2025 EITI Report

The National Coordinator-SLEITI informed members that there is a need to produce one more report before validation. He stated that in order to make the information more relevant and timelier to citizens, and considering the high cost of producing reports, he proposed that the SLEITI MSG should embark on producing a two-year report covering 2024-2025. He emphasized that with such report, being the latest, will be used by the EITI International Secretariat as part of the key documents in the validation of Sierra Leone. He also stated that the EITI International Secretariat has now given the options to implementing countries to produce their own reports either in partnership with their Supreme Audit Institutions or a local consultant, using either the Risk-based approach or the traditional Reconciliation approach. After further explanation of the two options, the MSG opted for the traditional reconciliation method wherein the MSG will partner with Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL), to either do the report in its entirety or come to an agreement wherein ASSL would do the financial aspect and the SLEITI Secretariat do the contextual.

The National Coordinator further informed members that in an informal discussion with some senior staff at ASSL, he informed them about the new approach of the EITI and the possibility to support production of the EITI Report. He asserted that the staff were happy to take up the challenge as long as it is approved by ASSL.

As a result, the National Coordinator was tasked to officially engage the Auditor General of ASSL on the possible partnership and update members at the next MSG meeting.

Madam Cecilia Mattia-National Coalition on Extractives, asked what the MSG should do to make sure the process of mainstreaming EITI data is successful as that would help to ease the level of work and information that goes into the report. She commended institutions that are now gradually mainstreaming data such as the National Minerals Agency (NMA), Environment Protection Agency -SL(EPA-SL) and the Ministry of Mines & Mineral Resources (MMMR), and those that strongly monitor those reporting institutions (ASSL and Anti-Corruption Commission). In response to Madam Cecilia, Madam Manty Tarawalli said, Mainstreaming is the way to go for a better EITI Reporting and national growth, therefore, she will engage them accordingly.

Mr. Bah-National Minerals Agency, said the ASSL has been auditing all institutions, so engaging them to produce a report is a prudent move.

Madam Cecilia said the MSG might have problem with accessing the company's financial reports. Therefore, she suggested informing the companies as soon as possible to get them involved in the process.

Mr. Bah said, audit reports consumption in Sierra Leone is different from the international. Therefore, he asked whether the report will be taken seriously. He suggested that the draft report be shared for review and input by members before the final report is published.

Mr. Abubakar Conteh - Ministry of Finance, also supported the idea of partnership with ASSL to produce the report, even though he thinks it might be controversial as they normally just state in their reports that X amount is missing without proper verification, hence the need to submit the draft report to the MSG to review it properly before the final publication.

Madam Ramatu Massaquoi - Environment Protection Agency-SL, emphasized that it is normal for every audit to have recommendations as that helps to improve the process and procedures in the relevant institutions.

The MSG chair noted that, to fact-check every information in the report, the draft must be shared.

To respond to some of the points raised, the NC stated that the norm in all EITI report production processes within SLEITI has been to share all reports (Scoping, draft final and final) with the MSG for review and approval before moving to the next stage. He stated that in most cases the Technical Committee on the MSG also review the reports on behalf of the MSG and share their input/recommendations with the MSG for approval before they are incorporated into the reports by the consultant. He stated that it was the same process with the validation exercise by the EITI where comments were shared with the MSG and the opportunity to clarify before the final scores were awarded and report published. Therefore, he stated that no report can be published without the approval of the MSG.

On the issue of the report being controversial because it will be produced by ASSL, the NC stated that it will not be the case as the ASSL is regarded as a professional institution, that is objective and uphold high level of integrity, guided by international audit principles and procedures. He said because of the limited time the ASSL has to publish Audit report, in order not to affect their publication date, they would indicate what is missing if the relevant institutions fail to provide the required evidence within the time frame.

Madam Cecilia asked a question about the mode of operation of ASSL, whether a stipend will be given to them or not? The Chair responded that a meeting would be held with them to know whether or not they will agree to produce the report. Once agreed, other modalities will be discussed accordingly.

Mr. Abubakar Conteh stressed that ASSL would not be too keen about the stipend, for they will be doing a national service, hence, they will not charge like the international IA.

5. Update on Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Anti-Corruption Commission

In his update on the signing of the MoU, the NC stated that with the blessings of the MSG, SLEITI secretariat proposed the MoU, shared the draft with MSG members, and thereafter signed the MoU with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). He said the MoU will formalize the collaborative understanding and commitments of both agencies concerning the enhancement of good governance, as well as the deterrence of corruption within the extractive sector.

Minister Manty used the opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the good job of the SLEITI secretariat and thanked them for achieving such a milestone.

6. Development of 2026 work plan

The NC stated that there had been a delay in the timeline for the development of the 2026 work plan, because of the excessive work involved in the fourth quarter. He further expressed that the

next work plan is a critical document for validation. Previously, there were supports from NACE and other stakeholders from the provinces in the development of the work plan and hope that will continue. According to the EITI Standard, implementing countries are to produce work plans in consultation with wider stakeholders. He furthered that a two-year work plan (2026 & 2027) would be appropriate considering that validation will commence on 1st January 2027 when the Secretariat and MSG will be engaged in validation process. The MSG agreed and approved that the work plan be developed as indicated pending approval from the EITI International Secretariat.

Madam Cecilia asked that, if SLEITI is to grade themselves on the implementation of the 2025 work plan activities, what percentage would they get? The NC said he has not done the math, but it might be up to 70%. Minister Manty added that it might even be up to 75% as there were activities implemented which were not in the initial work plan; such as the high-level mission of the EITI Executive Director and signing of the MoU with the Anti-Corruption Commission etc.

7. Update on replacement of SLEITI Programme Manager

During this update, the NC alluded to the last MSG meeting where members agreed to look internally for a qualified person and elevate, and where no suitable internal person is qualified, then recruitment can be done externally. However, he stated that the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer expressed interest in the role. As a result, a small committee was put together from the MSG to assess the process and make recommendations. Additionally, since the replacement will be handled directly by the Human Resource Management Office (HRMO), the process has been referred to them to proceed with the necessary steps in the replacement of the Programme Manager, and that members will be informed of the outcome.

8. Update on the development of BO Regulation

According to the NC, the draft BO Regulation is in the final stage by the subcommittee of the Beneficial Ownership Technical Working Group (BOTWG). He said the draft has been shared with the EITI International Secretariat for their input and will also be shared with the MSG once their input is made. The Regulation was expanded to cover other sectors and not just the extractives, and it will be based on the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism and Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act. He stated that by 2026, he expects a broader stakeholder engagement to start on the BO Regulation.

Madam Cecilia asked that key activities will warrant funding for them to be rolled out so they can be taken to donor partners for support. The NC responded that the BOTWG has put together a budget for implementation of BO activities which is now with Minister Manty for next steps.

9. Update on Draft SLEITI Policy

The MSG Chair updated the meeting that the consultant who drafted the SLEITI Policy-Ing. Andrew Keili, has been very supportive and the draft Policy was shared with the MSG for their input. The next step for her is to take it to Cabinet which she expects to be done by first or second quarter of 2026.

10. Other Business

Madam Cecilia raised concern about the transport reimbursement given to members for MSG meetings. She stated that even though her participation on the MSG is not for money, but for love of country, she believes the transport reimbursement of NLe200 is too small as it cannot even buy ten liters of fuel. She stated that members should be energized when they come to meetings and if such payment continues, effective participation on the MSG could be affected. She added that even if money is not given, at least a fuel chit should be provided to cover a minimum of ten liters. In response, the NC stated that her concerns will be looked into and appropriate action taken. To buttress the point, the Chair promised that by next year, the transport reimbursement will increase to cover a minimum of ten liters of fuel.

11. Adjournment

Having discussed all of the agenda items, the meeting was adjourned to the next meeting with Madam Gertrude Karimu moving the motion, which was seconded by Madam Cecilia Mattia.

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Signature of Chair

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Signature of Secretary

Action Points

No.	Action Points	Update
1	To engage the Auditor General of Audit Service Sierra Leone on the production of the Sierra Leone EITI Report.	The SLEITI Secretariat engaged the Auditor General and his team on the 28th and 30th January 2026 to discuss the possible partnership on co-production of Sierra Leone 2024-2025 EITI Report. Following those initial meetings, a tripartite virtual meeting was convened on the 26th February 2026 between the EITI International Secretariat, Audit Service Sierra Leone and the SLEITI Secretariat where a PowerPoint presentation was done by the EITI on the objectives, stages, data collection and analysis, quality controls, etc. of the Report.
2	To develop the work plan in the first quarter	The draft 2026-2027 work plan was shared with the MSG and the EITI International Secretariat for input. Following that, a stakeholder consultative workshop was convened on Thursday, 19th February 2026 for participants to make input into the work plan. The SLEITI Secretariat compiled comments and updated the draft work plan. The updated version was shared with the MSG ahead of quarter one meeting, where it is expected to be approved.