

**MULTI STAKEHOLDER GROUP 55th STATUTORY MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12 and WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2022 AT 10:00
AM
VIA ZOOM**

ATTENDANCE: MSG and SECRETARIAT STAFF

	Name & Sector	Gender	Members Present	Members Absent	Alternate	Gender	Present	Absent
INDUSTRY								
1	J Bronchalo	M		w/e	A Gohil	M		w/e
2	R Ramjit	M	x		J Vogt	M	x	
3	A Alphonso	M		w/e	A Jagnandan	M		w/e
4	R Khan	M	x		N McLean	M		w-out/e
CIVIL SOCIETY								
5	M McCormack	M	x					
6	L Fiedtkou	F	x					
7	V Radzik	F	x		K Cort-Kansinally	F	W-out/e	
8	G Camacho	F	x		D Khan	F		Resigned . To be replaced
GOVERNMENT								
9	S Roopnauth	F		w-out/e	T Balgobin	M		w/e
10	H Khan	F	x		S Richmond	M		w-out/e
11	V Harris	F	x		S Hussain	M		w-out/e
12	M Munroe	M	x		M Pertab	M		w-out/e

Secretariat Staff							
1	J Earle	M	x				
2	A. Barton	F	x				

NOTE: THIS MEETING COMMENCED ON OCTOBER 12 BUT WAS SUSPENDED WHEN ONE MEMBER HAD TO LEAVE AND THE MEETING LOST ITS QUORATE STATUS. THE MEETING RESUMED AND WAS COMPLETED ON OCTOBER 19.

AGENDA (Draft)

- 1. Call to Order and Welcome**
- 2. Excuses / Attendance Record**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**
- 4. Minutes of 55th MSG Statutory Meeting held 14.09.2022**
 - a) Corrections / Omissions / Adoption
- 5. Decisions of 55th Statutory Meeting – Status of Implementation**
- 6. Report From MSG Committees:**
 - a) MSG Co-Chairs
 - b) Communications & Outreach - Communication Strategy comments for Approval
 - c) Work Plan, MSG TOR and Validation
 - d) MSG-IA
- 7. Correspondence**
- 8. Request for Extension to complete the FY 2020 report until March 2023**
- 9. Staffing issues at the Secretariat - update**
- 10. Any Other Business**
- 11. Announcement of Next MSG Meeting – 9th November, 2022**
Close

AGENDA ITEM 1: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting which was held via Zoom was called to order at 10:10 am by Chair Mr Ryan Ramjit (Industry) who welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

AGENDA ITEM No 2 – Excuses/Attendance Record

- Excuses tendered for Mr. Andron Alphonso, Mr. Avalon Jagnandan, Mr. Jesus Bronchalo and Mr. Anand Gohil.

AGENDA ITEM NO 3 – Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was amended and adopted by consensus

AGENDA ITEM NO 6 – Report from MSG Committees:

MSG Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs reported that it met three times during September-October to discuss the capacity and staffing issues at the National Secretariat. They reported the solutions proffered by the MNR and spoke of ways in which these solutions could be strengthened. The issue of low remuneration came up as one of the main factors negatively influencing the recruitment process. The committee reported that according to the MNR, professionals from within the government sector will be transferred to the Secretariat. The meeting heard that the government was prepared to have two persons – a senior administrator and a statistician – to fill the positions of the Administrator and the Analyst. The Co-Chairs agreed that they would bring this issue to the MSG. It was reported that the salaries that government offered for these positions were not competitive enough to attract people from the private sector who may have the requisite qualifications and experience. The Co-Chairs decided they will accept the proposed solution from the PS provided that the Co-Chairs can interview the persons to ensure their suitability. The solution offered by the PS is being considered an interim arrangement until permanent staff could be sourced.

As a result of the IA ToR and sole-sourcing issues, the staffing situation and other related factors, the Co-Chairs recommended seeking an extension to the 2020 report deadline. The Co-Chairs also recommended that the MSG seeks external assistance for the reviewing and amending of the IA ToR for the preparation of the 2020 report.

MSG IA Committee Report:

The committee met several times during September-October and the main issue discussed was the sole-sourcing of the IA for the preparation of the FY 2020 report. One of the committee's main concerns is how the MSG might correct the discrepancy created by the sole-sourcing of the IA for the 2020 report. The committee noted too that the Secretariat is presently devoid of the technical skills needed to address matters such as the IA ToR which needs to be reviewed.

It was noted that the current IA ToR is essentially the same from the 2019 report save a few minor changes. It was noted that the ToR should comment on the state of implementation of the recommendations of previous reports as this would inform the way the IA approaches this report. It was noted that this information is usually gleaned from the MSG Annual Progress Report, the Minutes of MSG meetings, and the government agencies themselves.

The committee discussed the possibility of hiring on a short-term basis either the past National Coordinator or Deputy National Coordinator to assist in reviewing and updating the IA ToR. The meeting also discussed the possibility of Mr. Sherwin Long of TTEITI and

of the EITI International Board to assist not only in the reviewing and updating of the IA ToR but also in guiding the new staff of the National Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 – Any Other Business

The meeting voiced its concern over the hiring of a confidential secretary to the National Coordinator and said that the position is not recognised as it is not included on the Secretariat’s organisational chart. As such, the meeting noted that it is improper for this person to be a part of MSG or Committee meetings or to be handling any documents or correspondences which are EITI-related.

.....
Johann Earle (Mr.)
Communications Officer
GYEITI National Secretariat


.....
Ryan Ramjit
Chair (Industry)

DECISIONS AGREED AT 56th STATUTORY MEETING OF MSG HELD ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19th 2022.

1. That the MSG formally request an extension in the deadline for the publication of the FY 2020 Report to May 2023 due to the work that needs to be done with the IA ToR and the lack of capacity at the Secretariat to execute this work.
2. That the offer by the MNR for the placement of public service officers with the relevant qualifications and experience to fill the vacant positions of the Secretariat, on an interim basis, be considered for approval pending MSG assessment and interviews of said personnel; and that an immediate period of orientation and capacity-building be undertaken for said personnel by an external EITI consultant approved by the MSG.