SLEITI

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Minutes of SLEITI MSG Quarter Two Meeting - 18th June 2026

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

Attendance:

Government:	Civil Society:	Chamber:	Secretariat
Manty Tarawalli – MoS OVP - Chair	Solomon M. Sogbandi – HRDN-SL	June Samura –SR LTD	Mohamed B. Koroma - Secretary
Abu Bakarr Conteh – MoF	Dorcas S. Dauda – WoME	Lima Suffian-Kargbo – SR LTD	Dr. Sahr D. Karku
Amadu Mansaray – PD - SL	Esther Kandeh – WoME		Joseph Moigua
Mohamed S. Bah – NMA	Emmanuel Gbondo – NaRGEJ		Annie Lansana
Alimatu Bangura – NMA	Joseph Rahall – Green Scenery		Mahawa B. Kamara
Sarah Kosseh – MLGCA			Alie B. Kamara
Florence Sabo – NIB			Nadine Manley
Ramatu B. Massaquoi – EPA-SL			Marian R. Turay
Miatta Ken Sesay – OVP			Deborah Massaquoi
Mabinty Sesay – MMMR			Isha Koroma – Intern
Christiana Moiwo – PD-SL			
Yusuf Dauda Suma – NMA			

Apology: Gertrude Karimu –WoNES. Abu Brima - NMJD

Agenda

1. Prayer & Opening
2. Reading of minutes of 12/03/2026
3. Matters arising from minutes of 12/03/2026
4. Update on Production of Sierra Leone 2024 & 2025 EITI Report
5. Update on SLEITI Policy
6. 10th EITI Global Conference – Brussels, Belgium, 8-9 October 2026
7. Update on replacement of Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

1. Prayer and Opening

The National Coordinator (NC) called the meeting to order and apologized for the delayed commencement, explaining that the meeting was awaiting the arrival of members to constitute a quorum. He welcomed all members and expressed his appreciation for their attendance and continued commitment to the work of the SLEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group. He subsequently invited members to observe a moment of individual silent prayer.

The NC noted that 2026 would be a busy year for SLEITI, particularly as Sierra Leone is expected to undertake the production of the EITI Report covering the 2024–2025 reporting period.

The Minister of State, Office of the Vice President, who also serves as Chairperson of the MSG, confirmed that the required quorum had been attained and declared that the meeting could formally commence. For the purposes of familiarization, she requested members to introduce themselves as she observed new faces in attendance.

Mr. Lima Suffian-Kargbo, attending MSG meeting for the first time, introduced himself as the President of the Chamber of Mines. He noted that this was the first occasion he had received an invitation to attend an MSG meeting.

In response, the National Coordinator clarified that invitations to MSG meetings had normally been communicated to the office of the Chamber of Mines, through Sierra Rutile Limited and expressed regret that the invitations had not previously been brought to his attention. He further noted that representatives from the Chamber of Mines had attended several MSG meetings. The MSG Chairperson apologized for any inconvenience caused and warmly welcomed Mr. Suffian-Kargbo to the MSG.

2. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the 12 March 2026 MSG Meeting

The minutes of the MSG Quarter One Meeting held on 12 March 2026, which had been circulated in advance as part of the meeting documents, were presented and displayed for members' review

and consideration. The MSG Chair guided members through the minutes, providing adequate opportunity for observations, clarifications, and amendments.

Following a thorough review, members raised no corrections or amendments. The Chair therefore invited a motion for the adoption of the minutes. Mr. Solomon Sogbandi of the Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN) moved the motion for adoption, which was seconded by Madam Ramatu Massaquoi of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA). With there being no objections, the minutes of the MSG meeting held on 12 March 2026 were duly adopted.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 12 March 2026 MSG Meeting

Dr. Sahr D. Karku, Programme Manager of SLEITI, presented the matters arising from the previous meeting, highlighting the action points and their corresponding updates.
Below are summary of the action points and their corresponding updates from the first-quarter 2026 MSG meeting held on 12 March 2026.

Action Point 1:

SLEITI to share the updated SLEITI 2026-2027 work plan with the MSG Chair and all members.
Update:

The work plan was updated with a budget line inserted for contingencies. The updated version was shared with the Chair and MSG members.

Action Point 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.

Update:

Letters were sent to the respective MDAs.

Action Point 3:

SLEITI to set up a sub-committee to review the SLEITI 2026-2027 work plan and put strategies in place to raise funds.

Update:

The committee has been set up. The meeting with the MSG Chair is to be scheduled soon.

Following the update on the third action point, Mr. Solomon Sogbandi of the Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN) sought clarification on the status of implementation of the 2026–2027 SLEITI Work Plan and progress made to date.

The National Coordinator reported that the Secretariat had commenced implementation of activities considered "low-hanging fruits," but noted that financial constraints continued to affect full

implementation. He stated that the Secretariat was exploring funding opportunities and prioritising activities requiring minimal or no financial resources. He further confirmed that production of the 2026 EITI Report, the key activity for the year, was underway and would proceed as planned.

The MSG Chair added that the Secretariat was collaborating with relevant institutions, including the Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL), to support production of the EITI Report, which would help reduce costs and improve efficiency.

Mr. Sogbandi explained that his concern was due to the year being well advanced. The National Coordinator clarified that the Work Plan covers 2026–2027, with the EITI Report as the principal activity for 2026 and other activities scheduled for 2027, subject to funding availability.

Madam Esther Kandeh of Women on Mining and Extractive (WoME) asked whether funding was available for the EITI Report. The National Coordinator explained that ASSL had expressed its willingness to support the report production process as part of its capacity-building and good governance efforts, although no cost estimate had yet been provided. He confirmed that ASSL and the SLEITI Secretariat would jointly produce the Report, with the MSG Technical Committee providing review and validation on behalf of the MSG.

4. Update on the Production of the Sierra Leone 2024–2025 EITI Report

The National Coordinator informed members that, in preparation for the 2024–2025 Sierra Leone EITI Report, the Secretariat had circulated three key documents—the MoU, ToR, and Role of ASSL in the Report Production for review and approval. He explained that, once approved and signed, the reporting exercise would formally commence. Letters had also been sent to relevant MDAs to initiate the reporting process.

He further informed members that the EITI International Secretariat would provide capacity-building training for the Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL) and SLEITI Secretariat, with MSG members also invited to participate. He noted the Auditor General's consistent participation in engagements with the EITI International Secretariat as evidence of ASSL's commitment to the process.

Madam Esther Kandeh of WoME sought assurance regarding ASSL's capacity to produce a credible report. The National Coordinator explained that ASSL had historically played an important role in reviewing and validating EITI reporting data and had reviewed the three documents. He further stated that ASSL expressed willingness to support the MSG with the report production without raising concerns regarding fees. The Chair added that this would be the first EITI Report produced internally and expressed confidence in ASSL's professionalism, objectivity and integrity, with technical support from the EITI International Secretariat and SLEITI.

Mr. Joe Rahall of Green Scenery questioned why the MoU was between ASSL and SLEITI rather than the Office of the Vice President (OVP), and raised concerns about potential institutional conflicts of interest. Mr. Emmanuel Gbondo of NaRGEJ stressed the need to safeguard the credibility and independence of the reporting process, while Madam Ramatu Massaquoi of EPA-SL

emphasised adherence to international standards and best practices. The Chair and National Coordinator reiterated that the MSG would be involved throughout the reporting process. They further noted that internal report production, led by ASSL, was recommended by the EITI International Secretariat.

The Chair directed the Secretariat to clarify any fees or costs associated with ASSL's involvement and ensure that this information is disclosed to the MSG. Madam Massaquoi also proposed consideration of incentives for MSG Technical Committee members in view of their additional workload.

Members further sought clarification on the legal implications of the MoU and ToR. Legal practitioners present clarified that the MoU was not legally binding and would not expose ASSL to legal action. Following deliberations, the MSG approved the MoU, ToR, and Role of ASSL in the production of the 2024–2025 EITI Report.

The National Coordinator confirmed that prospective reporting entities had been notified of the commencement of the reporting process and commended EPA-SL and NMA for their timely submissions in previous reporting cycles. In response to concerns regarding company compliance, Mr. Lima Suffian-Kargbo of the Chamber of Mines noted that member companies were generally willing to comply but could face challenges due to the complexity of the reporting requirements and templates. He requested training for mining companies. The National Coordinator confirmed that companies would be included in the capacity-building programme to be provided by the EITI International Secretariat.

Mr. Mohamed Sallieu Bah of PMT/NMA proposed that authority to sign the MoU on behalf of the MSG be delegated to the National Coordinator. The proposal was accepted, and the National Coordinator was formally authorised to sign the MoU between SLEITI and ASSL.

5. Update on SLEITI Policy

The Chair informed members that the SLEITI Policy had been withdrawn from consideration by Cabinet following concerns from the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources that it had not been adequately consulted during the policy development process. The Ministry noted that, given the Policy's implications for its work and oversight responsibilities, it should have been more actively engaged throughout the drafting process. Representatives of the National Minerals Agency (NMA) also indicated that they were not sufficiently informed about the Policy and could therefore not provide concurrence.

The Chair advised that a validation workshop should therefore be convened to review and validate the Policy before seeking formal concurrence from the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

In response, the National Coordinator informed members that the validation workshop on the Policy had already been held by SLEITI comprising stakeholders from key ministries, departments and agencies, prior to the Policy being submitted to Cabinet.

Mr. Joe Rahall of Green Scenery observed that the update suggested that MSG representatives from the Ministry of Mines and NMA may not have adequately communicated developments on the Policy to their respective institutions. The Chair noted that the Policy had been developed and presented to the MSG for review, with all MSG members participating in its consideration, and expressed concern that the Ministry had subsequently indicated that it had not seen the document.

Madam Mabinty Sesay of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources explained that she had previously suggested that the MSG Chair formally engage the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources to secure the Ministry's support and strengthen awareness and ownership of the Policy within the Ministry. She noted that the suggestion had not been pursued.

6. 10th EITI Global Conference – Brussels, Belgium 8–9 October 2026

The National Coordinator informed members that the 10th EITI Global Conference would be held in Brussels, Belgium, from 8–9 October 2026.

He reported that letters had been sent to the heads of relevant institutions whose representatives had expressed interest in attending to facilitate their participation. He recalled that the Chamber of Mines had previously been approached to support the participation of at least five (5) delegates from the SLEITI Secretariat and MSG. Should funding support be secured, the MSG would determine the composition of the delegation and select participants.

The National Coordinator encouraged interested members to proceed with registration while efforts to secure funding continued.

Mr. Solomon Sogbandi of the Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN) raised concerns about the increasing challenges associated with the Schengen visa application process and advised interested participants to commence their applications as early as possible.

7. Update on the Replacement of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

The National Coordinator informed members that, following the recruitment of the Programme Manager, the position of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer remained vacant. He reported that the Human Resource Management Office (HRMO), in coordination with the Office of the Vice President and the relevant recruiting institution, was processing the recruitment and expressed confidence that the position would be filled before the next MSG meeting.

Mr. Abubakar Conteh of the Ministry of Finance sought clarification on whether the recruitment fell under the mandate of HRMO or the Public Service Commission. The National Coordinator explained that the process was being handled by the Office of the Vice President in coordination with the relevant recruiting institution. The Chair confirmed that the recruitment process was ongoing.

8. Other Business

Mr. Solomon Sogbandi commended the National Minerals Agency (NMA) for the successful organisation of the recently concluded Mining Week. He further proposed that the SLEITI Secretariat engages the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources to facilitate a capacity-building session on the National Strategy for Critical Minerals to enhance MSG members' understanding of the Strategy.

Mr. Emmanuel Gbondo of NaRGEJ informed members that his substantive, Mr. Abu A. Brima, was unable to attend MSG meetings due to injuries sustained in an accident. He reported that Mr. Brima had travelled to Turkey for medical treatment and had since returned to Sierra Leone, where he remained under medical observation and was unlikely to attend meetings in the immediate future.

On behalf of the MSG, the Chair expressed concern for Mr. Brima's well-being and wished him a speedy and full recovery.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned until the next sitting. The motion for adjournment was moved by Mr. Solomon Sogbandi and seconded by Mr. Joe Rahall.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

Action Points

No.	Action Points	Update
1	SLEITI to clarify with ASSL any audit fees associated with the production of the 2024-2025 EITI report.	ASSL has clarified that, for the 2024-2025 EITI Report, it will not charge any audit fees and will undertake the report production on a pro bono basis. However, as discussed at the Quarter Two MSG meeting, the SLEITI MSG will provide honorarium to support the team's work on data gap analysis, report design, infographics and other related technical and production requirements associated with finalising the Report. Going forward, SLEITI would include an appropriate provision for report production costs in its annual budget to cater for the costs associated with EITI Reports.
2	SLEITI to share the link for the EITI International Secretariat's capacity-building training on report production with mining companies and MSG members	Completed – Some mining companies participated in the two-day capacity building training.
3	Minister of State to engage with the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources on the letter of concurrence for the SLEITI Policy.	SLEITI has engaged the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources (MMMR) and the National Minerals Agency (NMA) to address concerns raised regarding the Policy. Inputs arising from their review were incorporated, and the revised Policy was subsequently shared with both institutions. Formal letters of concurrence from MMMR and NMA are pending.