

**CONVENING OF THE NEW MULTISTAKEHOLDER'S GROUP FOR 2025 AND THE
MINUTES OF THE 80TH MEETING OF THE MSG,
AUGUST 13, 2025 :09:00 – 13:00 hrs.**

VENUE: HERDMANSTON LODGE HOTEL, PETER ROSE AND LAMAHA STREETS, GEORGETOWN.

Report

1. Call to Order and Welcome:

Mr. Johann Earl called the Meeting to order at 9:20 hrs, welcomed and congratulated all members of the new MSG. The first session of the meeting was dedicated to the On-boarding of the New MSG. The second session was the convening of the First Meeting of the MSG-the 80th MSG.

2. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources Mr. Joslyn Mc. Kenzie in brief remarks congratulated the new MSG and alluded to the composition of the group which takes into account gender balance, youth involvement and new members alongside some returning members from the previous MSG. He pledged the MNR's continued support and commitment to the GYEITI in the implementation of the EITI standard.

3. Remarks - Minister of Natural Resources

Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat in his statement to the new MSG: -

- Congratulated the members and all involved in the process for the nominations of the new MSG.
- Highlighted the composition of group as it relates to the blend of experienced members along with new persons which are spread across various sectors / entities that will allow for the effective management of the EITI process.
- Stated that the tenure-ship of the MSG is for a 3- year period.
- Expressed his confidence that the new body will uphold the principles and guidelines of the EITI, effectively manage and guide the implementation of the EITI standard,

work towards meeting the obligations/ requirements as set out in the standard inclusive of the completion and publication of the 7th EITI report for FY 2023 before December 31,2025.

- He applauded the work of the last MSG. Specific mention was made of the completion of two EITI reports-FY 2020 and FY 2021 that were completed in one year and the demonstrated transparency and accountability measures implemented in the management of the natural resources of Guyana.
- He thanked the international secretariat for its continued guidance and assistance to Guyana.
- The EITI Champion mentioned the many challenges of the MSG including the COVID pandemic which impacted on the functioning of the MSG. With respect to the 2nd MSG, he elaborated on the process engaged in the nominations of the members of the three constituencies and the guidelines and advise received.
- He also mentioned the concerns raised by a Civil Society body on their involvement and participation in the nomination process and the MSG.
- He stated clearly that the GOG has no difficulty with involving and engaging any group in the consultative and reporting process of the GYEITI.
- In response to the interest expressed the EITI Champion reported that the GOG through the MNR, has engaged Mr. Sam Tokpah, WB Consultant to consult with all interested CS groups with a view to streamlining the consultative process for their meaningful involvement in the work of the GYEITI. This engagement will start soon.
- Underscored the GOG's commitment to transparency and accountability in the extractive industries and Guyana 's international recognition as one of the best model in the management of its oil resources among the new oil producers. Guyana's model has been sought by other countries and Guyana has provided assistance and advise as requested.
- The legislative framework will allow Guyana to build out its ecosystem to ensure that local businesses benefit from the petroleum sector.

- GOG working in partnership with international oil and gas operators and entities and local entities to drive developments in the industry.
- Outlined the importance of the Oil, mining, fisheries, forestry to the GDP, the success stories and challenges in the development of industry.
- Called on the MSG for their meetings to be decision and action oriented. The role of the Co-Chairs for the effective management of the MSG
- Closed by wishing the MSG well in its tenure, reiterated the commitment to work with all groupings and Mr. Sam Tokpah, the consultant engagement with the Civil Society group(s) that is desirous of being part of the process.
- The GOG remains committed to the EITI Standard, transparency and accountability.

After the departure of the EITI Champion, the Meeting resumed and continued with the Agenda.

4. The Head GYEITI Secretariat/National Coordinator in brief remarks welcomed the Honorable Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, Permanent Secretary and members of the new MSG. He alluded to the principles of transparency, accountability and the sustainability of practices in the extractive sector. The diversity of the expertise of the new MSG and upholding the principles of professionalism and integrity. The Commitment of the GYEITI secretariat to work with the MSG. The new MSG has the opportunity and capacity to ensure the development of good governance in the extractive sector and the benefits of the natural resources to be passed on to the citizens of Guyana. Noted that the new engagement will be challenging and the challenges can be necessary to bring about the necessary change / desired change. Such conflicts ought to be navigated to bring about fruitful outcomes. The importance of professionalism in the work of the GYEITI and hopeful the GYEITI can be driven in a meaningful way for the good of the country.

5. Roles and Functions of the MSG.

Mr. Sam Tokpah, World Bank Consultant, provided an overview of the MSG's work – the achievements, and what is required to be done

He outlined the achievements among which are, the publication of contracts, improved data quality monitoring system improved and strengthened, an approved policy manual, reconciled data received from the GGB and GGMC, an open data policy

Systematic disclosure and the progress made in seeking an approach for disaggregated data collection.

Beneficial Ownership and disclosures. Establishment of a BO register.

He also stressed the roles and responsibilities of the MSG in helping to:

- Move the GYEITI process forward to help Guyana achieves its objectives as set out for the GYEITI
- The significant workload ahead
- Preparation for validation in the next 6 weeks and the progress to date
- The need for an approved and published workplan and APR
- Publication of the EITI FY 23 report by December 31, 2025
- The role of the secretariat in support of the work of the MSG.

The meeting reconvened at 11:15 hrs after a break

Chair Johann Earl directed the Meeting to the need for the identification of a chairperson to take the new MSG through its first Meeting- the 80th MSG.

6. Introduction of members of the MSG.

Each member of the MSG introduced themselves after which, the procedure for the selection of Co-Chairs were engaged.

7. Identification of: - (a) Co-Chairs:

Each constituency reported their representative as follow:

- William Thompson- Industry
- Micheal Munroe- Government
- Kathy Smith – Civil Society.

There was no objection from each of the constituencies to the proposed representation.

(b) Chairperson for the MSG

The Chairman (Johann Earl) then guided the Meeting on the selection of a Chairperson of the MSG. The Government constituency proposed William Thompson from Industry based on his experience on the MSG and expertise to allow for continuity.

Civil Society seconded the proposal.

Decision: Mr. William Thompson will chair the proceedings of the current Meeting -the 80th Meeting of the MSG and further discussion on the tenure of chairmanship of the MSG will be done by the Co- Chairs. Note that the Chairmanship is on a rotation basis for a period of four months.

Mr. William (Bill) Thompson, assumed the Chairmanship of the 80th MSG and proceeded with the Agenda.

8. Committees of the MSG to be consummated

Guidance on the consummation of the Committees in terms of the membership were provided: - 2 members of each sector/ constituency is required to be on the Committee.

- An MSG member can serve on more than one Committee
 - (a) Workplan, Terms of Reference (TOR) and Validation Committee
 - (b) Legal and Regulatory Committee
 - (c) Independent Administrator (IA) Committee
 - (d) Communications and Outreach Committee

Past Committee chairs who are reappointed to the MSG provided insights to the new members on the work of each of the Committee.

Decision: The meeting agreed that the next Meeting of the MSG the membership of the Committees will be formalized and approved.

9. Matters for priority

- (a) 2025 Workplan: The Workplan to be circulated to all members of the MSG

Decision: Agreed that the draft Workplan for 2025/2026 will be circulated to the MSG for their examination.

- (b) Preparation of the FY 2023 EITI Report:
 - Status of preparation, schedule and timelines

The Independent Administrator Mr. Rakesh Latchana, BDO Guyana, presented a synopsis of the status of preparation for the FY 2023 EITI report. The draft Inception report was completed and it is expected that by the end of October 2025 the report is to be completed. Mention was made of the following: -

- The readiness of agencies to submit data: requested government agencies to be respect the timelines.
- Agencies are not systematically disclosing data / information. If done the IA can make the report shorter.
- Materiality by sector was discussed to allow for better analysis.
- Lack of willingness of industry to participate in providing beneficial Ownership disclosures
- Miners' disclosures of revenues and their lack of participation are related to concerns of confidentiality and security
- The non-response from Miners is a real issue
- GRA disclosures are limited due to the confidentiality and the need to obtain waivers.
- The FY 2023 report will have limitations.

Decision: The draft Inception Report will be circulated for the MSG attention.

(c) Guyana EITI Validation, October 2025

The status of preparation was presented by Mr. Sam Tokpah: World Bank Consultant. He alluded to the ongoing process for the completion of the draft Validation templates which are categorized into three areas namely: outcomes and Impacts, Stakeholders' engagement and Transparency. The national secretariat is assisting with the completion of the templates. These Templates will be submitted, once completed to the MSG for their approval. The EITI International Validation team is expected in Guyana in November 2025.

10. Signature of Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethic was signed by all members of the MSG present. Copies of the document was given to each member for their record.

11. Any Other Business

A request was made for (samples) past Committee Minutes to be circulated to members.

12. Close and announcement of date for the next meeting.

The Co-Chairs will communicate the date for the next Meeting to the Secretariat.

Decisions

- (a) Co Chairs to meet and decide on the Chairmanship based on the practice of rotational chairmanship of the MSG.
- (b) Co-Chairs will communicate with the Secretariat on the convening of the next MSG
- (c) The Committees of the MSG will be properly consummated at the next MSG.
- (d) Secretariat to circulate: -
 - (i) Contact for all members of the MSG
 - (ii) Minutes of past Committees Meetings for guidance to new members.
 - (iii) Circulate 2025 Workplan to all members
 - (iv) Draft Inception Report for FY 23 EITI Report.

Prepared by:

GYEITI Secretariat

Signed: 

William Thompson.
Chairman for the 80th MSG
Date: August 18, 2025.