

# MINUTES

2<sup>nd</sup> INFORMATION SESSION ON THE NOMINATION OF CSOs REPRESENTATIVE  
ON THE LEITI MSG  
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CENTAL  
OPPOSITE JFK COMPOUND, 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET SINKOR  
FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AT 2:45PM

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## I. Introduction

The Liberian Civil Society Organizations on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 held the 1<sup>st</sup> Information Session on the selection of CSOs representative on the LEITI MSG, held at LEITI Conference room Monrovia. From this meeting the CSOs authorized an interim committee comprises of three organizations including the **Natural Resources Research Initiative (NRRI Liberia)**, the **Right and Rice Foundation** and the **CENTAL** to convene the 2<sup>nd</sup> Information Session for the selection of CSOs representatives on the LEITI Multi-Stakeholders Steering Group (MSG), hosted in CENTAL Conference Room, 24th Street Sinkor Monrovia, Liberia.

The purpose of the meeting was to invite all CSOs members, and observers (international institutions) to discuss how best the CSOs will come out with an inclusive and well defined decision in the selection of two representatives to represent the CSOs on the LEITI MSG for the coming three (3) years. The meeting was also an opportunity to continue discussions about the CSOs past performance on the LEITI MSG and to identify possible options for better performance and reporting standards that could be decided to guide all CSOs members who become nominated to the LEITI MSG.

## II. Attendance Include:

Fourteen (14) people; Eleven (11) Civil Society Organizations, one (1) international Organization (Oxfam Liberia) and one (1) facilitator (LEITI).

## III. OPENING:

The meeting was called to order at 2:45pm by Madam Frances Greaves; the presiding and head of the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NASCOL). Madam Greaves welcomed various organizations representatives to the meeting, opened the space for self-introduction by participant, and expressed hope of interactive discussion during the meeting.

She meanwhile continued by providing reminder about the purpose for which invitation was sent out to all institutions for the second meeting.

According to her the second meeting was scheduled to get a quorum of Civil Society Organizations, since the first meeting did not reach the precise 20 organization which was invited neither reach about 50% out of the twenty targeted organizations. As indication to her insight, Mr Pindarous Allison of LIPWATCH however suggested that the meeting (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session) also be cancelled and rescheduled to a later date. He also emphasised the need for clarity to be provided on the definition of a quorum in the context of the meeting.

Meanwhile, Gerald Yeakula of CENTAL and member of the Steering Committee clarified that the essence of the meeting was to broaden the participation of CSOs in the MSG nomination process. Besides that, Abel Williams Cheayan (Steering Committee Contact Person) added more value to Gerald information by providing clear statistics. As stated by Abel the responsibility was to representation of all CSOs members including observers, on the overall the committee contacted thirty (30) organizations by mobile phones and one hundred and four (104) by e-mail. We used the regular CSO mailing list to send out emails.

CENTAL's Sarnyenneh Dickson also urged that the meeting continue as time was elapsing and that the absence of invited organizations in such meetings is not a strange happening. His view was agreed so the meeting continued.

### **Meeting purpose and Discussed Items:**

Right before the actual discussion, Madam Greaves permitted Mr. Samson Tokpah (head of LEITI) to provide some information on the process of the MSG. LEITI's boss, for further explained by extending his gratitude to the Steering Committee for their role in convening the meeting. He also stated that LEITI's support to the meeting is minimal (provision water, and little lunch) and cannot do more because the decision process has to be done without the LEITI influencing the process. In the context of the MSG process he provided clarity tenure of the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) expired in January and that his office has written the President to inform her that the process of nominating new MSG members is underway.

According to him "it is against this backdrop that CSOs have been asked to nominate two organizations to fill the other seats, as the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) coalition and the Gold and Diamond Workers Union are permanent members representing the Civil Society. The Secretariat expects that Civil Society nominates Organizations that are knowledgeable in the extractive sector and the work of LEITI for onward recommendation to the President. The President does the final nomination."

Mr. Samson Tokpah needed to depart the meeting room before actual discussion could continue among the CSOs, for this reason five minutes was given for questions from various participants. Mr Prasen J. Khati of Oxfam then asked about the role of International Organizations in the process, and the LEITI boss said that the role could be observatory and to also guide the process. Mr. Tokpah then sought the body's permission to excuse the meeting so that his presence cannot be misconstrued as an influence. It was granted.

After the departure of Mr. Tokpah, the overall discussion of the meeting was placed around, the situation of more institutions participations and selection of institution with practical experienced and direct focused on the Extractive Industry. It was said by majority of the participant that guidelines/ criteria be put to enable comprehensive evaluation in the selection process.

**AGREED ISSUE:**

- The CSOs however decided that ON VETTING CRITERIA drafted by the Interim Organizing Committee and also selected Mr. Pindarous Allison and Mr. Momo be added to the team with Madam Frances Greaves will also serve as ex-officio to the committee.
- The CSOs also agreed that another meeting be scheduled for Monday February 10, 2014 at 4pm and the Committee continues to lead the Process.
- The CSOs also mandate the Contact Person (Abel Williams Cheayan) of the Interim Committee to invite four (4) international Organizations to review, comment and make input to the draft criteria that will guide the CSOs representative selection Process on the LEITI MSG in Liberia. These International Organizations Include:
  1. **The European Delegation to Liberian**
  2. **GIZ Liberia**
  3. **Oxfam Liberia**
  4. **International Alert Liberia**

IV. **CLOSING:** The presiding thanked everyone for coming and urged that the process is taken seriously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

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