UK Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)
Minutes of the 59th Meeting – 22nd November 2023 – Via Microsoft Teams (10.00 – 11.20am)

Attendance

Chair	**Civil Society**
Sophia Brecknell –Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)	Martyn Gordon – Robert Gordon University
Secretariat	Tilly Prior – Transparency International
Joel Watson –Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)	**Guests/observers**
	Mark Burnett – EITI International Secretariat
Mike Nash - Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)	Helmi Ben Rhouma – BDO
Industry	Mark Russell – Mineral Products Association (MPA)
Jacqui Akinlosotu - ENI	Tim Vickery – Independent Advisor
John Bowater – Aggregate Industries	Hedi Zaghouani - BDO
David Evans - OEUK	**Apologies**
Government	Jeff Asser - Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)
Mike Earp – North Sea Transition Authority	Kirsty Benham – Critical Minerals Association
Leo Kellaway – HMRC	Aurelie Delannoy – Mineral Products Association
Mark Wilson – Department for the Economy Northern Ireland	Nick Everington – The Crown Estate
	Mark Henderson – BDO
	Johann MacDougall – Scottish Government Tilly Prior – Transparency International UK

1 – Welcome and Introductions:

1. All were welcomed to the 59th meeting of the UK EITI MSG.

2. The following guest was welcomed:

   - **Mark Russell**, Executive Director at the Mineral Products Association. Mark is attending on behalf of Aurelie Delannoy and has already provided some valuable input into both the Compliance subgroup and the working group looking at the contract and licence transparency corrective action.

3. The Chair updated members on the move of EITI international relations to the Responsible Business Engagement Team (RBET) within FCDO. EITI membership responsibilities sit well with the RBET team, allowing for more value to be drawn from the existing membership.

2 – Agreement of minutes and action points of 13th September 2023 meeting:

4. The minutes of the MSG meeting on 13th September 2023 were agreed.

5. The MSG were updated on the main action points from the meeting on 13th September 2023.

   - The Compliance subgroup should meet to take an initial look at the key requirements of the EITI Standard and report back at the November MSG. UK Secretariat to seek further members interested in taking part in the subgroup. ***Secretariat circulated request for volunteers to join the UK EITI Compliance subgroup on 14th September 2023. Subgroup meetings to look at the new EITI Standard took place on 11th October 2023 and 8th November 2023.***

   - Further information on the Open Government Partnership and National Action Plans to be circulated to the MSG. ***UK Secretariat circulated NAP information on 14th September 2023.***

3 – Comms and Engagement Update

6. The C&E strategy is on hold until there is a clear steer from the MSG on how the UK will take forward the recommendations of the 2023 EITI Standard.

7. Tim Vickery attended the ICMM Forum in October. The forum had the theme of "Trust". This was on the back of a survey which put the mining sector near the bottom of a table on public trust and it was agreed that there was a lot of dialogue needed to change this perception.

8. Minister Ghani from the Department for Business and Trade spoke at the event and highlighted the critical minerals refresh in her speech. Mark Robinson spoke on behalf of the EITI International Secretariat and emphasised the positive opportunities that EITI creates for building public trust.

4 – Draft UK EITI Annual Review 2023 - update

9. The Sectoral subgroup met in October to discuss the content and format of the UK EITI Annual Review 2023. It was agreed to streamline the content of the Review and remove the sectoral data that is already available on the UK EITI website but continue to include links within the Review to the relevant information.

10. Both the Ministerial Foreword by Lord Callanan and the Chair's View sections of the Review were currently being drafted and will be included in the final published version once they have been approved by Lord Callanan and the Chair respectively.

11. Industry and civil society perspectives and reflections on EITI and its importance were invited. One industry perspective had already been promised by the CMA.

12. It was agreed that the draft version of the Review would be re-circulated with an early December deadline for comments. Any further comments would be considered by the Sectoral subgroup before a final version for approval by the MSG is circulated.

13. Once the final version is approved it will be uploaded onto the UK EITI website for the four-week stakeholder consultation period. Any comments received from stakeholders will be considered by the Sectoral subgroup. It is expected that the report will be published in early February 2024.

14. It was agreed that it would be useful to summarise the new requirements of the 2023 EITI Standard within the report.

5 – UK EITI Compliance subgroup – report back on 2023 EITI Standard discussions

15. The 2023 EITI Standard was launched in June and initial discussions on how to take forward the recommendations took place at the MSG meeting in September. It was agreed to reconvene the UK EITI Compliance subgroup to take an initial detailed look at the new requirements of the 2023 EITI Standard and report back to the MSG at the November meeting.

16. The subgroup remit included reviewing the updates to the 2023 Standard, determining applicability of new requirements, reviewing the status of disclosures related to new requirements, for example is the data available, are there any legal barriers and is any of the data already systematically disclosed.

17. A compliance tracker which included a list of all the new requirements was produced and circulated to subgroup members before the first meeting in October and the subgroup looked in detail at each new requirement in turn. A further meeting took place in early November to complete discussions. The subgroup came up with a number of recommendations that were added to the Compliance tracker.

18. The initial discussions highlighted possible quick wins, but also raised concerns around the new requirements around the disclosure of the value of project data, which could cause problems around commercial confidentiality and cause pushback from in-scope companies.

19. The subgroup worked closely with Mark Burnett from the EITI International Secretariat during this initial process, who emphasised the importance of ensuring that these new workstreams are included in the next UK EITI workplan.

20. It was agreed that the tracker would be re-circulated with an early December deadline for comments and that the work on taking forward the actions would continue to be carried out by the Compliance subgroup, with further expertise brought in as and when required.

21. A further meeting of the subgroup will be organised for early January 2024, where actions will be prioritised and recommendations from the 2021 validation will be reviewed with the intent to inform the new UK EITI workplan.

6 – UK EITI workplan 2023 update and draft UK EITI Workplan 2024

22. The updated 2023 workplan and the first draft of the 2024 workplan were circulated prior to the meeting for comment and consideration.

23. Under the new EITI Standard work planning under requirements 1.5 and 7.4 were merged. This reinforces the link between work planning, monitoring and the reporting cycle and helps focus activities to achieve outcomes and impacts.

24. The multi-stakeholder group is required to maintain a workplan for implementation that addresses the most relevant themes for natural resource governance in line with national priorities.

25. All work planning, monitoring and review activities must be informed by consultations with national stakeholders, and documented in formats that are publicly available. Justification of which EITI requirements are prioritised, and a description of which activities in the workplan contribute to fulfilling each requirement.

26. Implementing countries are no longer required to publish an Annual Review and the workplan can now be used as the document that takes stock of UK EITI activities during the year.

27. It was agreed that with the next validation planned for 2025 the new workplan should cover two years to help to structure the activities on objectives that have a horizon of longer than one year.

28. The UK Secretariat agreed to revisit the workplan and circulate at the next MSG in January 2024.

7– EITI International Secretariat update

29. The EITI International Secretariat have devised a Dissemination and Capacity Building Strategy for the 2023 EITI Standard aimed to help MSGs and National Secretariat's understand what has changed and why, to adapt workplans to prioritise relevant requirements, create opportunities for dialogue and debate, inspire policy change and share information on impact.

30. The strategy is divided into cross cutting and thematic topics. High priority cross cutting topics include publication of the EITI Standard, a summary of the changes and working plans for the MSG. The high priority thematic topics are energy transition, anti-corruption and digital rights management (DRM).

31. Recommended tools for MSGs to take forward the recommendations include the Standard itself and the summary of changes, specific guidance notes from the International Secretariat, webinars and policy briefs. Participatory approaches may include peer learning and case studies.

8 – UK EITI MSG Terms of Reference Review

32. The periodic review of the MSG Terms of Reference is due. Some minor updates around machinery of government changes had been made to the version circulated before the meeting. The MSG were asked to provide any comments by early December.

33. The updated version of the ToRs will be uploaded onto the UK EITI website once the MSG has commented and approved.

9 – UK EITI Open Data Policy

34. The review of the UK EITI Open Data Policy is required. The version circulated with the meeting papers included some suggested updates. The MSG were invited to comment by early December.

35. The updated version will be uploaded onto the UK EITI website once the MSG has commented and is content to approve.

10 – AOB

36. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 11th January 2024.

Action points:

- Draft UK EITI Annual Review 2023 to be recirculated for further comments by 4th December 2023. **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat and the UK EITI MSG).**
- Summary of new requirements from the new EITI Standard to be added to the draft Annual Review. **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat),**
- Industry and civil society perspectives for the Annual Review to be received by 4th December 2023. **(Action: UK EITI MSG civil society and industry constituencies).**
- Draft Ministerial Foreword and Chair's View for the Annual Review. **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat).**
- Compliance tracker to be re-circulated for further comments by 4th December 2023, **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat and UK EITI MSG).**
- Further UK EITI Compliance subgroup meeting to be arranged for 9th January 2024. **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat).**
- UK EITI workplan to be revisited by the UK EITI Secretariat to expand to cover two years. **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat).**
- EITI International Secretariat slides covering the EITI Standard and Capacity Building to be circulated to the MSG. **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat).**
- UK EITI Terms of Reference to be re-circulated for further comments by 4th December 2023, **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat and UK EITI MSG).**
- UK EITI Open Data Policy to be re-circulated for further comments by 4th December 2023, **(Action: UK EITI Secretariat and UK EITI MSG).**