

MINUTES

REGULAR LEITI MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS STEERING GROUP

IFMIS CONFERENCE ROOM • 4TH FLOOR, MINISTRY OF FINANCE BUILDING • BROAD STREET, MONROVIA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013 AT 12:00 NOON

PRESENT

GOL

Angela Cassell-Bush	Proxy for the Chairperson LEITI MSG & Minister of Finance
Boiyan K. Kpakolo	Proxy for the Co-chairperson, Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy
Gbehzohngar M. Findley	Liberian Senate
E. Ekema A. Witherspoon	Proxy for the Minister of Internal Affairs
Chea B. Garley	Proxy for the Minister of Agriculture

CSO

Alfred L. Brownell	PWYP/Green Advocates
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Private Sector

Monique Cooper	BHP Billiton
Esiaka B. Konneh	Miners & Brokers Association of Liberia

Others

Paul W. Boe	National Traditional Council of Liberia (NTCL)
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IN ATTENDANCE

Partners/Observers

Alexander Deline	IMF
Koffi Ireland	UNMIL
Juliane Weymann	GIZ
Alain-Pierre Mbonampeka	ADB
Sam Monbo, Sr.	MGI-Monbo and Company
Francis B. S. Johnson	MGI-Monbo and Company
Elizabeth Wewerka	U. S. Embassy
Daniel A. Towalid	National Civil Society Council of Liberia

LEITI Secretariat

Roosevelt G. Jayjay	LEITI Board Representative
Samson Tokpah	LEITI
Konah D. Karmo	LEITI
Emmanuel E. Peterson	LEITI
Hnede Berrian-Sillah	LEITI

I. Introduction

The LEITI regular monthly MSG meeting was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 in the IFMIS Conference Room, 4th Floor, Ministry of Finance Building. The meeting was chaired by the Proxy Chairperson, Hon. Angela Cassell-Bush. Introduction of the LEITI nominee to the EITI Board, Senator Gbehzohngar M. Findley, Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate was made and self-introduction done by the Presiding followed by all MSG members.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of the Draft Agenda was made and a discussion on the Post Award Process was removed given that the draft report was not submitted by the Auditor, Moore Stephens, LLP.

With this correction, it was moved and seconded that the draft agenda be used as a tool to guide the meeting.

III. Draft Minutes of February 20, 2013 meeting

a. Corrections

The Minutes of February 20, 2013 was reviewed with the following two points raised:

- That the Minutes be updated to define clearly which agenda item was deleted instead of simply stating ‘an agenda item was deleted’.
- The Head of Secretariat inquired on the status to conduct the performance appraisals for the Head and Deputy Head of Secretariat; the MSG said the evaluation would be carried out as soon as the evaluation of the Deputy Head of Secretariat is completed and forwarded to the Finance and Administration Committee.

b. Adoption

With the above points raised, it was moved and seconded that the minutes be adopted as corrected to form part of the Secretariat’s archives.

IV. Matters Arising

- Co-chair’s representative to the MSG – the Secretariat reported that there has been no official communication from the Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy on its representation to the LEITI MSG since the President announced the replacement of the Deputy Minister, Carlton S. Miller. Further, the Secretariat met with the Co-Chair who maintained that pending the turnover of Minister Miller, he remains the permanent representative of the Co-Chair and the Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy on the LEITI MSG.

V. Secretariat Update

The Secretariat provided a brief update of activities for the period February 21 to March 25, 2013. The Update was presented by the LEITI Head of Secretariat, Mr. Samson S. Tokpah who provided highlights on the LEITI 4th Report which will include a revenue tracking piece and the “amount to be paid” by companies operating in the sectors; preparatory stage of the LEITI 5th Report covering payments for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012; the Post Award Process Audit, consulting a legal firm on non-compliant companies, LEITI representation at the EITI Global Conference and NOCAL’s sponsorship, LEITI representation on the EITI International Board, Launch of the Extractive Clubs in High Schools, procurement, meetings attended, grant support, etc.

VI. Decisions on Secretariat Update

- Status of LEITI on the EITI Board– as agreed by members of the MSG that Liberia’s support for Contract Transparency is a critical voice needed on the EITI Board, the name of Senator Gbehzohngar M. Findley was submitted for nomination and the Secretariat asked to work with delegates attending the Global Conference to seek support for Liberia’s nomination. Liberia has been placed in Block One (1) along with Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Sao Tome, Zambia, and Tanzania.
- Draft 4th Report – the Secretariat provided a brief update on the draft 4th LEITI Report submitted by the Firm Ernst & Young/MGI Monbo & Company. The Report, which covers revenue payments and receipts for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 will also track earmarked payments from extractive companies and reconcile “what ought to be paid”. The Secretariat reported that some companies in the sector, especially the mining sector were still not fully committing to the LEITI process by submitting templates for the reporting period. While some MSG members maintained that the MSG Regulations of 2009 which covers non-compliance needs to be updated, the Senate Pro Temp of the Liberian Senate,

Hon. Gbehzohngar M. Findley called on the LEITI to seek legislative support especially for companies that have existing MDAs and/or Licenses. The issue of companies reporting employees withholding as a form of revenue generation to government was also raised by Senator Findley. He averred that employees withholding is a contribution of the employee to government revenue and not the company.

The Secretariat was asked to submit the draft report to the MSG Report Committee for review while other members of the MSG would provide their individual inputs via email.

VII. Date and time of next MSG Meeting—with no other business, the next MSG meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2013 in the Conference Room of the Office of the Pro Tempore at the Capital Building.