

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER STEERING GROUP (MSG) OF THE LIBERIA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (LEITI) HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE LEITI, OLD BUDGET BUREAU BUILDING.
• MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2020

PRESENT IN ATTENDANCE

GOL

Hon. C. Mike Doryen	FDA
Hon. Carlton S. Miller	MME
Hon. Lester Z Tenny	NOCAL

CSO

Mr. Winston W. Wreh	LLC
Mr. Fallah B. Kamara	MICSOL
Madam Cecelia T. Danuweli	PWYP
Mr. Daniel Nyankonah	PUL

Private Sector

Mr. Ekema Witherspoon	LTA
Mr. Marcus Wreh	Arcelor Mittal

Partners/Observers

N/A

Others

N/A

LEITI Secretariat

Jeffery N. Yates/ Officer In-Charge
J. Kennedy Kolubah Communication Officer

1. PRELIMINARIES: The regular meeting of the Multi- Stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) was held on Monday, October 12, 2020, in the conference room of the LEITI Secretariat.

Beginning at 2: 30 pm, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the MSG, Hon. C. Mike Doryen. He welcomed his colleagues and reminded them about the importance of the LEITI in the governance process of the country. He admonished them to build relationships of mutual respect for the progress of the EITI process in Liberia.

2. READING OF THE AGENDA

He asked the Officer-In-Charge of the Secretariat to read the agenda. The agenda was read as requested and subsequently presented to the body by the Chairman for a motion of adoption. It was then moved and seconded that the agenda be used as a working tool to guide the meeting.

3. UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat's update was done by the Officer-In-Charge, Jeffery Yates. In his update, he provided the following: See annex 1 for details of the Secretariat update. Following the presentation by the Officer-In-Charge (OIC), the presiding then opened it for discussion.

The below-listed issues took for MSG discussion:

- **Gap Analysis**- Relative to the Gap Analysis and Annual Activity Reports, the MSG commended the Secretariat for its steadfastness and admonished Jeffery and his team to remain engaged with the processes leading to the successful completion of these reports. The Secretariat was also instructed to circulate the APR report to the MSG for review and inputs.
- **Validation**-After a series of questions and answers between MSG members and the OIC, the MSG unanimously instructed the Secretariat to do a follow up with the International Secretariat on the final date for Liberia's validation. Meanwhile, the MSG informed the LEITI Secretariat to work as though the schedule is not changed.
- **Staff**- the OIC informed the MSG that two staff members at the LEITI Secretariat have resigned. They're Joan Mendee (Procurement Officer) and Emmanuel Dormeyan (Office Assistant/ Driver). The presiding put the situation to the body and it was agreed that the OIC begins the immediate recruitment and replacement of staff who have resigned. This was predicated on the fact that a procurement officer was urgently needed at the Secretariat.
- **Report from the recruitment of HOS and DHOS**- Mr. Carlton Miller of the Shortlisting Committee informed the body that the shortlisting process had stalled due to a request from NOCAL to re-advertise the TOR. NOCAL argued that due to the pandemic, many persons were unable to take advantage of the process.

After a series of discussions, NOCAL, through its representative, Mr. Lester Z. Tenny informed the body that NOCAL has dropped its concerns and that the process should proceed. The MSG then mandated the shortlisting committee to complete the shortlisting of candidates and submit the names to the Interview Committee on or before the close of the business day Thursday, October 15, 2020. Given the same, the MSG also mandated the Finance and Administration Committee to complete the entire recruitment process for the HOS and DHOS by Wednesday the 21st of October 2020.

In line with the recruitment process, Madam Cecelia Daneweli raised an issue that she believes it contravenes the MSG Policy Manual. She pointed out that Mr. Ekema Witherspoon, a sitting member of the MSG Finance and Administration Committee had applied for the position of HOS, without relinquishing his status on the MSG and the Finance and Administration Committee. She pointed out that this is tantamount to conflict of interest. Following her complaint, the presiding asked Jeffery Yates and Ekema Witherspoon to recuse themselves from the meeting to allow the body to decide on the matter.

Discussions ensued after consulting the MSG Policy Manual as to what constitutes a Conflict of Interest. According to some members of the MSG, the Manual was vague on the issue of Conflict of Interest. However, Fallah Kamara argued that Mr. Witherspoon was part of the Finance and Administration Committee that drafted the TOR for the post,

hence, he may have plotted to his advantage the TOR since he already had in mind to apply. With that argument from Mr. Kamara, the presiding called for a vote on the issue. With eight qualified voters, a vote was taken, and seven persons voted for the disqualification of Mr. Witherspoon, and one abstained. The one person that abstained was Hon. Doryen. The verdict was thereafter delivered to Mr. Witherspoon upon his return to the meeting by Mr. Marcus Wleh. Mr. Witherspoon bemoaned the MSG's decision indicating that it was not fair, but that he was letting go of it to safeguard the image of the body.

4. AOB- Nothing was discussed under this session of the agenda.

5. Closing Prayer- The meeting was adjourned with a word of prayer said by Madam Cecelia Daneweli at 4:30 PM

OTHER KEY DECISIONS REACHED BY THE MSG:

- The MSG agreed that the Secretariat goes ahead with the signing of the contract with the winner for the 12th EITI Report for Liberia.
- The MSG mandated the OIC to find the amount of \$2500USD to purchase a new transformer from LEC.
- The MSG mandated the OIC to follow up with LITELCO to purchase an internet package for the secretariat.

The meeting was attended by eleven (11) persons.