PH-EITI
Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

8/F EDPC Building
Roxas Blvd. corner Pablo Ocampo St.
Manila, Philippines 1004
Telephone: 632 525 0487
Email: eitiphilippines@gmail.com
info@ph-eiti.org

1 **52nd Multi-Stakeholder Group Meeting**
2 06 June 2018| 9:00 AM – 12:00 NN
3 Convention Hall, 3rd Floor Palacio del Gobernador,
4 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila
5
6 **Attendees:**
7
8 **Government**
9 Usec. Bayani Agabin   Department of Finance (DOF)
10 Asec. Ma. Teresa Habitan   DOF
11 Ms. Febe Lim   DOF
12 Engr. Romualdo Aguilos   Department of Environment and Natural
13   Resources - Mines and Geosciences Bureau
14   (DENR-MGB)
15 Ms. Maricor Anne Cauton   Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
16   (ULAP)
17 Mr. Arvi Miguel   Department of the Interior and Local
18   Government (DILG)-PPEI Project
19 Mr. Earl Jan Nera   Department of Energy (DOE)
20
21 **Industry**
22 Mr. Gerard Brimo   Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP)
23 Atty. Ronald Rex Recidoro   COMP
24 Mr. Anthony Ferrer (waived quorum)   Petroleum Association of the Philippines (PAP)
25
26 **Civil Society Organization (CSO)**
27 Ms. Maria Kristina Pimentel   Bantay Kita
28 Mr. Buenaventura Maata, Jr.   Philippine Grassroots Engagement in Rural
29   Development Foundation, Inc. (PhilGrassroots-
30   ERDF)
31 Atty. Jansen Jontila   Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Inc.
32 Mr. Nelson Cuaresma   Concerned Advocates Saving Terrestrial and
33   Marine Ecosystems (COASTLINE), Inc.
34 Ms. Esther Veridiano   Philippine Task Force for Indigenous People's
35   Rights
36 Ms. Aniceta Baltar   Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good
37   Governance
38 Mr. Glenn Pajares   Sectoral Transparency Alliances on Natural
39   Resource Governance in Cebu, Inc.
40 Ms. Ladylyn Mangada   Politicons, UP Tacloban

1	Mr. Chito Trillanes	Social Action Center – Ecology Desk, Diocese of Tandag, Surigao del Sur
2		
3	Ms. Angelica Dacanay	Bantay Kita
4		
5	**Observers**	
6	Paul Raonintsoa	SRJS Focal Point
7	Daniella Randriafeno	EITI Secretaire Executif, Madagascar
8	Tsialoninarivo Rahajary	OSCIE
9	Ndranto Razakamanarina	AVG-PCA
10	Jean Chrysostome Rakotoary	Directeur General, Office National pour
11		l'Environnement Madagascar
12	Hasina Randriamanampisoa	Durrel Wildlife Conservation Trust
13	Patrick Ranirison	President Association FAMELONA
14	Christian Camara	Representant permanent MBG
15	Jeannie Raharimampionona	MBG- Conservation Coordination – SRJS-
16		Madagascar contact manager
17	Faly Randriatafika	Rio Tinto QMM Biodiversite et GDRN Team
18		Leader
19	Mark Wan Del Wal	SRJS International Program Management, IUCN-
20		Netherlands
21	Maartje Hilterman	Asian Partnership Manager, SRJS Program,
22		IUCN-Netherlands
23	Jil Sohmite	Trinity College Dublin (TCD) – student
24	Jessa Garcia	SRJS Philippines Team – Event Coordination
25	Wilhelmina Chua	SRJS Philippines Team – Event Coordination
26	Ms. Norie Garcia	SRJS Philippines Team – Event Coordination
27	Ms. Araceli Mercado	SRJS Philippines Team – Event Coordination
28		
29	**PH-EITI Secretariat**	
30	Atty. Maria Karla Espinosa	
31	Ms. Mary Ann Rodolfo	
32	Ms. Joylin Saquing	
33	Mr. Marco Zaplan	
34	Mr. Ryan Dael	
35	Ms. Roselyn Salagan	
36	Ms. Mariel Soriano	
37	Mr. Eastword Manlises	
38	Mr. Jaime Miguel	
39	Ms. Odessa Taguibao	
40		
41	**Agenda:**	

- Approval of the minutes of the 51st MSG meeting
- Matters arising from previous MSG Meetings
- Main Business
  - Introduction of new CSO representatives
  - Report on TWG on Mainstreaming, Beneficial Ownership, others
  - Updates on production of 5th Report, creation of online reporting tool
  - Presentation of Roadshow 2018 program
- Other Matters
  - Updates on ongoing/pending tasks/projects/activities (APR, OGP, SSM forum)
  - Updates on EITI Bills
  - Message to and response from Madagascar EITI
  - Setting of next MSG meeting

1. Call to Order

The 52nd MSG meeting was presided over by DOF Undersecretary Bayani Agabin. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM.

The Chair first welcomed to the MSG the new representatives from the CSO sector. He likewise acknowledged as observers representatives from EITI Madagascar and other Malagasy visitors who were in Manila for a learning exchange.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 51st MSG meeting

The Chair proposed to give the members a week to go through the minutes of the 51st meeting and give their comments. If substantial comments are received, they will be discussed in the next meeting; otherwise, the minutes will be considered approved.

As for the minutes of the 50th meeting, upon query from the Chair, the Secretariat reported that no comments were received on it. The Chair then declared the minutes of the 50th meeting as approved.

3. Matters arising from previous MSG meetings

The Secretariat reported that there are only three matters arising from the previous meeting and all of them are still pending. All three items pertain to requests for courtesy meetings with the Secretaries of DOE and DILG and the Chair of SEC.

The Secretariat had been communicating with contacts in these agencies to already identify possible dates for the meetings.

The Chair offered to help in arranging the said meetings and asked if there is a deadline for them, to which the Secretariat responded that there was none.

For the benefit of the Chair and the new CSO representatives, the Secretariat again presented the video recap of the highlights of the National Conference 2018 held in April.

4. Introduction of new CSO representatives

To facilitate the introduction of the new CSO representatives to the other MSG members and vice versa, the Chair requested each member to briefly state his/her name, affiliation/background, and expectations.

The new CSO representatives (in the order of self-introduction) are Mr. Glenn Pajares, Ms. Aniceta Baltar, Ms. Esther Roxanne Veridiano, Mr. Jansen Jontila, Mr. Nelson Cuaresma, Ms. Ladylyn Mangada, and Mr. Chito Trillanes.

The Chair then asked the other sitting members to introduce themselves. He introduced himself as well. He also reminded the group that in case they cannot agree on some matters, they can just agree to disagree. He suggested that the MSG can benefit from having a less formal meeting and team building activity.

5. Report on TWG on Mainstreaming, Beneficial Ownership, others

The Secretariat reported that, as agreed during the 51st meeting, a TWG was convened to discuss three matters: beneficial ownership (BO), mainstreaming, and the 5th Report. The objective is for the TWG to come up with recommendations regarding these matters for the approval or ratification of the MSG.

A TWG meeting was held on May 28 with the following MSG members in attendance: Engr. Romy Aguilos, who chaired the meeting, Ms. Tina Pimentel who participated via Skype, Atty. Ron Recidoro, and Atty. Francis Ballesteros. In addition, the following companies and offices were also represented: Nickel Asia Corporation, Shell Philippines Exploration, and DOE.

The TWG meeting agenda included updates and discussion on: BO (roadmap implementation); mainstreaming (assessment of the Philippine case using EITI International Secretariat's diagnostic matrix, identification of issues/challenges and tasks); 5th Report (timeline, scope, and reporting templates); and other matters (agenda for the 52nd meeting and the 2018 work plan).

The summary of TWG agreements and recommendations, some of which are for the MSG's approval, is as follows:

On Beneficial Ownership (BO)

- That there be BO pilot reporting for the 5th Report. The Secretariat noted, though, that this has already been agreed upon in principle by the MSG during an earlier meeting.

- That participation in the pilot reporting be voluntary. PH-EITI will be requesting willing companies to participate.

- That the MSG identify three companies for the pilot reporting, to test the BO template or declaration form recommended by the International Secretariat. The following possible companies were identified for the pilot:
    - Metallic Mining: Philex, Nickel Asia, Oceana Gold
    - Non-metallic Mining: Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (CEMAP)
    - Oil and gas: SPEX. A SPEX representative noted that this is still for confirmation by his principals, although he did not foresee any issue with it.

- That the Securities and Exchange Commission or SEC be the national champion for BO disclosure. That PH-EITI request for a meeting with the SEC Chair to discuss the following: (1) BO requirements/targets (particularly, the public register, issuance of circular, identification of focal person); (2) progress in SEC's own BO-related initiatives; (3) the BO Declaration Form prescribed by the International Secretariat so that should the SEC require a template for its own BO disclosure initiatives, they need not create a new one or they may consider the EITI template.

- That the BO Declaration Form be used as basis of the Online Reporting in the Extractives (ORE) Tool, which iss being developed.

- That the Secretariat study practices in other EITI implementing countries with respect to BO disclosure.

- That the possibility of engaging the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) be considered.

The Chair asked about the value of and why the body wants implementation of mainstreaming and BO disclosure.

The Secretariat responded that BO disclosure is already a requirement that PH-EITI has to fulfill by 2020 under the EITI Standard. The Secretariat reminded that the MSG already agreed on a BO Roadmap for 2017 to 2020, and PH EITI is already on the second year of the said roadmap. For the first year, among the accomplishments were the conduct of a scoping study that was published as part of the 4th Report and MSG-agreed definition of BO, which essentially adheres to the definition under the Securities Regulation Code (SRC). For 2018, the second year, the target is to be able to identify a national champion and do pilot reporting of 2 to 3 companies.

The Chair asked if any company has agreed to participate in the pilot reporting. The Secretariat responded in the negative but noted that Philex, Nickel Asia, OceanaGold, as well as COMP were represented in the TWG and all of them have been open about the matter. On the Chair's query about the plan to get the buy-in of other companies targeted, the Secretariat responded that there would be an official proposal.

The Chair asked if this matter has been discussed with SEC and if they agreed to be the national champion. The Secretariat said that it has been discussed with SEC at the technical level with a Director and Assistant Director for regulation. However, there is no agreement to be the national champion yet. The Secretariat reported that SEC mentioned that they have existing BO initiatives albeit on a broader level and that they do not want the Philippines to be a laggard in this arena so they are keen to push it forward. While PH-EITI specifically targets the extractive industries, the initiatives/agenda of both organizations can possibly be integrated.

The Secretariat noted that the pilot reporting would just be an initial attempt, a diagnostic to surface gaps and issues. There is a need to run it already so that the body will better know how to proceed in the future.

The Chair asked if there is a need to finalize the reporting template, to which the Secretariat answered in the affirmative, noting that there is a reference document, which is the Declaration Form.

The Chair said that the MSG members have to see and go over the form. He suggested that the form be distributed so that it can be reviewed and discussed.

A DOF official commented that the form needs to be approved the soonest, because the next MSG meeting might be in September already because of the PH-EITI Roadshow that will be held in July and August. It was proposed that a discussion through email be done to facilitate deliberation on the form. If there are issues, then a special meeting may probably be conducted.

The Secretariat asked if it was possible to already get the approval of the MSG to use the form as basis for the online reporting tool. It was noted that the tool is dynamic and can still undergo enhancements and changes as it is being developed. As reported in earlier meetings, the target launch of the online reporting tool is on 29 June 2018, in time for the 5th reporting cycle.

The Chair proposed to have the week before the target deadline of June 29 for the MSG to review and send in their comments on the form. The Chair then asked the body if they are comfortable to use the form just as baseline or basis for discussion and comments, then approval of the final form will just be set for next time.

A CSO representative commented that BO has been discussed in depth in several meetings already. He agreed and even appealed to approve the use of the form now in order to move forward. The form can be used in the meantime and whatever development there may be in the future can be considered to improve the BO database.

Another CSO representative recalled that in a workshop conducted some weeks ago, some enhancements in the template were already discussed with Atty. Gay Ordenes of the International Secretariat. The CSO sector can just gather these points for enhancement, request inputs from the other CSOs, and consolidate and submit comments as a sector.

The Chair gave a recapitulation of agreements: The BO declaration form will be used as basis for comments, including why certain items are proposed to be included or excluded, to be given by June 22, by which time the TWG will be notified to meet to thresh out whatever amendments there may be.

On mainstreaming

Upon the Chair's query, the Secretariat explained that mainstreaming is integrating EITI reporting into government and company systems, such that reporting via the EITI process would be modified or limited, because the government agencies and companies would already be doing the reporting or data disclosure themselves.

The Secretariat recalled that the MSG learned more about mainstreaming during the last meeting, when Atty. Gay Ordenes, regional director at the International Secretariat, facilitated a discussion on mainstreaming. Mainstreaming or systematic disclosure has effectively become a requirement because the International Board already resolved that it expects implementing countries to move towards mainstreaming. While there is no strict deadline yet, the timeline is pegged at 3 to 5 years.

The Secretariat proceeded to report the agreements/recommendations of the TWG on mainstreaming:

- Based on the results of the Secretariat's initial accomplishing of the diagnostic matrix (which includes 28 disclosures), the TWG discussed the items considered "low hanging fruits" (i.e., already being reported by government agencies) – 16 in all – and agreed that PH-EITI should consider pursuing mainstreaming as to them. The rest of the 28 disclosures include six disclosures that are thought to be still limited due to potential legal barriers and another six disclosures that are not applicable to the Philippines.

- The TWG recommended that pre-work be commenced in September 2018 because of the PH-EITI Roadshow in July and August. Pre-work would involve conducting a survey among reporting agencies, where indicators and institutional capacities will be evaluated and determined.

- On the need to have a consultant, the TWG agreed that the Secretariat first do the pre-work and from the results thereof the MSG can decide if there is still a need to hire a consultant.

- That a mainstreaming roadmap and work plan be targeted to be approved by the end of the year.

- That PH-EITI's mainstreaming project have a name – "the SEED initiative", which stands for Systematic Extractives Electronic Disclosures initiative.

The Secretariat said that MSG go-signal to pursue mainstreaming this year and approval of the schedule are needed.

An industry representative commented that if mainstreaming is to be pursued, there will be a need to align records in Congress, because the EITI bill is premised on an annual country report. With mainstreaming, the understanding is that there will no longer be need for a reconciled country report. The Secretariat clarified that the International Secretariat said that there can still be a report with reconciliation but it would be limited.

Another concern raised by the same industry representative was that in the EITI proposed bill, there are penalty provisions for companies that do not report. As he had flagged during the TWG meeting, companies submit reports to BIR, BOC, MGB, and NCIP. With mainstreaming, would their submission to these agencies, but not to EITI, suffice? This issue, among others, need to be threshed out.

One CSO representative said that from her understanding, before PH-EITI can actually go mainstreaming, there will still be an assessment done by EITI International on PH-EITI's capacity to do so.

The Secretariat remarked that PH-EITI may have been doing mainstreaming all these years, since the organization has, from the start, been working towards institutionalization of transparency and systematic disclosures in government. Also, according to the International Secretariat, implementing countries are free to define or develop the mainstreaming appropriate to their context. Thus, it is up to the MSG to determine if and how mainstreaming would be implemented in and beneficial for the country.

The Secretariat also shared that EITI International is incentivizing countries' efforts to mainstream by making mainstreaming the subject of the International Chair's Awards for the coming Global Conference in 2019. The International Secretariat will be looking at and monitoring countries' work plans and progress through a commitment tracker.

A CSO representative asked about the possible repercussions of non-compliance with the direction to mainstream, raising concern over the readiness of agencies for it. He mentioned that many departments are now interfacing with their bureaus, yet these units have not synchronized their databases. He asked if there is a study on which is more practical between institutionalization and mainstreaming.

The Secretariat noted that it was only in 2017 when the International Board decided on mainstreaming. At present, mainstreaming is considered a recommendation rather than a requirement under the EITI Standard. Thus, there are no adverse consequences of non-compliance yet. Still, if an EITI implementing country does not mainstream, it has to explain why to the International Board.

A representative of ULAP pointed out that government already has capacity in the area of data collection, as agencies are equipped and have qualified people. The concern for mainstreaming is really more on how to harmonize databases, data collection, the efforts of agencies.

Another CSO representative noted that the scoping or pre-work that will be done by the Secretariat precisely will surface these matters of agency readiness and harmonization. After that is done, there will be more information on which to base how to move forward. The Chair supported this point and suggested approving the proposed pre-work by the Secretariat. The body agreed.

On 5th Country Report

As to the 5th Report, the Secretariat reported that the TWG sought to agree on recommendations for the scope of reporting on the non-metallic mining sector and on SSM, both of which have been determined to be part of the 5th Report.

The TWG members recommended that the top 20 large-scale non-metallic (LSNM) mining companies, representing about 91% of total sales for FY 2017, be covered. Given DAO 2017-07, which requires all mining contractors to participate in EITI, all LSNM mining companies can be required to report. Nevertheless, for purposes of the 5th Report, due to cost implications and budget constraints, it is recommended that the top 20 be prioritized for reconciliation.

As to the scope of reporting for SSM, the MGB representative who chaired the TWG meeting expressed concern over the availability or quality of data on existing *Minahang Bayan* since most of these are not in operation. However, the SSM/PMRB activity tentatively set on June 25 can provide information to help determine the scope for SSM in the 5th Report.

A DOF representative apprised the body that the EITI Board would be meeting in Berlin later in the month, and that there will be reporting on the status of SSM in implementing countries, which includes the Philippines. According to the DOF official, moving forward, there will be more discussions related to SSM not only in the Philippines but also in other countries.

A CSO representative commented that the last report surfaced that out of hundreds of applications for *Minahang Bayan* (MB), only six had been approved, making everybody else illegal or informal. These informal miners need to be formalized, but they are encountering problems and challenges in their applications. It was suggested that the application requirements and processes be revisited.

In response to the comment, the MGB representative related that MGB is amending DAO 2015-03 to streamline the MB application process. He also said that there has been an additional nine declared MBs. He added that one of the problems encountered by SSM relates to securing environmental compliance certificate or ECC.

The Secretariat noted that the decision on the scope and template for reporting on SSM will be held in abeyance until after the June 25 PMRB activity. Still, it was mentioned that South Cotabato is being eyed for pilot reporting because it has rich data on SSM production, taxes, etc.

Another CSO representative talked about one other possible pilot case, a case study of SSM in Kalinga. The SSM operation, situated in a protected area within a national park, has operated since 1983 and is owned, controlled, and managed by an IP organization (IPO). It has established sets of policies and guidelines, including for protecting the environment and the lives of miners. The president of the IPO, who happens to be a Congressman, has filed a bill for exclusion of the SSM area from the national park. The IPO filed an MB application in November 2016, but there has been an impediment to it.

Another CSO representative went back to the South Cotabato case and shared that the said LGU is also a subnational PH-OGP commitment holder and is very keen to enhance their extractives transparency and accountability measures.

The Secretariat asked if the MSG could already approve the scope for non-metallic mining. The Chair asked for comments, and, having received none, the proposed scope was deemed approved and the Secretariat given a go-signal to proceed on that basis. It was clarified that the approval gave the Secretariat the green light to send out requests for BIR waiver and others to the scoped entities.

6. Updates on production of 5th Report, creation of online reporting tool

The Secretariat presented updates on procurement, milestones, and timeline for the production of the 5th Report.

Procurement: For the contextual information, the Secretariat reported that the consultancy services/expertise of Dr. Chil Soriano, former DOF Undersecretary, will be engaged. For the online reporting tool, Mr. Justin Yuen had already expressed commitment to the project. For the Independent Administrator, it appears that Isla Lipana PwC Philippines would be doing the reconciliation report, for the fifth time.

Milestones:
- Contextual Information. The Secretariat reported that they have met with Dr. Soriano to talk about scope and approach, discussing how to make the contextual information more value adding. It was mentioned that, given Dr. Soriano's high technical credentials, policy and data analyses can be added to the usual legal framework. It was aimed that a first draft will be done by the last week of August to be in time for the October 31 target publication date of the 5th Report. Dr. Soriano will be invited to attend the Roadshow, since the issues and concerns surfaced during this event will form part of the contextual information.

- Online Reporting Tool. The Secretariat reported that an enhanced version, integrating inputs from the TWG meeting held with industry and national

government agencies a few months ago, is already available. The Secretariat will be meeting with Mr. Justin Yuen to discuss the following: (i) further enhancements, considering the approval-in-principle of the reporting templates; (ii) user manual, whether in video, print, or both; (iii) user accounts, for the one who will input the data and another for the one who will approve the data for each entity, as agreed during the TWG meeting; and (iv) possible turn-over on June 29 and launching on July 4.

- Independent Administrator (IA). Isla Lipana was the sole bidder and they comply with the eligibility requirements. What is pending then is just the technical proposal. The Secretariat hopes to start engagement with the IA by the 1st week of July, as the data collection should commence by the 2nd week of July (start of the Roadshow).

Timeline: The Secretariat presented their proposed timeline for MSG review, comment, and approval of the 5th Report. Since the scope has already been substantially approved, they will already start sending letter-requests for BIR waivers. They proposed that the deadline for submission of waivers be set on July 8, while that for submission of data be set on August 31. Target report publication date would be October 31.

The Secretariat flagged that MSG approval of the timeline may have implications for the implementation of DAO 2017-07, because previous discussions on the DAO include reckoning compliance from the deadlines set by the MSG. It was recalled that the first time the DAO was implemented, it encountered some problems when non-compliance was reckoned from after publication of the report. The rationale was that even if companies submit their data, it could no longer be included in the report.

Upon suggestion of the Chair, the body approved the proposed timeline and agreed to move forward based thereon.

7. Presentation of Roadshow 2018 program

The Secretariat presented the 2018 PH-EITI Roadshow program.

Although largely similar to previous runs, the 2018 Roadshow will expand its coverage to include the following: additional 14 large-scale non-metallic mining companies, additional 15 LGUs hosting the non-metallic mining companies, and small scale mining associations.

While the past two roadshows were held in six (6) key areas, this year's would be held in seven (7) key areas, to wit:

Cluster	Regions Covered	Venue	Date
Manila and Southern Tagalog	IV-A, IV-B, NCR	Manila	July 9-10
Central Luzon	III	Clark, Pampanga	July 12-14
Visayas	VI, VII, VIII	Cebu City	July 23-24
Northern, Southern and Western Mindanao	IX, X, XI, XII & ARMM	Davao City	July 26-28
Caraga	XIII	Surigao City	August 7-9
Bicol	V	Masbate City	August 15-17
Northern Luzon	I, II, CAR	Baguio City	August 29-30

The Secretariat presented the draft programme for the forum on the first day. On the second day, there would be two side events, a workshop on the enhanced version of the Environment and Natural Resources Data Management Tool (ENRDMT) and one on the Online Reporting in the Extractives (ORE) Tool.

The plan also includes visiting local stakeholders at the barangay level, i.e., host mining communities, for at least three legs of the Roadshow (Davao, Surigao, Bicol).

A CSO representative commented on the absence of IP representatives in the panel discussion, noting that IPs are very important, especially in Caraga, where there are many IPOs. The Secretariat responded that the IPs were included in the CSO sector and apologized for not distinguishing the sectors. They said that the IP sector can be clearly identified for proper representation.

Another CSO representative asked as to who is responsible for identifying the CSOs who will be invited. The Secretariat responded that, as is usual practice, Bantay Kita determines who will be invited from the CSO sector. The CSO representative suggested that there be a review or mapping of all CSO stakeholders to ensure inclusivity.

CSO representative and Bantay Kita national coordinator confirmed that Bantay Kita is in charge of the CSO invitees for the Roadshow. She explained that the selection is limited by constraints in the number of persons that can be accommodated by PH-EITI during the activities. She said that Bantay Kita definitely wants to include everybody who is willing to constructively engage in multi-stakeholder discussions. She encouraged those interested to coordinate with the Bantay Kita secretariat for the list of suggested invitees for all legs of the Roadshow.

The Secretariat informed the MSG that while there are some budgetary and other resource constraints for the Roadshow, historical turnout has averaged from 100 to 150 participants per leg. Slots have been apportioned equally among the sectors.

The Chair then steered the discussion back to the proposed program. He asked if MSG attendance in the Roadshow would be voluntary. He also said that, ideally, if an MSG

member hails from a particular cluster, it would be good if he/she will be present there. He encouraged the members to ensure that they are able to attend at least one leg of the Roadshow.

A CSO representative commented on the data dive portion of the Roadshow program and recalled that when a data dive was conducted for the MSG, it took one-and-a-half days. Thus, she suggested prioritizing and focusing on the data that matter most. In addition, she encouraged the new CSO representatives to attend the program, as it is very enriching and it can help enhance the relevance of the report to communities.

8. Other Matters

- Updates on ongoing/pending tasks/projects/activities (APR, OGP, SSM forum)

As to the APR, or Annual Progress Report, the Secretariat had already emailed the MSG, requesting for their inputs, hopefully, by June 13. The Secretariat also flagged the issue on the APR timing, since the deadline is July 1, yet the covered period for the activities is 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2018. There is practically no time to consolidate activities held towards the end of June. The Secretariat requested for early submission to give them adequate time for consolidation, writing, and lay out.

OGP or Open Government Partnership was mentioned by the Secretariat for the MSG's general awareness of PH-EITI's engagement in this initiative.

The SSM (small-scale mining) forum, as mentioned earlier, is tentatively scheduled on June 25. It is meant to gather representatives of *Minahang Bayan* and Provincial Mining Regulatory Boards (PMRBs) from key SSM areas in the country. The objective is to discuss how EITI can be mainstreamed into PMRB operations and surface issues that the SSM sector is facing in terms of, among others, formalization.

- Updates on EITI Bills

The Secretariat reported that they have been participating in the legislative process by submitting an MSG-approved position paper on the bills as well as by attending hearings/meetings. The latest development is that HB 4116 filed in the Lower House was already reported out of the Committee on Natural Resources and to the Committee on Appropriations for its budget implications. It should thereafter be reported to plenary for second reading.

- Setting of next MSG meeting

The Secretariat proposed to hold the next MSG meeting on the first Friday of September, considering the Roadshow happening in the whole of July and August.

The Chair asked about the possibility of holding the MSG meeting cum team building in between schedules. According to the Secretariat, this idea had already been considered and prospective dates and venues explored. However, it would divide the people's attention and impinge on preparations and mustering a quorum for the meeting.

The Chair accepted the explanation and proposed September 6-7 as tentative dates to hold the 53rd meeting.

An industry representative flagged that if the next MSG meeting is going to be in September, and the deadline for submission of waivers is in July, COMP would appreciate periodical updates on the progress of waiver submission, so that they can work on those who have not submitted before the September meeting. The Secretariat responded that there could be a common database where everyone can access periodic updates on events.

- Message to and response from Madagascar EITI

The Chair expressed thanks to colleagues from Madagascar and hope that PH-EITI was able to impart some learning to them during their study visit. The Chair also wished them well in their bid for EITI validation.

In response, the head of the Malagasy delegation conveyed their gratitude to PH-EITI for allowing them to attend and observe the MSG meeting. She said that listening for more than two hours was not easy, but they learned so much about how PH-EITI organizes and conducts its MSG meetings. She shared that managing MSG meetings is an area of concern for them. She gave assurances that EITI Madagascar will reciprocate the courtesies should PH-EITI visit Madagascar. This way, both countries can mutually learn from each other.

With no other matters raised, the 52nd MSG meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.