

GYEITI SPECIAL REPORT

Strengthening Transparency, Beneficial Ownership, Human Rights & Anti-Corruption in Guyana



Group photograph of participants attending the MPAG transparency and governance engagement session.

The Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI) Secretariat and representatives of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) participated in a high-level engagement session hosted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (MPAG) on 21st April 2026 at the AC Hotel Marriott, Ogle.

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (MPAG) is responsible for advancing good governance, parliamentary affairs, human rights, transparency, accountability and anti-corruption initiatives within Guyana. Through its coordination of national reporting and follow-up mechanisms under various international and regional human rights and anti-corruption frameworks, the Ministry supports efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability, participation and inclusion. In the context of Guyana's implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), MPAG contributes technical expertise and facilitates dialogue on the intersections between extractive sector governance, transparency, anti-corruption and human rights, thereby supporting national efforts to promote accountable and sustainable management of natural resources.

The session brought together more than 30 participants representing government agencies, constitution and statutory oversight bodies, transparency institutions, civil society organisations, and other key stakeholders to discuss issues relating to transparency, beneficial ownership, accountability, anti-corruption, and human rights and overall governance within Guyana's evolving development landscape.

The engagement was successfully coordinated through the collaborative efforts of several stakeholders, with GYEITI MSG representative Mr. Anil Persaud playing a key role in organising and facilitating the session. His contribution supported meaningful dialogue and strengthened collaboration among institutions working to advance transparency, accountability, and good governance in Guyana.



Mr. Anil Persaud (MSG Member/Senior Research Officer, MPAG) and Participants during the MPAG engagement session.

Transparency and Accountability Remain Central to Sustainable Development

As Guyana continues to experience rapid growth within the extractive sector, participants emphasised that strong governance systems, effective oversight, and transparent reporting mechanisms are essential to safeguarding national resources and maintaining public trust.

A major theme throughout the session was the importance of ensuring that reporting remains evidence-based, accurate, and aligned across both national and international frameworks. Stakeholders noted that transparency initiatives must continue to strengthen institutional accountability while remaining practical, coordinated, and nationally consistent.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of improving public access to verified information and strengthening communication strategies to ensure citizens are better informed on governance reforms, anti-corruption initiatives, and transparency efforts across the extractive sector.

Beneficial Ownership and National Policy Alignment

Significant attention was given to Beneficial Ownership (BO) reporting and Guyana's national policy framework. The Honourable Minister emphasised that Beneficial Ownership disclosures expand beyond the extractive sector and reaffirmed Guyana's established 25% Beneficial Ownership threshold across the board. Expert presenters and participants stressed the importance of maintaining consistency across reporting frameworks and avoiding fragmented implementation caused by overlapping international obligations and disclosure requirements.

The session also reinforced the need for accurate, fact-based, and evidence-driven reporting and information sharing processes to maintain public trust and strengthen the credibility of transparency initiatives. Stakeholders agreed that harmonised reporting systems and

coordinated institutional approaches are critical to ensuring consistency across governance and accountability frameworks.

Discussions further explored opportunities for strengthening the integrity and verification of Beneficial Ownership declarations, including potential collaboration between GYEITI and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). Participants also explored mechanisms for institutional cooperation and information sharing to support improved verification processes.



Mr. Matthew Langevine – Director, FIU, Ms. Joann Bond - Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers and Mr. Michael Munroe-MSG Co-Chair /Head of Local Content, MNR

Strengthening Anti-Corruption and Governance Systems

The discussions reflected Guyana's broader anti-corruption and accountability architecture, including the role of constitutional agencies, statutory bodies, and parliamentary oversight mechanisms. Institutions highlighted during the session included:

- The Audit Office of Guyana (AOG)
- The Public Procurement Commission (PPC)
- The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
- The Integrity Commission
- The Special Organised Crime Unit (SOCU)
- The Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI)
- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (MPAG)
- The National Coordinating Committee on the UNCAC and IACAC

These institutions continue to play important roles in promoting transparency, oversight, compliance, and accountability within the public sector. Participants also underscored the work of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), established in 2021 under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance to coordinate Guyana's obligations under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC).

The Honourable Minister further extended an invitation for the GYEITI MSG and Secretariat to participate in the NCC as part of broader efforts to strengthen institutional coordination, collaboration and information-sharing.



Alicia Jerome-Reece - Special Projects Officer, MPAG and Mr. Deodat Sharma - Auditor General of Guyana

Human Rights, Governance and Public Participation

The engagement reinforced the important relationship between transparency, democratic governance, accountability, and human rights.

Reference was made to Guyana's constitutional framework, including protections relating to participation, equality, education, health, freedom of expression, and freedom from discrimination. Participants noted that accountable governance and public participation remain essential pillars for national development and social progress.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of public education and institutional capacity building to increase awareness of governance systems, constitutional rights, and civic responsibility.

Initiatives such as the International Human Rights Law Certificate Course were recognised for supporting greater understanding of transparency, governance, and accountability issues among public servants, civil society organisations, and private sector stakeholders.



MS. Lauren Sampson-Senior Environmental Officer, EPA, Ms. Kavita Bhowani -Governance Officer, MPAG And Mr. Sean Richmond - MSG Member/GRA

Building Stronger Collaboration and Reporting Systems

The engagement also provided several important opportunities for GYEITI to strengthen its ongoing work in the areas of transparency, beneficial ownership, anti-corruption reporting, and stakeholder collaboration.

Among the key outcomes discussed was the preparation of a comprehensive anti-corruption policy write-up for inclusion in the upcoming GYEITI Fiscal Year 2024 Report, which will further strengthen reporting on governance and accountability measures within the extractive sector. Discussions also supported enhanced reporting on Guyana's implementation of the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as enshrined in the Amerindian Act (2006), particularly regarding issues raised and actions being undertaken at the national level.

The session further opened opportunities for closer collaboration between GYEITI and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), including discussions on mechanisms to support the evaluation and integrity of Beneficial Ownership declarations submitted by extractive companies. Participants also explored the possibility of establishing a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate structured information sharing and institutional cooperation.

Additional areas identified for continued engagement included updates on ongoing legislative reforms, such as the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Unit and amendments to the Integrity Commission Act, as well as greater clarity regarding public environmental registers maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Discussions also highlighted the importance of further examining the definition and classification of Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) within the context of transparency and reporting frameworks.

These discussions and proposed areas of collaboration are expected to support GYEITI's ongoing efforts to strengthen disclosure practices, improve data integrity, enhance institutional coordination, and promote more effective and accessible transparency reporting in Guyana.

Addressing Challenges Through Collaboration

Several common challenges affecting transparency and reporting systems were identified during the session, including limited human resources, increasing reporting obligations across multiple international frameworks, and gaps in data collection, storage, and baseline datasets.

Participants acknowledged that public perception is not always aligned with verified facts and emphasised the importance of strengthening data systems, harmonising reporting approaches, and improving communication strategies to ensure that information shared with the public remains accurate, evidence-based, and accessible.

The session also highlighted the need for continued collaboration among government agencies, oversight institutions, civil society organisations, and reporting entities to strengthen institutional trust and accountability.



Group photograph of participants attending the MPAG transparency and governance engagement session.

Looking Ahead

The session underscored the importance of continued collaboration, institutional strengthening, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based reporting in advancing transparency and accountability across Guyana's extractive and public sectors.

GYEITI remains committed to supporting national efforts that promote open dialogue, strengthened governance systems, public participation, and the responsible management of Guyana's natural resources.

About GYEITI

The Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI) promotes open and accountable management of Guyana's natural resources through public reporting, stakeholder engagement, and implementation of the EITI Standard.

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