

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEITI MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
STEERING GROUP
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE LEITI SECRETARIAT
OLD BUDGET BUREAU BUILDING, REDEMPTION ROAD
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
Thursday, May 8, 2025

Present in Attendance were:

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1. Hon. Wilmot J. M. Paye.....Ministry of Mines and Energy
2. Hon. Anthony Myers Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
3. Mr. Myers Bill Tuweh, Jr Forestry Development Authority
4. Eudora Blay- Pritchard Ministry of Mines and Energy
5. Kwame E. Ross Senate
6. Angie Valerie Henries House of Representatives
7. Athelia Grasco Korvah Liberia Revenue Authority
8. Yekeh Gayflor..... National Oil Company of Liberia

Private Sector

1. Thomas Kaye (Alternate).....Liberia Agriculture Company Association
2. Cllr. Michael V. Suah...Liberia Chamber of Mines
3. Eliza D.J. Kronyanh.....Liberia Timber Association
4. James M. Strother...Liberia Business Association
5. Samuel Na-Kronde JIaka(Alternate).....Liberia Business Association

Civil Society

1. Mr. Winston W. Wreh Liberia Labor Congress
2. Mr.Abraham B. GappieMineral Civil Society Organization of Liberia
3. Cecelia T. Danuweli Publish What You Pay
4. Amb. George Kingsley National Civil Society Council of Liberia

Observers

1. Djomba Mara..... GIZ
2. Andrew Pilger... US Embassy
3. Johnathan Hilton..... US Embassy
4. Blamo B. Nimle..... US Embassy

LEITI

1. Jeffrey N. Yates
2. McDonald S. Kerl, Sr.
3. Kelvin Rejoice Benson

Preliminaries: The second quarterly meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, in the LEITI Conference Room starting at 1:20 pm.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the MSG, Hon. Wilmot J.M. Paye, after a confirmation from the Head of Secretariat (HoS) that a quorum was present to conduct business.

The Head of Secretariat was then asked to read the agenda for the day. A ten-item agenda was presented to the Body. Upon reading the agenda, the Chairman sought a motion for adoption of the agenda. Cllr then made a motion. Michael V. Suah of the Liberia Chamber of Mines and subsequently seconded by Mr. Myers Bill Tuweh of the Forestry Development Authority.

1. **Opening prayer**

The Body offered silent prayer.

2. **Welcome Remark**

The Chairman welcomed all members of the MSG to the meeting. He asked each member to approach the meeting with an open mind as they all seek to strengthen transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. He said the Country has to position itself to deal with the cut in USAID funding.

3. **Self-introduction**

Self-introduction was observed with 24 persons participating.

4. **Review and Approval of the last meeting minutes**

This document was sent to MSG members before the meeting, so the Chairman requested a quick review. Minor changes were made to the minutes as follows:

- Correction of “MICSOL” name
- Include the middle names of MICSOL, PWYP, LIBA, and LLC representatives and add “Senior” to the LIBA representative.
- Addition of Hon. Sam P. Jallah’s alternate to the attendance list.

With the necessary corrections accepted, the Chairman asked for a motion to endorse the minutes. Mr. James M. Strother, Sr. of LIBA made the motion to accept the agenda, and Cllr seconded it. Michael V. Suah of the Liberia Chamber of Mines.

5. **Update from the Secretariat**

The Secretariat's update was done by the Head of Secretariat, Jeffrey N. Yates. He updated the MSG on the following issues for the period March to May 2025:

- Building rental
- Allotment received from the MFDP (LRD 40% received; USD 60% outstanding)
- GIZ-sponsored dissemination(extension has been signed and US\$16,000 to be released to LEITI’s account)
- West Africa Tax Administration Forum(A proposal sent with US\$150,000 cost)
- Recruitment to fill vacant positions at the Secretariat(ToR published; presentation of recruits to MSG set for next MSG meeting)

- LEITI's Strategic Plan(a working session with the MSG set for June 2025)
- LEITI Data Portal(projected as a work in progress)
- Performance Management and Compliance System(sent to Cabinet Secretariat already)
- ACEP's braille copy of the BO Regulation(plan to put LEITI's summary report into braille as well)
- IMF multi-pronged workplan on BO for foreign entities
- Liberia's 16th EITI Report(in progress with a one week deadline to reporting entities)
- Compliance Review(Millennium Legal & General Consulting has been awarded the contract)

A motion to accept the update was made by Madam Eliza D.J. Kronyanh and seconded by Abraham B. Gappie of the MICSOL.

MSG Decision on issues presented in the update:

- Building renovation: the Secretariat should work with the lessor to obtain a BOQ that is comprehensive and ensures value for money.
- The Secretariat should work with the Cabinet Office on the BO workplan for foreign entities to ensure success.

6. MSG Committees Finalization

The Head of Secretariat presented a matrix of institutional membership of the three MSG Committees and explained the composition of each.

- Decision: The MSG endorsed the committee matrix with the view that changes would be made in the future when necessary for the effective functioning of the committees.

7. Any Other Business(Any and only Three Items were agreed to be discussed under AOB)

Hon. Anthony Myers of the MFDP stated that citizens were concerned about the utilization of natural resources. He thinks the LEITI can play a role in filling the gap on tax and policy issues to enhance domestic resource mobilization.

Amb. George Kingsley of the National Civil Society Council of Liberia raised the issue of low honorarium and urged his colleagues to consider increasing the honorarium of MSG members from US\$100.00 to US\$250.00 to enhance their welfare.

Mr. Abraham B. Gappie of the Mineral Civil Society Organizations of Liberia stated that illegal mining activities were happening across the Country and that they, as MSG members, want to assist in the fight against illicit mineral flows. He said they want to take a practical approach to tackling illegal mining. However, the Head of Secretariat advised that members acting under the aegis of the MSG should first seek the MSG's approval to proceed.

The Head of Secretariat informed the MSG that their honorarium for three months was available in Liberian dollars.

Mr. Winston Wreh of the Liberia Labor Congress seconded a motion from Madam Cecelia T. Danuweli to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.