

**MINUTES REGULAR LEITI MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS STEERING GROUP
MEETING HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE LEITI, OLD BUDGET BUREAU
BUILDING REDEMPTION, ROAD, MONROVIA, LIBERIA
Thursday, DECEMBER 8, 2023**

Present in Attendance were:

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| 1. Athelia G. Korvah | LRA |
| 2. Benedict Ocran | MFDP |
| 3. Timothy Jarry | NOCAL |
| 4. Ansu Konneh | MOA |

CSO

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| 1. Fallah B. Kamara | MCSCCL |
| 2. Sayor Wahtoson | PWYP |
| 3. Winston Wreh | LLC |
| 4. Amb | NCSCCL |

Private Sector

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| 1. George Pah | GVL |
| 2. Ekema Witherspoon | LibTA |
| 3. Marcus Wleh | Mittal |

Observer

LEITI

1. Jeffery N. Yates/HoS
2. Zaza Y. Quaqua/DHOS
3. McDonald S. Kerl Sr.-Technical Officer
4. Cedrick Kpadeh/Communications

Others

Preliminaries: The call meeting of the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) was held on Thursday, December 8, 2023 in the LEITI Conference Room. Commencing at 13:24 GMT, the meeting was called to order by Benedict Ocran of the MFDP in the absence of the Chairman of the MSG, C. Mike Doryen of the Forestry Development Authority. Mr. Ocran was assisted by Madam Athelia Korvah of the LRA. Mr. Ocran immediately after notification of a quorum, instructed the HOS to read out the agenda for adoption.

I. Opening Prayer: Silent pray observed for religious tolerance

Reading and Adoption of the Agenda: - The HoS read out a 7-item agenda that was approved as presented.

2. **Welcome Remarks:** The Presiding asked his remain open minded deputy to welcome colleagues. To this Madam Korvah expressed gratitude to the Body for a united front throughout the course of the year and challenged them to remain open minded in the meeting for the betterment of the Country.
3. **Review of past meeting minutes:** The minutes of September 23, 2023 was presented for review and correction. The only correction observed was the mis-spelled name of the MME representative, Minister Johnson Willabo, which was immediately noted for correction
4. **Secretariat Update:** The HoS presented the Secretariat update covering the period October to December 2023. **See annex 2** for details.
5. **Discussion of the update:** Two issues to center stage during the discussion of the update:
 - I. Mr. Marcus Wleh of Arcelor Mittal observed that the percentage of budget not received or outstanding was 33.3% instead of 30%. With that a motion was made by Mr. Ekema Witherspoon and second by Timothy Jarry for the update to be approved as part of the MSG's records.
6. **Presentation of Draft 15th Report:** At this point, the Technical Officer of the LEITI Secretariat, McDonald Kerl, made a PowerPoint presentation of the initial findings of the 15th EITI report including challenging and the way forward. (**See Annex 2 for details**). After his presentation and series of comments, the MSG agreed to approve the draft report instructing the Secretariat to transmit its decisions to the IA.
7. **Presentation of HOS & DHOS Evaluation:** Mr. Ekema Witherspoon presented findings on the evaluation of the HOS and DHOS on behalf of the Finance and Administration Committee. In his deliberations, Mr. Witherspoon informed the Body that committee fully evaluated the two and found them worthy of contract extension but with recommendations. He furthered that the Committee agreed to extend the HOS' contract by 5 years while the Deputy, 4. He noted that the Committee henceforth recommends that the HoS and Deputy can serve for a two term only and no more. On the salary proposal, he disclosed that the committee observed that the LEITI had the lowest salary in comparison to other integrity institutions. Therefore, they had found a median range for the two. He said the salary proposed was in the range of other antigraft institutions in the Country. According to the proposal, the salaries of the remaining staff will be further determined by the HoS.

After his presentation, the Presiding put it on the floor for discussion. At this point, Madam Athelia Korvah of the LRA called for a full disclosure of the salaries proposed since the LEITI was an integrity institution. But Mr. Witherspoon noted that salaries were personal issues and it was not in the committee's purview to disclose but the Chairman of the MSG. After a back-and-forth argument on the matter, the Body reached a unanimous consensus to approve the proposal for onward submission to the Chairman for signaturing. And so it was carried.

Summary of key decisions:

- MSG approved the draft 15th report for Liberia with instructions for some changes
- Mandated Secretariat to compile the Body's decisions on the draft Report to deliver to the IA.
- HOS & DHOS contracts extended and approved after evaluation
- Last Quarter meeting minutes approved and adopted
- 11 persons participated in the meeting

ANNEX 1:

Secretariat update here

ANNEX 2

MSG DECISIONS ON DRAFT 15TH REPORT