

1	PH-EITI 40th MSG Meeting	
2	February 3, 2017 9:00 AM -12:00 PM	
3	Mayon Function Room, Century Park Hotel	
4	Manila	
5		
6		
7	Attendees:	
8		
9	Government	
10	Director Anna Liza Bonagua	Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
11		
12	Ms. Febe Lim	Department of Finance (DOF)
13	Engr. Romualdo Aguilos	Mines and Geosciences Bureau—Department of Environment and Natural Resources (MGB-DENR)
14		
15	Dir. Araceli Soluta	Department of Energy (DOE)
16	Ms. Marilyn Posada	DOE
17	Ms. Ana Martha Galindes	Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
18	Ms. Pamela Grafilo	DILG- Philippine Poverty Environment Initiative (PPEI)
19	Ms. Rhizzalyn Bautista	DILG
20		
21	Industry	
22	Mr. Erwin Riñon	Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.
23	Atty. Francis Ballesteros	Philex Mining Corporation
24	Josie Mallari	OceanaGold Philippines, Inc.
25		
26	Civil Society Organization (CSO)	
27	Dr. Cielo Magno	UP School of Economics
28	Ms. Starjoan Villanueva	Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao (AFRIM)
29	Dr. Merian Mani	Marinduque State College
30	Mr. Chadwick Llanos	United Sibonga Residents for Environmental Protection and Development (USREP-D)
31		
32	Engr. Maria Rosario Aynon Gonzales	Palawan State University
33	Atty. Golda Benjamin	Silliman University
34	Mr. Buenaventura Maata, Jr.	PhilGrassroots- Engagement in Rural Development Foundation, Inc. (ERDF)
35		
36		
37	Resource Person (via Skype Conference Call)	
38	Alex Gordy	EITI International Secretariat

1	Observer	
2	Marco Angelo Zaplan	Bantay Kita- Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Philippines
3		
4	PH-EITI Secretariat	
5	Atty. Maria Karla Espinosa	Secretariat
6	Ms. Abigail Ocate	Secretariat
7	Ms. Mary Ann Rodolfo	Secretariat
8	Ms. Roselyn Salagan	Secretariat
9	Mr. Ryan Justin Dael	Secretariat
10	Ms. Rhea Mae Bagacay	Secretariat
11	Ms. Rhoda Aranco	Secretariat
12	Mr. Jaime Miguel	Secretariat
13	Mr. Ricardo Evora	Secretariat
14	Ma. Rowena Raymundo	External Documenter

15
16

17 **AGENDA:**

- 18 • Minutes of the 39th MSG meeting
- 19 • Matters arising from previous MSG meetings
- 20 • Main Business
 - 21 ○ Approval of 2017 Work Plan
 - 22 ○ Updates on Validation: List of stakeholders and schedule/itinerary for consultations
 - 23 ○ Question & Answer re: Validation with the International Secretariat
 - 24 ○ Terms of Reference of the Independent Administrator and Writer of Contextual
 - 25 Information for the 4th Country Report
- 26 • Other Matters
 - 27 ○ Updates on EGPS
 - 28 ○ Setting of next MSG meeting

29
30

31 **1. Call to Order**

32

33 The 40th Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI) Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)
34 meeting was called to order at 9:28 AM. Dir. Anna Liza Bonagua, an MSG member from DILG chaired and
35 facilitated the meeting.

36

37 **2. Minutes of the 39th MSG Meeting**

38

39 The Secretariat apologized for having sent the minutes only a day before the MSG meeting, noting that
40 they are currently facing some administrative issues. However, they committed to follow the one-week
41 advance distribution of materials in the succeeding meetings.

1 The Chair announced that members of the MSG have one week to give their comments on the
2 minutes and if there are no comments received, the minutes of the meeting will be deemed approved.

3. Matters arising from previous MSG meetings

6 The Secretariat noted that they will only report items in the Matters Arising that have significant
7 developments.

- 9 • *Draft EITI Bill*

11 The Secretariat reported that they have already received a request for comments on the filed EITI bills
12 filed: Senate Bill (SB) No. 1125 which was introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva and House Bill (HB) 4116
13 by Representative Ramon Vicente Rocamora. However, it was clarified that the request was addressed
14 to the Department of Finance (DOF) and not PH-EITI. According to the Secretariat, the Research and
15 Information Office of DOF sent them the memo requesting for comments on the said bills.

17 According to the Secretariat, since PH-EITI did not receive a separate request for comments, the
18 comments of the MSG will be consolidated with or integrated in the DOF position paper.

20 A CSO representative suggested that in submitting comments, considering it will be integrated with that
21 of DOF, the inputs should be properly identified/referenced as either from DOF or PH-EITI.

23 The Chair suggested that the Secretariat share the consolidated comments on the bill to the MSG
24 members so when asked specifically by their agencies, members can explain or clarify PH-EITI position.

26 There was also a suggestion from another CSO representative that in lieu of packaging the document as a
27 comment on the two bills, the MSG can instead identify and agree on the core principles that they want
28 to be reflected in the bills. Whether PH-EITI is requested to comment or not, there is an option to
29 publish online the position of the MSG as a body independent from the DOF.

31 Clarification was sought by a government representative: DOF is part of MSG, but DOF is required to
32 submit separate comments on the bills, so how should the matter be approached?

34 The Chair sought clarification if the term “separate” would refer to DOF position which may not
35 necessarily be in line with the position of PH-EITI.

37 A CSO representative remarked that if PH-EITI will produce the paper, it would only reflect items where
38 MSG members have consensus. On the other hand, the Secretariat said, for DOF, it is possible that the
39 agency position will embody its own position plus the points where the MSG had consensus. The
40 Chair said that DOF’s position should at least be aligned with PH-EITI’s.

1 The MSG will come up with a position paper agreed by all members, even if members' respective
2 agencies have their own or additional comments and inputs to the bills.

3
4 • ***Selection process for MSG members***
5

6 The Secretariat reported that the selection process in the government side is not yet approved and still
7 pending with the office of the Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary. Based on the last follow-up with
8 DOE's Director Abad, there were some grammatical errors which the Secretariat deemed as simply an
9 issue on form and already corrected.

10
11 The Chair remarked that if an approved selection process is required in the validation process, then DOE
12 should be informed about this. This elicited reactions from other MSG members, saying that any delay
13 will negatively affect the country's validation status. The Chair suggested that communication be sent to
14 DOE to remind them of their approval or even just to get feedback if they have comments or additional
15 inputs.

16
17 A CSO representative moved for PH-EITI to send a formal letter addressed to the Secretary of DOE about
18 all pending deliverables.

19
20 According to the Secretariat, they have sent to DOE an omnibus letter signed by the DOF Secretary, the
21 content of which included the issues on Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) participation,
22 DOE attendance in MSG meetings, approval of the selection process, and the DOF official
23 representatives. So far, DOE had responded on the matter of the agency's official representatives by
24 designating Director Araceli Soluta as full member and Director Rino Abad as alternate member. DOE
25 had not responded as regards the other issues.

26
27 A CSO representative suggested for PH EITI representatives to deliver the letter to DOE personally and
28 discuss the content of the letter, so that concrete results can be had in the next meeting. Another
29 CSO representative commented that there is no more time for meetings, as the validation activities are
30 already scheduled and the document is needed by the following week.

31
32 The government sector representatives in the MSG were encouraged to visit and get from DOE the
33 necessary document related to the approval of the government selection process. The Secretariat was
34 asked to make a schedule with DOE within the following week.

35
36 • ***Representation of IPs in the MSG***
37

38 The Secretariat reported that this is still pending. As of the last meeting, a CSO representative apprised
39 the body that consultations have been done and that there was already agreement among the CSOs to
40 give two (2) slots to IPs, but this is subject to approval of the MSG. There was also a request from an
41 industry representative for time for him to verify with the IP community with whom their company is
42 working if the said community was represented in the CSO consultations.

1 • **Engagement of non-metallic mining associations**

2
3 Based on the discussion of the Terms of Reference (TOR), this will be covered in the next Country
4 Report, the 4th one.

5
6 • **Letter to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regarding a permanent member of the**
7 **Technical Working Group (TWG)**

8
9 This is still pending. There is no fixed enumeration as to who will constitute the TWG. Under the
10 internal rules, there is provision that government agencies, units, bureaus or even GOCCs, can become
11 memberof the TWG.

12
13
14 Before proceeding to the main agenda, the Chair asked if there are other matters that the body wanted
15 to discuss under Matters Arising.

16
17 A CSO representative made a follow-up regarding DOE, particularly about Semirara. It was mentioned
18 that there was a letter from Semirara to DOF dated August 2014. DOE was probably copy furnished.
19 The question is if there has been a response to their letter, as Semirara might cite this as reason -- that
20 they are waiting for a response to their last letter -- for their continuing non-participation.

21
22 The Chair asked that the draft reply be reviewed and checked if still relevant. This can be discussed
23 during the next meeting.

24
25 **4. Approval of 2017 Work Plan**

26
27 The proposed 2017 work plan has been discussed in the previous meeting, and the Secretariat reported
28 that they have received comments from some of the MSG members. However, among the government
29 agencies, only DOF submitted comments on the draft work plan. The work plan has not yet been revised
30 to change the form and include the key result areas, specific outputs, and proposed budget per activity,
31 but the Secretariat already consolidated the comments and checked on the proposed activities of the
32 MSGincluding corresponding budgetary requirements.

33
34 Below are the proposed activities that the Secretariat presented:

35
36 From the industry sector:

- 37 - Coal forum
38 - Develop metrics to measure public awareness on EITI through survey
39 - FGD on the social development and benefit flows of mining in the local communities and
40 peripheries
41 - Industry conference (which can be held back to back with the National Conference)

- 1 From the CSOs:
- 2 - CSO conference (which can be held back to back with the National Conference)
 - 3 - CSO capacity building on natural resource management
 - 4 - Subnational EITI outreach
 - 5 - Media training on natural resource governance
 - 6 - CSO assessment of the EITI report

7

8 From government (DOF):

- 9 - LGU training on the use of Environmental and Natural Resources Data Management Tool
- 10 (ENRDMT) developed by the DOF - Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF)
- 11 - Dialogue/workshop among government agencies to address issues in EITI implementation
- 12 - Meeting with SMPC
- 13 - Conduct of survey to measure public awareness on EITI

14

15 The Secretariat confirmed that all proposed activities can be accommodated by the PH-EITI budget. They

16 requested the body to set deadline for submission of all comments so they could finalize the work plan.

17

18 A CSO representative agreed to conduct a coal forum and commented that it is time to start the

19 dialogue with the coal companies. The same representative mentioned that subsidies given to coal

20 companies and the country's policies/laws vis-à-vis its commitment to the World Trade

21 Organization (WTO) could be discussed in the forum.

22

23 The Chair noted that unless there are oppositions in the items or activities suggested these would

24 already be incorporated in the work plan. The MSG members were then encouraged to propose topics

25 to be discussed for each of the activities.

26

27 There was a proposal from a CSO member to develop an internal assessment mechanism for the

28 performance of individual MSG members as well as an external grievance and/or feedback mechanism

29 that will allow stakeholders and communities to give their comments on the EITI reports.

30

31 Members of the MSG were given one week to provide their comments on the 2017 work plan.

32

33 **5. Updates on Validation**

34

35 The Secretariat reminded the body that the International Secretariat is requesting for the following:

36

- 37 a. Additional documents that the MSG would want to provide to the International Secretariat
- 38 b. Initial list of stakeholders for consultation
- 39 c. Aspects of EITI implementation that MSG would want to be highlighted in the validation

1 The International Secretariat also requested for the draft itinerary for stakeholder consultations. It was
 2 noted that the itinerary which reflects the names of identified stakeholders is included in the meeting
 3 kit.

4
 5 It was recalled that during the previous meeting, the MSG approved that consultation meetings be
 6 conducted in the week of 20 February 2017. The Secretariat mentioned that guide questions provided
 7 by the International Secretariat were already distributed to the members of the MSG.

8
 9 The MSG was informed that Mr. Alex Gordy of the International Secretariat will arrive on 20 February
 10 2017 and commence the consultation meetings. Ms. Dyeke Rogan who is also part of the mission team,
 11 will arrive on the following day. Below is the draft itinerary presented by the Secretariat.

Schedule	Stakeholder for Consultation
Feb 20 (Monday) morning	National Secretariat
Feb 20 (Monday) afternoon	none yet
Feb 21 (Tuesday) morning	none yet
Feb 21 (Tuesday) afternoon	none yet
Feb 22 (Wednesday) morning	none yet
Feb 22 (Wednesday) afternoon	Industry stakeholders, non-MSG (<i>Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company and CTP Construction and Mining Corporation</i>)
Feb 23 (Thursday) morning	IA
Feb 23 (Thursday) afternoon	LGUs (<i>Tuba & Itogon, Bengue, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur; Province of Palawan</i>)
Feb 24 (Friday) morning	CSOs, non-MSG (<i>Ancestral Land/Domain Watch; Environmental Legal Assistance Centre, Inc.; Ang Aroroy ay Alagaan Inc.; Cantillan, Carrascal, Madrid, Carmen and Lanuza; BAYWATCH, Inc.; MAPORAC EYTA Organization; Unified Civilian Society Inc.</i>)
Feb 24 (Friday) afternoon	Regional Directors of MGB CAR and MIMAROPA

13
 14 It was noted that the itinerary did not yet have the schedule of most MSG members. According to the
 15 Secretariat, Mr. Gordy requested that MSG members be consulted together with the non-MSG
 16 representatives of the sector that they are representing. Members of the MSG were then requested to
 17 confirm their availability.

18
 19 The Secretariat also reported that as mentioned by Mr. Gordy, the non-MSG government agencies refer
 20 to those not directly participating in PH-EITI but are relevant in the EITI process such as Commission on
 21 Audit (COA) and SEC. Other sectors identified for possible consultation include parliamentarians, media,
 22 development partners, and other government reporting agencies.

23
 24 The Chair asked if the non-MSG representatives will be briefed before the consultation. It was
 25 mentioned that it is important for the stakeholders to understand the EITI process, the significance of
 26 the validation activity, and how critical it is for the country to pass the validation.

1 The Secretariat responded that they will conduct an orientation/briefing if necessary. Briefing notes will
2 be provided to those who are presumed to be unfamiliar with PH-EITI.
3

4 It was also mentioned that the Secretariat have already arranged the flight booking and hotel
5 accommodation of the confirmed stakeholders.
6

7 A CSO representative asked if the briefing would be only about PH-EITI. The same representative noted
8 that interviewees should be allowed to openly express their views since the Validator would want to
9 know issues of stakeholders outside the MSG.
10

11 The Chair asked the Secretariat to inform the industry members who are not present in the meeting that
12 they will be interviewed together with the non-MSG representatives of the industry on February 22.
13

14 Going back to the draft itinerary, the Chair suggested that the body decide on what sector to schedule in
15 the remaining open dates. Since February 21 is still vacant, this can be devoted for government sector,
16 with both MSG and non-MSG representatives present. The Chair requested the MSG members to make
17 themselves available on their designated schedule.
18

19 A representative of the CSOs inquired if there was a methodology provided for conduct of the
20 consultation meetings and if MSG members are required to be present in all of the meetings. The
21 Secretariat responded that specific tools were not identified and consultation could be done either
22 individually or in group. To clarify, it was mentioned that members of the MSG are not required to stay
23 for one week and attend all meetings. MSG members are requested to attend only the session/day for
24 their specific sector.
25

26 The Chair suggested to plot the schedule for each day as well as to enumerate and identify who should
27 be required to attend from the MSG (government, industry and CSO) and who will be invited outside the
28 MSG.

29 A CSO representative asked about the sufficiency of having only two Validators considering the number
30 of interviewees and areas to cover. The member stated that to generate a good validation report, all
31 sectors should be properly covered.
32

33 One government representative clarified that only initial consultation would be done and not yet the
34 actual validation. The consultation results will be submitted to the Validator.
35

36 A CSO representative further explained that from all the data and information that will be gathered from
37 the consultation, the International Secretariat will generate a report which will be furnished to the MSG
38 for comments. Simultaneously, this report will be forwarded to the Independent Validator who
39 will review the document before submitting it to the Validation Committee. Previously, Independent
40 Validators were hired to do the consultation and data gathering. However, due to limited
41 resources/funding, the process was revised and data gathering is now the task of the International
42 Secretariat. Their output will not provide an overall assessment, but will contain an assessment per

1 requirement of the Standard. If there are discrepancies between the findings of the Validator and the
2 International Secretariat, the Board members will discuss and will come up with a decision.

3
4 Recognizing the significance of the consultation activity and the presence of both MSG and non-MSG
5 representatives, the Chair reiterated the earlier suggestion to already plot the schedule. The Secretariat
6 announced that after the meeting, they will confirm the availability of MSG members present and will
7 also coordinate/follow-up with the others.

8
9 Before proceeding to the next agenda, the Secretariat presented a list of reference materials provided
10 to the MSG in relation to the upcoming validation:

- 11 - Topics for stakeholder consultation which came from the International Secretariat
- 12 - Overview of EITI validation process
- 13 - Validation Guide
- 14 - Selection process of each sectors represented in the MSG
- 15 - TOR of the MSG - amended as per agreement during the 37th MSG meeting
- 16 - Internal rules - amended as per agreement during the 37th MSG meeting
- 17 - Overview of the 3rd country report – key findings
- 18 - Validation question for the IA – to give MSG members an idea about the technical questions of
19 International Secretariat for the IA. The Secretariat noted that the answers of the IA to the
20 technical questions will also be provided.
- 21 - Summary of communications and outreach activities of PHEITI for the year 2014 to 2016
- 22 - Draft assessment of EITI implementation in the Philippines

23
24 The Secretariat noted that they would provide additional documents that MSG will require.

25 26 **6. Question and Answer re: Validation with the International Secretariat**

27
28 The MSG members had a brief online Q&A session with Mr. Alex Gordy of the International Secretariat
29 to clarify some matters on the validation process.

30
31 *Question:* During stakeholder consultation, will representatives from different sectors be interviewed
32 individually or through focus group discussion? What is the design of the validation process?

33
34 *Answer:* My. Gordy responded that their role is not to be the Validators themselves, but rather to
35 undertake the stakeholder consultation. They will establish the facts and views of stakeholders but they
36 will not validate/assess the country's compliance with the EITI Standard. There are three steps/
37 processes in the validation procedure: Step 1 involves review, documentation and consultation with
38 stakeholders. After this step, the initial report will be drafted documenting the progress per
39 requirement; Step 2 involves the turnover of initial assessment report to the independent Validator who
40 will write the validation report; Step 3 is when the Validator will submit the report to the EITI Board and
41 Validation Committee of EITI. The PH-EITI MSG will be given opportunity to comment at each and every
42 step in the process.

1 The methodology is explained in the validation guide. The validation procedures describe the
2 requirements and the type of documents to support the assessment. The International Secretariat will
3 go through the PH-EITI reports, documentation of activities, and other relevant source documents that
4 are available.

5
6 In terms of consultation, Mr. Gordy noted that they will also be talking to stakeholders outside the MSG.
7 They would consult, for instance, CSO representatives in the MSG, representatives of CSOs that are not
8 directly sitting in the MSG, or possibly even CSOs who decided not to engage in EITI. The mission team
9 will also look into what information were disseminated to the non-members of the MSG. Mr. Gordy
10 assured that the validation guide will be strictly followed and complied with.

11
12 *Question:* From the time of the stakeholder consultation, how soon will the MSG receive the initial
13 assessment report that they can comment on? How long will the validation process take, starting from
14 stakeholder consultations to getting the results on whether the Philippines passed the validation?
15

16 *Answer:* Mr. Gordy explained that Step 1 or the initial assessment would take an average of 11 weeks.
17 For PH-EITI validation which commenced on 1 January 2017, the assessment report can possibly be
18 circulated to the MSG by end of March 2017. Step 2 which is the actual validation would take an average
19 of 2 weeks. Therefore, the MSG can expect the validation report to be circulated by end of April. The
20 validation report will then be submitted to the EITI Board. While there is no time frame for the Board to
21 arrive at a decision, the MSG can possibly expect something towards the end of May 2017 considering
22 that there is a scheduled board meeting within the said month.

23
24 Mr. Gordy added that they are open to any type of inputs from stakeholders even ahead of their
25 mission. He acknowledged the MSG members for their pro-active participation and commitment to EITI.
26 At this juncture, the Chair congratulated and commended the Secretariat and the MSG.

27 28 **7. TOR of the IA and Writer of Contextual Information for the 4th Country Report**

29
30 The Secretariat noted that the draft TORs for both the IA and the writer for contextual information were
31 based on the TORs used in the previous year. It was mentioned that the changes made in the TORs reflect
32 the previous agreement to cover two fiscal years, 2015 and 2016, for the 4th Country Report.

33
34 Since copies of the TORs were circulated only a day before the meeting, the Secretariat suggested that
35 the body set a date within which to send their comments.

36
37 With regard to the TOR of the IA, a CSO representative recommended to include the provision covering
38 all mining, oil and gas, and coal companies and to remove the clause on materiality. The same
39 representative recalled that this was decided on in a previous meeting.

40
41 A CSO representative made the observation that for every EITI report, deadlines are always pushed
42 back. Since this is the 4th report, the body can be more firm in meeting the deadlines. The Chair agreed

1 with the observation and asked if data gathering can be started earlier to avoid the past years'
2 experience of Secretariat and MSG working until the last days of the holiday season.

3
4 Another CSO representativesuggested the possible inclusionof an assessment of social development
5 projects of companies.To this, another CSO representative responded that mining companies conduct
6 social impact assessment. Nonetheless, it would be good for PH-EITI to come up with its own design of
7 social impact assessment separate from those being done by the different mining companies.

8
9 A government representativereacted that such is not included in the work plan, and if the body so
10 decide to include it under the contextual information, this should be done by a separate consultant as
11 the IA may no longer be able to dothe additional work.

12
13 Another CSO representative suggested that the comprehensive assessment of social impactcan be made
14 part of thework plan, whichcan be started by developing tools and piloting in some areas. It was noted
15 that this will not be included in the scope of work of the IA.

16
17 The CSO representative also commented thatpayment of the IA should be dependent on the quality of
18 the data collected and that there should be a penalty clause if they do not complete all the data that the
19 MSG wants, i.e., payment or portion of payment can be withheld.

20
21 The Chair sad that, considering that we are doing this for the 4th time already, the schedule can be
22 adjusted earlier. Besides, 2015 and 2016 data may already be available.

23
24 The Chair summarized five items to be considered/incorporated in the TOR for the IA for the 4th Country
25 report:

- 26
27 1. Include and cover all companies
28 2. Remove criteria for materiality
29 3. Include data sets in the report
30 4. Start schedule earlier and maybe include social development impact assessment in the
31 contextual information. If ever, the study, including methodology and tool, should be part of the
32 work plan.
33 5. Penalties

34
35 The Secretariat recalled that in previous meetings, there has been continuing suggestion to include the
36 non-metallic mining industry in the reconciliation report. They noted that non-metallicwas included in
37 the contextual information for the past two reports. They recalled that the IA floated the suggestion that
38 due to the large number of non-metallic mining operations in the country, PH-EITI can perhaps start
39 with the top 6 or 10 companies.

1 The body initially agreed to go for the top 10 companies (in terms of revenue) for the non-metallic. After
2 a short discussion, the Chair noted that in the next MSG meeting, the list of non-metallic operations,
3 including revenue data, can be presented, so that MSG can decide on the scoping or where to cut off.

4
5 Before proceeding to the Other Matters, the Secretariat reminded and requested the body that in order
6 to accelerate the report production, the TOR needs to be approved, as this will jumpstart the
7 procurement process. Currently, there is hiccup in the processes, since a Department Order was issued
8 assigning EITI to a new Undersecretary (Usec Antonette Tionko, heading Revenue Operations and
9 Corporate Affairs), but it is not yet clear in which capacity she will function. DOF sits in the MSG in two
10 capacities, as Chair who does not vote, and as a Member who votes.

11
12 The Secretariat mentioned that they already sought clarification from the Office of the Secretary and the
13 two Undersecretaries, and are waiting for the response. In the meantime, the effect is that there is no
14 one signing for EITI. Nonetheless, the Secretariat requested for speedy review and submission of
15 comments on the TOR so that such can be integrated in the TOR, and the TOR re-submitted to the MSG
16 for approval.

17
18 According to the Chair, the Secretariat can just highlight that the five items discussed today are already
19 incorporated in the TOR, and, by referendum, the MSG can just look into it. No more need to wait for
20 the next MSG meeting.

21 22 **8. Other Matters**

23 24 • **Updates on Extractives Global Programmatic Support (EGPS)**

25
26 According to the Secretariat, the request for a Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) has been
27 submitted but there are no developments yet. The fund has not been transferred to PH-EITI's
28 account therefore, activities that would be funded by the grant could yet proceed. The Secretariat added
29 that the DOF budget cannot be used to fund activities intended to be funded by the grant.

30 31 • **Setting of next MSG Meeting**

32
33 The Secretariat requested that the MSG meeting for March be foregone, as they plan to hold their
34 strategic planning workshop. A government representative agreed to forego the March MSG meeting,
35 also considering the validation activities which may not give the Secretariat enough time to prepare. The
36 Chair noted that PH-EITI is actually PH-EITI is one of the few TWGs who conduct meetings very often,
37 every month in fact.

38
39 There was a suggestion to conduct teambuilding and mine visits as alternative activity to the regular
40 monthly MSG meetings.

1 The Chair proposed to set the next MSG meeting on the first Friday of April, as the body already agreed
2 that there will be no meeting in March. However, the initial validation assessment report may possibly
3 be released in mid-March, and the MSG may need to discuss on this, so there may be need to have a
4 special MSG meeting (whole day) in the 3rd week of March.

5
6 The annual national conference can be moved to April, as necessary, so that the MSG and the
7 Secretariat can give priority and undivided attention to the validation activities.

8
9 • **Others**

10
11 The Secretariat reported that due to recent events, the representatives from the Chamber deferred
12 attending the meeting.

13
14 Considering budget and operational constraints, it was raised that perhaps quarterly or bi-monthly
15 meetings can be done instead of monthly meetings. Then, focus can be given on more substantive issues
16 and concerns. The Secretariat responded that this can be done, as determined and approved by the
17 MSG.

18
19 A query was raised regarding subnational work, how are we levelling up in terms of our inclusion of a
20 subnational model in EITI.

21
22 According to the Secretariat, there is no official EITI ownership of subnational initiatives yet, although it
23 can be included in the workplan as part of outreach activities.

24
25 A CSO representative suggested that subnational work can be piloted in some LGUs who are willing to
26 work with them. They can link it to SDMP matters. It would help if there are functional Provincial Mining
27 Regulatory Boards (PMRBs).

28
29 There was a suggestion that in the next MSG meeting, MGB can offer recommendations as to which
30 functional PMRBs can be included in the report.

31
32 According to a CSO representative, MGB provincial offices do not have enough knowledge of EITI. Their
33 usual response is “for what reason?”. He suggested that DENR or MGB write a letter introducing them as
34 a group formed at the subnational level, for them to gain support and to reduce difficulty of
35 engagement. While the model and the process are being studied, it would help if LGUs start to recognize
36 the group. It was noted that there is already a template resolution on how the interim MSG will be
37 recognized by the barangay, municipal, and provincial council.

38
39 Another CSO representative shared that in ARMM, they have started their interim MSG but it still needs
40 to be formalized since the industry is not yet there. They have already established a good relationship
41 with CSO and government line agencies involved in the process.

1 These initiatives are funded by donors, not by EITI.
2
3 There was a motion which was seconded and approved that, for 2017, the development and piloting of
4 a protocol to establish local MSG at the municipal and provincial level be included in the workplan (but
5 not in the official country report).
6
7 At this juncture, DOE's principal member to the MSG pronounced that DOE is officially approving the
8 selection process for the government sector.
9
10 With no other matters discussed, the 40th MSG meeting was concluded at 12:27pm.