

MINUTES OF THE 85th MEETING OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2026 AT THE MNR ANNEX, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.

VIRTUAL ZOOM/ In-Person MEETING: 10:00 HRS

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks.

The Meeting was called to order by Mr. William Thompson. In brief opening remarks welcoming members, he expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to convene in person.

(a) Hand-over of the current Chairmanship from Industry to the new Chair of the MSG from the government constituency.

Mr. Thompson, in handing over the chairmanship to Mr. Micheal Munroe (G), expressed his appreciation for the support and opportunity to work with the EITI Champion, the MSG and the Secretariat. He mentioned the tremendous work that was undertaken during the short period of time with new members of the MSG coming on board and the completion of the FY23 EITI report.

Mr. Michael Munroe assumed chairmanship of the Meeting and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Thompson for his leadership and stewardship of the MSG. He welcomed the EITI Champion, Minister of Natural Resources who joined the Meeting and as customary, at the beginning of each year, he delivered the charge to the MSG.

The details of Minister's address are Annexed to the report.

The meeting paused to allow for Minister departure.

2. Excuses and Announcements. There was no announcement.

Excuses were tendered for M. Indarjeet (CS) and V. Balgobin (I)

Members in attendance (virtually and in person) are listed in Annex 2:

3. Adoption of AGENDA : Proposed for adoption by William Thompson and seconded by Aslim Singh.

4. Consideration of the MINUTES of 84th MSG held on December 10, 2025: Proposed for adoption by Aslim Singh(CS) and seconded by Jennifer Persaud(G).

5. Committees Reports.

(a) Co-Chairs Meeting.

Co-chairs had a postponement of their meeting to January 30, 2026.

(b) Work-Plan, Validation and TOR Committee.

The meeting was advised that at the next meeting of the Committee it will delve into greater details on implementation activities in a more systematic manner and focus on the preparations for validation.

The MSG engaged in extensive discussions on the TOR for the IA Consultant as follow: --

- (a) The FY 24 and FY 25 EITI Reports are to be completed in 2026. It is necessary for the MSG, at this critical juncture, to bring EITI reporting to the current year. There was no objection to the approach.
- (b) The Meeting agreed that the early completion and approval of the TOR would allow for the commencement of the procurement process for the IA.
- (c) Noted that contracting the IA earlier can be a solution to address concerns regarding the IA's capability to complete the two reports and the challenges the IA will likely face. It was highlighted that the IA's early completion of the templates and its distribution for both years would allow the responses from the entities to be submitted simultaneously and allow for the two reports to be completed.
- (d) Agreed to have the TOR completed – no later than the next MSG meeting. This timeline will align with the national budgetary process and paves the way for the timely contracting of the IA Consultant.
- (e) Noted the significant condensation of the IA TOR, initially from 40 pages to about 25 and now to around 15 pages, makes it more readable and concise. All the requirements are included.
- (f) The TOR will allow the IA to make recommendations on its capability to do 2 reports in one year and to establish a realistic timeline to do so. The MSG is not trying to make the decision for the IA.
- (g) The TOR should articulate in a clearer manner, and remove any misunderstanding on the MSG's intent to have the FY 24 and FY 25 reports bi-furcated into sectorial reports-(an executive summary; sector report on mining, sector report on oil and gas and a sector report on fisheries and forestry)

Treatment of Fisheries

The IA Committee discussions and recommendations to have fisheries excluded from the report were fully ventilated by the MSG. The recommendation to drop fisheries considered among others:-

- the difficulties with data quality;
- the non-reconciliation of data and non-mainstreaming of data and fisheries can be a distraction to do 2 reports in one year,
- reporting is a voluntary inclusion by Guyana and not a mandatory requirement.
- A clear indication of the difficulties and challenges in the fisheries sector should also be examined.
- The IA Consultant in the scoping exercise to make recommendation(s) on the treatment of the fisheries. This will be a third-party objective assessment of merits and demerits of reporting on the fisheries sector

- The Secretariat's paper presented was noted. The MSG requested that the paper be comprehensive and reflect the findings from the records on the decision and justification for the inclusion of the fisheries.
- Consultant Sam Tokpah advise can also be sought on the removal of fisheries from reporting.

The MSG agreed that the TOR should incorporate the requirement for the IA Consultant in the scoping exercise to undertake an assessment and to make recommendations on the MSG approach to Fisheries reporting. The Secretariat paper will also be considered in its decision-making process

The MSG agreed that the TOR for the IA consultant as drafted be amended to make clear the MSG positions which were agreed by all sector /members in attendance as follow:

- (a) The Reports be bi-furcated by sector.
- (b) The IA to undertake in the scoping exercise an examination of the fisheries sector to establish whether fisheries are to be included in EITI report and make recommendations for MSG consideration.
- (c) The Secretariat's paper will also be considered in the MSG decision-making and
- (d) Solicit the views of Sam Tokpah on the best approach to the assessment of fisheries.

© Communications Committee

- The MSG was presented with the proposed programme and activities for the next 6 months and informed of the 2 specific activities to be completed by the end of March 2026.
- The short listing of topics for the legal fraternity engagement and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs support with the awareness on anti-corruption were noted.
- Underscored the need for constituency engagements by the MSG and the submission to the secretariat summaries and report on the engagements. This is an EITI requirement and is reflected in the outcomes and Impacts templates for the validation process.

The MSG indicated its support for the outreach activities. All constituencies were asked to be mindful of the requirement and the actions required at the constituency level.

(d) IA Committee: Review of the TOR for the IA Consultant for FY 24/25 EITI report.

The focus on the Committee discussions was on the IA TOR that was ventilated under the Workplan discussions. In addition, the following are to be noted:

- (i) Consensus was reached to have the revised TOR be approved by the MSG via the round Robin process (and not wait until the next MSG)

- (ii) The need for a clear indication which recommendations are that of the MSG and that of the IA. This will improve the impactfulness, transparency and the handling of the recommendations.

6. Guyana’s 2nd Validation: (Consultant Sam Tokpah)

The Meeting was advised that validation has been pushed back due to the convenor process. The date has not been confirmed. The EITI Secretariat guidance on the next step is being awaited.

Given that no timeline has been confirmed, the Consultant urged that GYEITI should use this opportunity to identify where there is deficiency and seek to address same.

Specifics can be gleaned from the pre -validation assessment that was done which will give greater focus and allow the MSG to be better positioned when validation re-commenced.

The MSG requested the Consultant’s support and its expectation for an early response.

7. Secretariat Report

The Secretariat report was noted.

8. Any other Business:

None

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


The Chairman in his closing remarks thanked all for their participation and expressed the desire to have the full MSG at in-person meetings.

Key decisions/Actions

Areas	Required	By whom
IA Consultant TOR	(a) Amend the TOR to reflect:)_ (i) comprehensive assessment of Fisheries and make recommendations to guide MSG in its decision on the treatment of Fisheries in the EITI report. (ii) Paper to be prepared indicating, among others the findings of previous decisions and justification for the inclusion of fisheries in the EITI report. (iii) Report be bi-furcated by sectors (iv) Clear language to indicate which recommendations are those of the MSG and IA. (b) Amended TOR to be circulated via Round Robin for approval.	Secretariat

COMS Committee Workplan for 1 st 6 months in 2026	No objection to the first six months activities and the conduct of 2 activities before end of March 2026.	Secretariat
(c) Validation Templates	Consultant to advise on next steps in Validation based on information from the EITI International Provide further guidance on the gaps identified in the validation templates.	Consultant

Prepared by: R. Jagarnauth
GYEITI Secretariat

Signed 
Michael Munroe
Chairman, MSG (G)

Annex 1: Minister address to MSG

EITI CHAMPION AND MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER GROUP OF THE GYEITI, JANUARY 28, 2026

85TH MEETING OF THE MSG.

The Honorable, Vickram Bharrat, Minister of Natural Resources and EITI Champion, joined the GYEITI Multi-stakeholders' Group at its 85th Meeting on January 28, 2026. This was the first Meeting of the MSG for 2026. As customary, at the beginning of each new year, the Champion addresses the MSG and sets the tone for the year ahead.

The EITI Champion engagement with the MSG on January 30, 2024, highlighted the following:

His appreciation to the members of the MSG for their voluntary service and the work that was put in for the completion of Guyana's FY 23 EITI report. He thanked all members of the MSG, the Secretariat staff and the Permanent Secretary and his team from the MNR for their service and contributions to the EITI process.

He also thanked Mr. Willaim Thompson, under whose chairmanship the FY 23 EITI report was successfully completed, for his leadership and stewardship. He mentioned that the feedback he received indicates that the FY 23 report was a better report than the previous year.

He informed the members of the favorable feedback he received from the EITI International Mission to Guyana which was headed by EITI Director Mark Robinson on the FY 23 report, the GYEITI and the MSG.

In relation to the composition and functioning of the MSG, he explained that the new MSG was constituted following a transparent process, involving public consultations and elections to ensure broader Civil society representation. He further stated that despite two seats being made available on the MSG for the Policy Forum, concerns were raised about their exclusion. This led to the EITI International Mission to Guyana.

Reference was made to the policies and programmes in Budget 2026 aimed at providing the enabling conditions for Guyana to continue the trajectory of bringing greater prosperity and fostering local and foreign investments.

He alluded to the oil and gas sectors in various countries and Guyana being looked at as a model in the management of the sector. In terms of the use of oil revenues, he mentioned same being used for investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure and job creation, among others to benefit the citizens of Guyana.

He indicated that future increases in revenues, the gas-to-energy project, investments in the gold and mining sectors, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing will lead to significant transformation in the economy, national developments and benefits to all Guyanese. All of this is being done with the environment in mind.

In relation to strengthening transparency efforts, he expressed appreciation to members for their commitment to the MSG and the efforts in promoting transparency and accountability in Guyana's extractive sectors.

He alluded to the importance of completing the FY 2024 EITI report in a timely manner

His commitment to strengthening the secretariat with key personnel will reduce the burden of the MSG members.

Improved public communication and awareness of the MSG work and the desire to have sector-specific reports that would allow for greater accessibility and readability were commended.

In terms of Guyana's second validation exercise, and the support from the MSG. He indicated that a better score is expected than that of the previous validation exercise.

On behalf of His Excellency President Ifran Ali, he thanked the MSG for their voluntary service and wished the MSG well in the upcoming validation exercise.

He closed by welcoming the incoming chair of the MSG, Mr. Micheal Munroe, and wished the MSG well in its work for 2026.

GYEITI Secretariat.

February 5, 2026.

Annex 2: Attendance Record.

Meeting attendance sheet 85th MSG 28 th January 2026					Absent	
Constituency	Organization	Role	Gender	Present	With excuse	w/out excuse
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
William. Thompson	ExxonMobil	Member/ Co Chair	M	x		
Anand Gohil	CNOOC	Alternate	M	x		
Joachim Vogt	ECO Atlantic	Member	M	x		
Abbigale Loncke- Watson	SISPRO	Alternate	F	x		
Vishanti Balgobin	Guyana Gold & Diamond Assoc.	Member	F		x	
Avalon Jagnandan	Guyana Gold & Diamond Assoc.	Alternate	M	x		
Rafeek Khan	Guyana Manu. Service Assoc.	Member	M	x		
Norman McLean	Private Sector Commission	Alternate	M			x
CIVIL SOCIETY						
Aslim Singh	Individual	Member	M		x	
Madhavi Indarjeet	Individual	Alternate	F	x		
Derrick John	Individual	Member	M	x		x
Shane Cornelius	Individual	Alternate	M	x online		
Balraj Budwah	Individual	Alternate	M			x
GOVERNMENT						
Micheal Munroe	Ministry of Natural Resources	Member/ Co Chair	M	x		
Martin Pertab	Ministry of Natural Resources	Alternate	M			x
Sonya Roopnauth	Ministry of Finance	Member	F	x		
Anil Persaud	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	Alternate	M	x online		
Rafael Singh	Guyana Revenue Authority	Member	M	x		
Sean Richmond	Guyana Revenue Authority	Alternate	M			x
Jennifer Persaud- Boodhoo	Prime Minister Office	Member	F	x		
Sharukh Hussain	Prime Minister Office	Alternate	M		x	

GYEITI Staff						
Prem Misir-Head / National Coordinator	GYEITI Secretariat	Observer	M	x		
Renrick Ramgobin	GYEITI Secretariat	Observer	M	x		
Johann Earle	GYEITI Secretariat	Observer	M	x		
Richard . Budhu	GYEITI Secretariat	Observer	M	x		
Rajdai. Jagarnauth	GYEITI Secretariat	Observer	F	x		
Sam Tokpah	Consultant	Observer	F	x		
Anele Barton	GYEITI Staff	Observer	F	x		
Onica Dowridge	GYEITI Staff	Observer	F	x		

Annex 3. Agenda

85th MEETING OF THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER'S GROUP **JANUARY 28, 2026**

VIRTUAL ZOOM/ In-Person MEETING: 10:00 HRS

AGENDA

10. Call to Order and Opening Remarks.

- Hand-over of the current Chair to the new Chair of the MSG

. In keeping with the rotation of chairmanship arrangements, the current chair- Mr. William Thompson will demit post and Mr. Michael Munroe will assume chairmanship of the MSG

- Announcements.

- Excuses.

11. Adoption of AGENDA

12. Consideration of the MINUTES of 84th MSG held on December 10, 2025.

13. Committees Reports.

- Co-Chairs Committee
- Work-Plan, Validation and TOR Committee.
This Committee did not meet. Each of the constituency may wish to report on the process of consultation with its constituents on the Workplan for 25/26. Written / Reports on the consultation are to be submitted to the Secretariat for its records.
- Communication and Outreach Committee.
- IA Committee: Review of the TOR for the IA Consultant for FY 24/25 EITI report.

14. Guyana's 2nd Validation: (Consultant Sam Tokpah)

The 83d MSG was advised by the WB Consultant that the (extended) new date for Guyana's 2nd Validation is January 1, 2026. Consultant Sam Tokpah will update the Meeting on the status and next steps.

15. Secretariat Report

16. Any other Business

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

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N.B: Awaiting confirmation if the EITI Champion will address members at the first meeting in the year, as customary.)