

MINUTES
REGULAR LEITI MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS STEERING GROUP MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE LEITI, OLD BUDGET BUREAU BUILDING
● REDEMPTION
ROAD, MONROVIA, LIBERIA ● TUESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2017

PRESENT IN ATTENDANCE

GOL

Edward Kamara
 Richmond Jallah
 B. Al Dennis

FDA
 NOCAL
 LRA

CSO

Cecelia Danuweli
 Frances R. Deigh Greaves
 Flomo Golaryan
 Ezekiel Johnson

PWYP/WANEP
 NCSCCL
 RRF
 LLC

Private Sector

Laurentine H. Bass
 John S. Deah
 Esiaka Konneh
 Victor Borbor

ExxonMobil
 LTA
 Gold & Diamond Brokers
 WCL

Partners/Observers

Kofi Ireland
 Christoph Buchberger
 Collette M. Clark

UNMIL
 GIZ
 US Embassy

Others

LEITI Secretariat

Konah D. Karmo
 Myer W. Saye, Sr.
 Cedrick W. Kpadeh
 Joy S. Attah

HOS/LEITI
 DHOS/LEITI
 LEITI
 LEITI

Preliminaries - The Regular meeting of the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 in the LEITI Conference Room of the LEITI Secretariat. The meeting Commenced at 12:48 PM, with the Head of Secretariat Mr. Konah D. Karmo calling the meeting to order after a quorum was attained through roll call. He informed the body that meeting could not take place in November due to the lack of sufficient talking points and information. He also informed the gathering that the Proxy Co-chair of the MSG, Mr. Stephen Dorbor could not attend the meeting due to a trip outside of the Country on national duty.

Madam Cecelia Danuweli of the Civil Society bloc was asked to chair the meeting in consonance with the MSG Manual. The mantle of authority was then turned over to Madam Danuweli who welcomed members and later put on the floor the agenda for the day for adoption

Adoption of Agenda: A nine item agenda was presented to the body for adoption. With no change made, it was adopted through a motion.

Draft Minutes: The draft minutes of October 31, 2017 Regular Meeting was adopted by the MSG with the following changes:

- Al Dennis' name be added to the attendance list

- Christoph of GIZ suggested and was agreed that the point about the IA to disclose how it will address corrective actions be brought under summary of key points and not AOB.
- That GODIWUL replaced Ezekiel Johnson, not the Liberia Labor Congress

Matters Arising: There were no substantial matters arising

Secretariat Update: The HoS presented the Secretariat update summarizing LEITI Secretariat's activities for the period **August 15 to October 23, 2017. See annex 1 for the update.**

Discussion of Secretariat update: Following the update, the Presiding thanked the HoS and declared the update opened for discussions. The below are highlights:

Kofi Ireland of the United Nations Mission In Liberia (UNMIL) suggested and was noted by the HoS that that the Secretariat recirculates the timeline on the production of the report to add urgency and speed up the data collection process.

HOS: Termination date for the report is February 15, 2018 but December 15, 2017 is deadline for template submission. The Secretariat will share the revised schedule

Ansu Konneh (Western Cluster) made an appeal that was noted that the Liberia Revenue Authority, (LRA) had some printing errors relative to the tax code that needs improvement

With that said, the Presiding ended the discussion on the Secretariat Update and motion was made for adoption.

SECTORS UPDATE

Two of the sectors did not provide report-the Civil Society and private sector blocs. However, the Observer bloc making report through Christoph Buchberger of the GIZ said it has been following with interest, unconfirmed reports from Bea Mountain about an impending resettlement of a town previously resettled by this same Company. He disclosed that allegedly the affected community is complaining of an unfair treatment during the first relocation exercise and that they are afraid of a repeat. To this, the HoS said the LEITI will act when the allegation is confirmed.

For the Government, the Ministry of Lands, Mines, and Energy reported that it is currently working to regulate the artisanal mining sector with support from GIZ and UNMIL

With those, the presiding thanked the presenters and moved to the next item.

7. Submission of draft reports to the MSG by the Secretariat.

The HoS submitted three different reports for the MSG's approval: Draft Inception Report (9th LEITI Report), draft 2017/18 LEITI Secretariat Annual Workplan and the draft EITI Mainstreaming Report.

Presenting the draft Inception Report, the HoS said it was basically a confirmation of the contents of the scoping study as all of what the MSG agreed to be contained in the Scoping will be confirmed in the Inception Report.

After his presentation, the Presiding then put it on the floor for discussion at which time Madam Marpue Speares of WONGOSOL asked about the strengths and weaknesses of the Ciountry in the process.

The HoS in response said the MSG ROLE was a weakness as it was taking full ownership of the process as should be but rather playing a more spectator role. He said the MSG must be the owner and driver of the process. Drawing on the strengths, the HoS pointed out the harmony with which the tripartite arrangement sits together discussing issues is a greater strength.

Christoph Buchberger for his part commended the Secretariat for scrupulously working with the IA on the report but reminded the Secretariat to make sure the report meets the standard of the EITI.

After these comments, there were scanty points raised on the report regarding setting the basis or barometer for the report; page 8 of the report addressing only oil and gas and not the other sectors.

It was however agreed by consensus that the report be approved with the assurance that the Secretariat works with the IA to address issues raised.

For the Mainstreaming, the Hos prior to presenting it said under the 2016 standard of the EITI, there is provision for Countries to mainstream; a provision that should be affected in 2018. However, he said Liberia has embarked on that process by conducting a feasibility study. He said the study was launched in March 2017 with funding from the GIZ. He disclosed that the ODI was hired as a consultancy firm to do the study with Tove Strauss being the lead. He said the first draft was received at the level of the Secretariat which made internal revisions and inputs. He said the final draft was now available and that have been circulated for revision and consideration.

As usual, the Presiding put it on the floor for comments and possible approval. Not much was said about the report as it was agreed by consensus to approve it with the Reporting committee to work with the Secretariat to execute.

The final document to be presented was the 2017/18 workplan. Presenting the document, the HoS stated that the document was delayed due to the delay in signing the national budget by the President. He said the workplan needed to reflect the actual allotment to the entity for the fiscal

year. He told the MSG however, that the frequent cut in the allotment to the entity was serious hampering programs. Again the document was put on the floor for discussion and subsequent approval. Kofi Ireland of UNMIL advised the Secretariat to tie its deliverables to monies that it is sure of getting. He said this will help to minimize the disappointment associated with the frequent cuts. He then rallied his colleagues to approve the document as presented. The body by consensus approved the document thereafter.

Report by the Governance, Ethics and Membership Committee

Mr. Kofi Ireland of UNMIL chaired this committee. He presented four draft Scoping Report-9th EITI Report for Liberia for the MSG endorsement and approval. Mr. Ireland told the MSG that the document was still a work in process but that most of the substantives have been addressed and those outstanding issues cannot outshine its endorsement. He urged the Secretariat to continuously work with the Independent Administrator to get outstanding issues on proper footing. He described the document as fairly good tool that still has room for improvement.

After the presentation, the presiding put it on the floor for discussion, comments and or motion for endorsement.

Christoph Buchberger of the GIZ intimated the need for the Independent Administrator to provide through an outline how the report address outstanding issues especially those corrective measures recommended after the validation. He suggested that such plan be presented at the next sitting.

To this, the HoS agreed but said while the Secretariat will do its utmost best to address most of the corrective actions in the 9th report, it still has a chance to develop another report before the next validation in November of 2018. He said those that might not be addressed now could be in the next report.

A motion made by Mr. John Deah was interrupted by an objection from Mr. Al Dennis of LRA that the document did not have any timeline for the execution of queries as enshrined in the document. He said it was not prudent to endorse a document of such nature without specified timelines

The HoS responded by stating that the report was previously circulated for all members inputs and besides, the issue raised was already addressed in the document. He reminded the MSG again that this document was a pace setter and that the Secretariat remains committed to making sure that all necessary required measures are taken. He n pointed out that what the 9th report fails to address, will be frantically addressed in the 10th report.

With that clarity, Mr. Dennis withdrew his objection and Mr. Deah restated his motion that was seconded by Mr. Esiaka Konneh of Gold and Diamond Brokers Association thus, the MSG endorsed the report.

AOB

Under AOB, the HoS outlined the outstanding contributions of Christoph Buchberger of the GIZ to the LEITI process in Liberia especially towards the various reports and informed the body that Mr. Buchberger was ending his tour of duties in Liberia. Mr. Karmo extolled Christoph for his invaluable contributions made noting that these will forever be remembered in the history of the LEITI. Mr. Buchberger was later awarded a certificate of appreciation.

In Remark, Mr. Buchberger expressed gratitude for the honor bestowed and reminded the MSG of the enormous task ahead and the need for a pragmatic and comprehensive approach to a safe landing especially issues relative to the validation of the Country in 2018

. With that said, the meeting was adjourned at 1: 32 GMT

Summary of Key Points

- Several corrections made to the minutes of October 31, 2017
- Draft Scoping Report-9th EITI Report for Liberia endorsed
- Draft EITI Mainstreaming Report approved
- Draft 2017/2018 annual workplan of the Secretariat approved
- Christoph Buchberger of GIZ ends tour of duty in Liberia
- 19 persons in attendance

Date and time of next MSG meeting: The next MSG was scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

