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

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Minutes of SLEITI MSG Meeting - Quarter One - 12th March 2026

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

Attendance:

Government:	**Civil Society:**	**Chamber:**	**Secretariat**
Abu Bakarr Conteh – MoF	Solomon M. Sogbandi – HRDN-SL	Hussinatu Yilla – SR LTD	Mohamed B. Koroma - Secretary
Samuel Gandi – ONS	Cecilia C. Mattia – NACE	June Samura – SR LTD	Dr. Sahr D. Karku
Amadu Mansaray – PD - SL	Gertrude Karimu – WoNES	Kadijatu Kamara – CTC Mining	Joseph Moigua
Mohamed S. Bah – NMA	Samuel Turay - WoNES		Mahawa Bai. Kamara
Alimatu Bangura – NMA	Dorcas S. Dauda – WoME - SL		Alie B. Kamara
Sarah Kosseh – MLGCA	Joseph R. Kailie – NACE		Nadine Manley
Florence Sabo – NIB			Marian R. Turay
Musa M. Maxwell – NIB			Deborah Massaquoi
Ramatu B. Massaquoi – EPA-SL			Isha Koroma – Intern
Manty Tarawalli – MoS OVP - Chair			
Mohamed Mansaray – OVP			

Apology: Esther Kandeh – WoME, Abu A. Brima – NMJD, Alphonso B.M. Gbanie – HRDN-SL, Emmanuel Gbondo – NaRGEJ, Joe Rahall – Green Scenery

Agenda

1. Prayer & Opening
2. Reading of minutes of 10/12/2025
3. Matters arising from minutes of 10/12/2025
4. Review and approve the 2026 & 2027 SLEITI Work Plan

5. Update on Production of Sierra Leone 2024-2025 EITI Report
6. Update on SLEITI Policy
7. 10th EITI Global Conference – Manila, Philippines 24-25 June 2026
8. Update on replacement of SLEITI Programme Manager
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

1. Prayer & Opening

The National Coordinator called the meeting to order, requested individual silent prayers. He extended a warm welcome and expressed appreciation to members for their attendance. He acknowledged their dedication to SLEITI, emphasizing that 2026 will be a significant year in the SLEITI calendar due to the partnership with Audit Service Sierra Leone to produce Sierra Leone 2024-2025 EITI report without the services of a consultant, and preparations for EITI Validation.

The Honourable Minister of State, Office of the Vice President – Manty Tarawalli, who also serves as Chair of the MSG, conveyed her gratitude to MSG members for their participation in the meeting. With several new faces in attendance, she requested individual introductions.

In conclusion, she highlighted the importance of making the meeting an interactive session and encouraged members to freely share their contributions throughout the discussion.

2. Reading of Minutes of 10/12/2025 MSG Meeting

The minutes from the fourth quarter 2025 MSG meeting, which were shared ahead of the meeting as part of the working documents, were presented and displayed for members to review and provide feedback. Hon. Minister Manty Tarawalli guided members through the document page by page, ensuring ample time for observations, clarifications, and suggested amendments.

Members thoroughly reviewed the minutes and made two minor corrections to enhance the accuracy and clarity of the recorded discussions. These amendments were noted and incorporated into the document.

After subsequent revisions, the Chair called for a motion to adopt the minutes. Madam Gertrude Karimu from WoNES proposed the motion, which was seconded by Madam Cecilia Mattia from NACE. With no objections raised, the minutes of the December 10, 2025 MSG meeting was officially adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10/12/2025 MSG meeting

Dr. Sahr D. Karku, Programme Manager – SLEITI, presented the matters arising, highlighting the action points noted during the previous MSG meeting. He also provided an update on the status

of the action points. Below is a summary of the action points along with their respective updates from the minutes of the fourth quarter 2025 MSG meeting held on December 10, 2025:

Action Point 1:

Engage the Auditor General of Audit Service Sierra Leone regarding partnership with SLEITI on production of Sierra Leone 2024-2025 EITI Report.

Update:

The SLEITI Secretariat engaged with the Auditor General and his team on January 28 and 30, 2026, to discuss a potential partnership for the production of Sierra Leone 2024-2025 EITI Report. Following these initial discussions, a tripartite virtual meeting took place on February 26, 2026 comprising the EITI International Secretariat, Audit Service Sierra Leone, and the SLEITI Secretariat. During this meeting, the EITI team made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the objectives of the report, stages including data collection and analysis, quality controls, and other relevant aspects of the EITI reporting.

Action Point 2:

Develop the SLEITI work plan during the first quarter of 2026.

Update:

The draft SLEITI 2026-2027 Work Plan was shared with the MSG and the EITI International Secretariat for feedback. Subsequently, a stakeholder consultative workshop was held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, allowing participants to contribute to the work plan. The SLEITI Secretariat compiled the comments and revised the draft work plan. The updated version was shared with the MSG prior to the first quarter meeting of 2026, where it was anticipated to be reviewed and approved.

4. Review and Approve the SLEITI 2026 & 2027 Work Plan

Following the stakeholder consultative workshop, the updated version of the SLEITI 2026–2027 Work Plan was distributed to members prior to the 2026 MSG quarter one meeting for their review and input. The Chair invited members to share any comments, observations, or suggestions regarding the document.

The National Coordinator of SLEITI informed members that a consultative workshop had been conducted during the development of the work plan, involving key stakeholders. He noted that the document reflects a realistic and practical framework of activities, having been previously shared as part of the working documents for the MSG quarter one meeting of 2026.

During the discussion, Madam Cecilia Mattia of NACE raised several important points for consideration. She recommended that the MSG Chair utilizes her position to promote and market the SLEITI 2026–2027 Work Plan to the Government, development partners and donors in order

to secure the necessary resources for its implementation. Additionally, she pointed out that some cost estimates might need to be revised upward to align with current market prices and inflationary trends.

In response, the MSG Chair acknowledged Madam Cecilia's suggestions and expressed appreciation. However, she advised that rather than revising all the cost estimates in the work plan, it would be more practical to include a line in the work plan called "contingency/miscellaneous" to accommodate potential price fluctuations and unexpected expenses.

The Chair stated that once the final work plan is ready, she would then start approaching potential partners for funding. She also requested that a fund-raising committee be set up to accelerate the fund-raising process.

With no further comments or clarifications from members, and after incorporating the suggested adjustments, the MSG members approved the SLEITI 2026–2027 Work Plan. The SLEITI Secretariat was requested to share the updated version with the Chair and members.

5. Update on Production of Sierra Leone 2024 & 2025 EITI Report

The National Coordinator shared with members that a consultative meeting took place with the Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL) regarding the preparation of the forthcoming Sierra Leone EITI report. He reported that the meeting was fruitful, with the Auditor General demonstrating strong support for ASSL to engage in the report's production.

He added that the SLEITI Secretariat is in the process of developing the Terms of Reference (ToR) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize the partnership between SLEITI and ASSL. He added that both documents were shared with the EITI International Secretariat for input.

The National Coordinator also informed members that the Secretariat had already sent notification letters to relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), alerting them that the reporting process for the 2024–2025 report will commence soon. Similar letters will also be dispatched to extractive companies outlining their reporting obligations and informing them that the report will be produced in partnership with ASSL.

Regarding the materiality threshold, the National Coordinator explained that recommendations will be made by ASSL at the Scoping phase after initial analysis of the revenue data from the National Revenue Authority. He said the MSG will then review it and make a decision before it is adopted.

During the discussion, Mr. Amadu Mansaray from the Petroleum Directorate sought clarification on the verification of reporting templates. He noted that ASSL had previously been tasked with verifying and certifying these templates and inquired who would now assume that responsibility since ASSL will be directly involved in producing the report.

In response, the National Coordinator clarified that ASSL will gather the necessary data directly from source institutions and will therefore be in a better position to verify them since they already audit those institutions, thus minimizing the need for separate certification of reporting templates, as was previously required when the process was conducted by an Independent Administrator. He said they were previously taken to ASSL for verification because the data was not primarily collected and compiled by them. He said since ASSL will be directly involved, they will be in a better position to check the authenticity and quality of the data by applying auditing procedures.

6. Update on SLEITI Policy

The Chair requested an update on the progress of the SLEITI Policy from the National Coordinator.

In response, the National Coordinator informed members that a Cabinet Paper had been developed and submitted to the Secretary to the Vice President for review and subsequent action.

The Chair expressed optimism that the document would be presented to the Cabinet for consideration by the earlier part of the second quarter.

During the discussion, Madam Cecilia Mattia stated that she is optimistic the process could likely wrap up by June 2026. In response, the Chair reassured members that all efforts will be made to ensure the process is complete before that date.

7. 10th EITI Global Conference – Manila, Philippines 24-25 June 2026

The National Coordinator informed members that the EITI Global Conference will be held in Manila, Philippines on 24-25 June 2026. He said the global conference assembles over 1,000 stakeholders including EITI implementing and supporting countries to network, showcase their progress, share experiences, and discuss advancements in the extractive sector. He emphasized that Sierra Leone should leverage this opportunity to highlight its successes in EITI implementation. He noted that it would be good to have a respectable number of delegates from Sierra Leone as this would show commitment to the EITI process.

Madam Cecilia Mattia pointed out that other countries usually attend the global conference with larger delegations compared to Sierra Leone. She remarked that the limited number of representatives from Sierra Leone often hampers the country's visibility at the conference display stands. She requested that government agencies and mining companies be contacted to solicit funding support for members who are interested in attending the conference.

The Chair updated members that she had been in initial talk with the EITI International Secretariat to speak at the conference. She mentioned that she will be attending the conference as a self-sponsored delegate. However, she informed members that two complimentary tickets were allocated to Sierra Leone by the EITI International Secretariat. She said it was the view of the EITI International Secretariat that preference be given to gender balance and diversity in choosing the two delegates, with further consideration for a CSO delegate. The Chair further stated that

considering the National Coordinator is a male, whose presence will be required at the conference, the CSO ticket was allocated to Esther Kandeh of WoME.

Madam Cecilia Mattia expressed concerns regarding the proposed selection of Madam Esther Kandeh as the Civil Society representative. She stressed that the selection of a Civil Society representative should have been left to the civil society constituency to decide.

Mr. Solomon Sogbandi of Human Right Defenders Network stated that she does not have any problem with Esther being selected. He just needed clarifications on how the decision was reached to select her. The National Coordinator clarified that there are three very senior female CSO members on the MSG. He said Madam Gertrude Karimu had already stated she is not interested due to the long flight time, and considering that Madam Cecilia Mattia had already attended a few global conferences, as such Esther was selected in order to give her the experience of a global conference.

Owing to that concern raised, the Chair went on to apologize to the CSO constituency and stated that the decision was taken in good faith and that in the future, such selection will be left with the CSOs to decide. Following this, members endorsed Esther's selection to participate as one of the EITI sponsored delegates.

8. Update on replacement of SLEITI Programme Manager

The National Coordinator informed members that following the recruitment process and their approval to replace the Programme Manager, he was pleased to report that Dr. Sahr D. Karku successfully completed the recruitment process and formally appointed as the substantive Programme Manager of SLEITI. Members applauded the appointment, with Mr. Amadu Mansaray stating that it was the best decision and the right choice. As Programme Manager, he will coordinate the activities of the Secretariat, support the execution of work plan, and foster engagement with stakeholders to ensure the successful delivery of SLEITI programmes and full implementation of the EITI Standard. The National Coordinator further stated that due to the promotion of Dr. Karku, the Human Resources Management Office will commence the process to fill the vacant position for the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

9. Other Business

Madam Cecilia Mattia expressed concerns regarding the absence of the Chair during the consultative workshop for the work plan development and the absence of the EITI Champion at MSG meetings. She stated that she had pointed out several times that the EITI Champion needs to interface with members as that will encourage them further to participate in EITI activities.

In response, the Chair acknowledged her concerns, clarifying that the SLEITI work plan workshop is primarily a draft stage. She said her active involvement becomes more relevant during the document's finalization, which she was currently overseeing. After which, she will then be actively involved in soliciting funding for its implementation.

Madam Cecilia Mattia asked about the timeline for the updated/completed work plan including the inserted line for contingencies. The Chair responded that it would be finalized by Monday, March 16, 2026.

The National Coordinator expressed gratitude to Madam Hussinatu Yillah of Sierra Rutile Limited for her coordination efforts with the Chamber of Mines to actively participate in the EITI process. He noted that SLEITI MSG awaits the updated names of the Chamber's representatives on the MSG, noting that he believed some representatives currently listed on the MSG forum were no longer members of the Chamber of Mines, but the Secretariat awaits formal approval from the Chamber of Mines regarding their replacements.

In response, Madam Hussinatu Yillah stated that the Chamber of Mines was trying to establish a Secretariat where all formal engagements will be coordinated. She assured members that the Chamber would soon hold a meeting to identify and confirm suitable representatives to serve on the MSG.

The National Coordinator reminded members that a notice including the link to register for the global conference was shared on the MSG forum. He encouraged members who are interested to attend the conference to register their interest whilst modalities are put in place to solicit funding. He said the registration would allow the EITI International Secretariat to gauge Sierra Leone's level of interest in the conference.

Madam Cecilia Mattia informed members that she had recently participated in an EITI-related meeting in Zambia. She noted that, based on the presentations, only two countries were making significant strides in mainstreaming EITI processes, and Sierra Leone was among those advancing mainstreaming EITI process especially with licenses and contracts. However, she raised concerns about the relatively low level of engagement within the MSG, particularly from the government constituency. She stressed that SLEITI needs to amplify its activities, especially in light of the upcoming EITI validation process.

In response, the Chair thanked Madam Cecilia Mattia for her insights and contributions. She further acknowledged that, while funding constraints remain a challenge, the Government will continue to strive to support SLEITI activities as much as possible.

10. Adjournment

Having discussed all the agenda items, the meeting was adjourned to the next sitting, with the motion moved by Madam Ramatu Massaquoi and seconded by Mr. Amadu Mansaray.

Chairperson

Secretary

Action Points

No.	Action Points	Update
1	SLEITI to share the updated SLEITI 2026-2027 work plan with the MSG Chair and all members.	**Completed –** The work plan was updated with a line inserted for contingencies. The updated version was shared with the Chair and MSG members.
2	SLEITI to write a letter to the Heads of MDAs whose MSG representatives expressed interest to attend the EITI Global Conference to solicit financial support and facilitate their participation at the conference.	**Completed** - Letters were sent to the respective MDAs.
3	SLEITI to set up a sub-committee to review the SLEITI 2026-2027 work plan and put strategies in place to raise funds.	**Ongoing –** The committee has been set up. The meeting with the MSG Chair is to be scheduled soon.