

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, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

In Attendance were:

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| 1. C. Mike Doryen | FDA |
| 2. Johnson S. Willabo Jr. | MME |
| 3. B. Al-Dennis | LRA |
| 4. Benedict Ocran I | MFD |
| 5. Timothy Jarry II | NOCAL |
| 6. Ansu Konneh | MOA |

CSO

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| 1. Fallah B. Kamara | MCSC |
| 2. Cecelia Danuweli | PWYP |
| 3. Winston Wreh | LLC |
| 4. Matthew Karley II | NCSC |

Private Sector

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| 1. George Pah Sr. | GVL |
| 2. Ekema Witherspoon | LibTA |
| 3. Precious Flomo | Arcelor Mittal |

Observer

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| 1. Djomba Mara | GIZ |
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LEITI

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

Others

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| 1. Samuel Summerville | GIZ |
| 2. Franseth B. Mulbah | MME |
| 3. Saylor Wahtorson | PWYP |

Preliminaries: The call meeting of the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) was held on Thursday, September 14, 2023 in the LEITI Conference Room. Commencing at 13:25 GMT, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the MSG, C. Mike Doryen of the Forestry Development Authority who immediately after notification of a quorum, requested a motion for the adoption of the agenda presented by the Secretariat. Mr. Ekema Witherspoon of the Liberia Timber Association (LibTA) made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Benedict Ocran of MFD for agenda to be accepted as presented. Thus, a nine-item agenda was adopted and opened for discussion.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Silent pray observed for religious tolerance
2. **Reading and Adoption of the Agenda:** - The agenda of nine items was approved as presented through a motion as carried in the preliminaries above
3. **Welcome Remarks:** The Presiding after the adoption of the agenda, requested Mr. Franseth Mulbah of the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) to do the welcome remark. To this, Mr. called on his colleagues to fully and freely participate in all deliberations in the interest of the Country.
4. **Review of past meeting minutes:** The minutes of May 25, 2023 was presented for review and correction. After a thorough review, few corrections were suggested after which the Body approved the minutes with the understanding that the Secretariat will immediately incorporate the suggested changes. The Presiding also seized the moment to disclose that where the last minutes mentioned that Mr. Daniels of NOCAL was to consult his entity (NOCAL) to provide assistance to the Secretariat for the Global Conference, the NOCAL was unable to render any assistance. During the review of the past minutes, Mr. Johnson Willabor Jr. entered and was immediately introduced as the new proxy for the Minister of Mines and Energy replacing Mr. Carlton Miller. Accordingly, Mr. Willabor's nomination was communicated through an official letter from the Minister to the Secretariat. Mr. Willabor in a brief statement thanked members of the MSG for the ongoing progress and promised to work along for a successful MSG.

At the same time, the Presiding also introduced the Project Manager for the Mano River countries of the GIZ, Mr. Djomba Mara who was attending the meeting for the first time. After his introduction, Mr. Mara disclosed that GIZ having perused and worked with the LEITI Secretariat for possible collaboration, the possibilities are high for the GIZ to sponsor some key areas of the LEITI workplan though he was not specific. With that, the Presiding introduced the next item for discussion.

5. **Secretariat Update:** Here, the HoS as usual presented an update covering the last quarter. The highlights from the update included a report from the Global conference, international travels made during the period, progress on Beneficial Ownership Transparency, 15th Report Term of Reference among others. After his presentation and the Body's revision, it was unanimously agreed that the update was short especially on the Global Conference and the international travels. The Body urged the HoS to be more detailed in those areas to allow it understand the benefits of these travels and the outcomes of the General conference. The HoS promised to do the needful and resend via emails for approval. The Body agreed.
6. **Update on the 15th Report and MSG Decisions:** This session included a presentation by the LEITI Secretariat on the challenges it was facing in the production of the 15th

Report. Summarily, the Secretariat needed the MSG to take some actions as well as make decisions on some of the in-scope companies across the four sectors. Summary of the presentation and the MSG decisions can be found later in this paper as **ANNEX I**.

7. **Presentation and MSG on the evaluation of the HoS-** At this point, the Presiding called out the chair of the Finance and Administration Committee to make its report from the evaluation of the Head of Secretariat. However, the committee report was made behind closed doors.
8. **AOB:** There was nothing substantive discussed under AOB. The Presiding therefore called for a motion of adjournment which came from Mr. Timothy Jarry II of NOCAL, seconded by Mr. Saylor Wahtorson of PWYP. The meeting was adjourned at 15:21 GMT.

Summary of key decisions:

- MSG approved the May 25th Minutes with minor corrections instructed
- MSG took key decision to grant a week grace period to all in scope companies that are yet to comply with the provision of data for the 15th report.
- MSG instructed the HoS to expand the Secretariat update presented to it at this sitting to include details of all international travels as well as a detail report from the just ended global EITI Conference.
- MSG welcomed new proxy from the Ministry of Mines and Energy
- 17 members -15 males, 2 females attended the meeting.
- MSG received HoS' evaluation report behind closed doors

ANNEX 1:

Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI)

MSG's Decisions on the 15th Report Challenges

No.	Sector	Challenges Presented to the MSG	Decisions Reached by the MSG
1.	Mining	Deko Mining Corporation and Ivanhole Liberia Limited have been confirmed by the Ministry of Mines & Energy to be non-licensed extractive companies in Liberia. They are actually service providers to licensed mining companies.	The MSG agreed that Deko Mining Corporation and Ivanhole Liberia Limited be removed from the report.
2.	Oil & Gas	The Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority has confirmed that TGS NOPEC is not an oil & gas company but a service provider to NOCAL.	The MSG agreed to remove TGS NOPEC from the report as an oil & gas company.
3.	Forestry	The FDA has confirmed that Coveiyalah Investment Enterprises, Inc., Alpha Logging and Wooding Processing Inc., Akewa Groups of Companies, Mandra Forestry Liberia Ltd, and Indo African Plantation Liberia Inc. are inactive forestry companies.	The MSG agreed to remove the five forestry companies from the report but their payments should be captured under "others". This means that these companies need not received reporting templates.
4.	Agriculture	Mano Manufacturing Company has not submitted their reporting template up to present.	The MSG has given Mano and other delinquent companies one week to submit. After the one week, the Secretariat will update the MSG for further actions. Sanction by from the regulator and fines are options discussed.