

**Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative****95th MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP (MSG) MEETING**

24 January 2025, Friday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Online Meeting

**MINUTES OF MEETING****Attendees:****NAME****AGENCY**

Usec. Bayani H. Agabin	Department of Finance
Dir. Nenito C. Jariel	Department of Energy
Dir. Maricor Ann D.G. Cauton	Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
Mr. Romualdo Aguilos	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Mr. Jedd John Castillo	Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Ms. Samantha Tuppal	Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Atty. Odette A. Javier	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.
Atty. Ronald Rex S. Recidoro	Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP)
Atty. Kiril Caral	Petroleum Association of the Philippines
Ms. Beverly Besmanos	Bantay Kita
Prof. Ladylyn L. Mangada	University of the Philippines Tacloban
Mr. Chito U. Trillanes	Social Action Center—Ecology Desk, Diocese of Tandag, Surigao del Sur
Mr. Rodne R. Galicha	Living Laudato Si' Philippines
Jeanira Godio-Okubo	PILIPINA, Baguio-Benguet Chapter
Ms. Arlene Sevilla	Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College
	Assembly of Masses and Basic Sectors for Unity and Harmony—Initiatives for Normalization and Advancement for Human Security (AMBUH-INAH)
	Tawi-Tawi Alliance of Civil Society Organizations, Inc. (TACOS)
Ms. Mary Ann Dizon-Rodolfo	PH-EITI Secretariat
Mr. Albert A. San Diego	PH-EITI Secretariat
Ms. Rhea Mae B. Pamatmat	PH-EITI Secretariat
Mr. Amiel De Guzman	PH-EITI Secretariat
Ms. Rhoda H. Aranco	PH-EITI Secretariat

Mr. Job G. Besmonte	PH-EITI Secretariat
Ms. Andrea Denise Samson	PH-EITI Secretariat
Ms. Shaina Gem P. Cardenio	PH-EITI Secretariat
Mr. Lloyd Rainiel C. Bonsol	PH-EITI Secretariat
Ms. Aliyah Mae Gozon	PH-EITI Secretariat
Ms. Jollie Anne M. Las Piñas	PH-EITI Secretariat
Ms. Malene Skensved	Technical Consultant

### **Agenda:**

- I. Call to order**
- II. Approval of the agenda of the 94th MSG meeting**
- III. Approval of the minutes of the 93rd MSG meeting**
- IV. Matters arising from previous meetings**
- V. Main Business**
  1. Updates on the FY 2023-2024 reporting Cycles
  2. Presentation of the Inception Report: Energy Transition Scoping Study
  3. Discussion on the new Terms of Reference (TOR) for EITI reporting
  4. Updates on the Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) Studies
- VI. Other matters**
  1. 2025 Open Government Partnership (OGP) Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting, February 4-7, 2025
  2. 2025 Multi-stakeholder Group (MSG) Capacity Building and Planning Retreat, March 19-21, 2025
  3. Extractives Transparency Week, September 2025
- VII. Summary of Agreements**
- VIII. Setting of the Next Meeting**
- IX. Adjournment**

## Proceedings:

### I. Call to order

Usec. Bayani Agabin chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 9:05 AM and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

### II. Approval of the agenda of the 95th MSG meeting

The Chair sought the body's approval of the agenda. With no comments, the chair moved the approval of the agenda of the 95th MSG Meeting.

### III. Approval of the minutes of the 94th MSG meeting

The meeting commenced with a discussion on the approval of the minutes from the 94th MSG Meeting. As the Secretariat only got the chance to circulate the revised minutes on January 22, 2025. It was agreed that members would be given one week to submit any comments, with the understanding that if only minor corrections were needed, the minutes would be approved by default. In the case of substantial changes, further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

### IV. Matters arising from previous meetings

Agreements	In charge	Timeline
94.1. The MSG provisionally approved the minutes of the 93rd MSG meeting, pending comments from MSG until January 10, 2025.	MSG	<b>Completed</b> Received minor comments, already incorporated in the minutes.
94.2. The MSG instructed the Secretariat to prioritize the matters arising, ranking them according to their level of urgency, and to include the dates they became pending along with the reasons for the delay. It was also agreed that these matters will be addressed during the upcoming MSG capacity-building and planning activity.	Secretariat	<b>Ongoing</b> Currently being prepared and will be shared with the MSG once ready.

94.3. The MSG recommended delegating the matters to respective committees for discussion and resolution, with the outcomes to be presented to the MSG once finalized within the committees.	Secretariat	<b>Ongoing</b> In progress and will be referred to the committees
94.4. The MSG instructed that the consultants' profiles and the timeline for deliverables be provided to them.	Secretariat	<b>Completed</b> Sent after the 94th MSG meeting
94.5. The MSG recommended modifying the theme name of the report and has instructed the consultant to propose a new theme.	MSG/ Consultant	<b>Completed</b> Come up with a new theme during the "Other Matters" section of the 94th MSG meeting
94.6. The MSG instructed the contextual information chapter consultant to consider including the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop (EVOSS) and work being done by Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Technical Working Groups (TWG) on improving Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in mining.	Consultant	<b>Ongoing</b> Waiting for the final submission of the consultant
94.7. The MSG approved the contextual information chapter and agreed to publish the FY2022 country report on December 20, 2024.	Secretariat/ Consultant	<b>Completed</b> Published (December 22, 2024)
94.8. The MSG agreed to have a revised report by the end of January 2025.	Secretariat/ Consultant	<b>Ongoing</b> Waiting for the final submission of the consultants
94.9. The MSG recommends that the industry outlook consultant observe best practices from China and Indonesia in managing critical minerals.	Consultant	<b>Ongoing</b> The consultant considered the recommendation & working for the revisions

94.10. The MSG instructed the Secretariat to reach out to Atty. Kiril Caral from Prime Energy to request assistance in obtaining supporting documents to address and reduce the variance in the reconciliation chapter of the country report.	Secretariat	<b>Completed</b> Prime Energy has already provided some documents and complies. The Secretariat is now awaiting the remaining documents.
94.11. The MSG instructed the Secretariat to circulate the draft MOU with NCIP. This will explore the possibility of piloting the IPOs in sharing their royalty utilization and management reports instead of solely based on NCIP data.	Secretariat	<b>Completed</b> A meeting with NCIP is scheduled for January 28, 2025, confirmation is still pending
94.12. The MSG instructed the Subnationalization consultant to conduct a targeted assessment of the interviews, including those already piloted on EITI localization.	Consultant	<b>Ongoing</b> For the consultant's action
94.13. The MSG approved the proposed theme of the report (Breaking New Ground: Shifting Gears in Extractives Governance).	Consultant	<b>Completed</b> The changes have been applied to the published report.

The Secretariat discussed the matters arising from the 94th MSG meeting held last December 19, 2024.

**94.1** The Secretariat tagged this as completed, mentioning that only minor comments were received, which have since been incorporated into the final version.

**94.2.** The Secretariat informed the body that the preparation is still ongoing, with the finalized details to be shared with MSG members once ready. These pending matters were set in an initial discussion scheduled for the February committee meeting and a final review in March during the MSG Capacity Building & Planning Retreat.

**94.3.** The Secretariat informed the body these matters remain ongoing, as they are in the process of being referred to the respective committees.

**94.4** The Secretariat said this was completed following the 94th MSG meeting.

**94.5.** The Secretariat said that this was already completed.

**94.6.** The Secretariat acknowledged that the instruction had been completed. While awaiting the consultant's final submission, it was confirmed that the necessary changes had already been incorporated into the final draft. However, as per the consultant's request, amendments would still be made to the published document.

**94.7.** The Secretariat stated that it was already republished.

**94.8** The Secretariat mentioned that the contextual information chapter had been submitted but required additional revisions. However due to unforeseen personal circumstances affecting the consultant, members agreed to extend the submission deadline by two weeks, setting February 14, 2025, as the new target date.

**94.9** The Secretariat stated that the consultant acknowledged this recommendation and is currently working on the necessary revisions.

**94.10** The Secretariat mentioned that Prime Energy has already provided some documents and is in compliance; though a few more documents are still awaited, this is considered complete, with minor pending follow-ups.

**94.11** The Secretariat scheduled a meeting with NCIP on January 28, 2025, though confirmation is pending.

**94.12** The Secretariat stated that this task remains ongoing and awaiting the consultant's action.

**94.13** The Secretariat stated that the revisions have been incorporated into the published report.

The Chair inquired if the body had any comments regarding the matters arising from previous meetings. After confirming that there were no additional comments, the Chair proceeded to the next agenda item.

## **V. Main Business**

### **1. Update on the FY 2023-2024 Reporting Cycles**

The MSG members unanimously agreed to all raised concerns and proposals, including the fiscal year 2023-2024 reporting updates, the exclusion of undercare and maintenance projects, the opening of the 2024 reporting cycle, and timeline adjustments.

### **2. Presentation of the Inception Report: Energy Transition Scoping Study**

The Secretariat introduced Ms. Malene Skensved, the technical consultant for the Energy Transition Scoping Study. The consultant then proceeded to present her slides.

The consultant began by greeting the audience and encouraging them to provide feedback throughout the presentation. She then proceeded to briefly outline the objectives of the assignment as prescribed in the Terms of Reference.

The consultant began by outlining the Philippines' commitment to the Paris Agreement and its pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to the consultant, in 2020, the country emitted an estimated 204 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, with 230 million metric tons of emissions primarily coming from the energy sector. At the same time, approximately 26 million metric tons of carbon were sequestered by Philippine forests.

The consultant then explained that the Climate Change Commission submitted the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2021, setting a target to reduce emissions by 75% from 2020 to 2030. However, it was emphasized that only 2.71% of this reduction is unconditional, meaning it does not rely on external support or funding. The consultant also flagged that the NDC is set to be resubmitted in 2025, at which point a revised commitment will be made.

Shifting the discussion to energy, the consultant pointed out that most of the country's emissions come from energy production, making this a key area of focus for decarbonization. The consultant described the delicate balance between reducing carbon emissions while ensuring energy access for all. Based on the implementation plan released last year, one of the government's strategies to reduce emissions includes increasing renewable energy to 35% of total production. At the same time, there are plans to expand the natural gas industry as a transition fuel, though it was noted that there is still no official ban on fossil fuels.

The consultant explained that the scoping study will focus on two key areas: (1) The potential phase-out of fossil fuels, including coal, petroleum, and natural gas. (2) The ramp-up of transition minerals, particularly copper, chromium, nickel, and to some extent, cobalt, which is produced as a byproduct of nickel mining.

The study will take a full supply chain approach, examining the Extraction (mining and fuel production), Processing (refining and production facilities), End consumption (use in power plants and industries) Community impacts (livelihoods, health, and environmental concerns)

The consultant highlighted some of the preliminary findings, particularly on community and environmental impacts. The expansion of transition minerals was flagged as a concern due to its potential adverse effects on the environment, health, and indigenous populations. It was noted that 16 million hectares of formally registered ancestral lands overlap with key biodiversity areas and remaining forest cover, raising concerns about conflicts between extractive activities and conservation efforts.

Referring back to the 26 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> captured by Philippine forests, the consultant pointed out that the extractive industry operates at a critical intersection between carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and energy transition.

Another major gap identified in the study is the lack of available data on how extractive industries are addressing their carbon emissions. The consultant stated that there is currently no clear information on whether these companies are adopting renewable energy, implementing carbon offsetting measures, or tracking their carbon footprint. The study aims to close this gap by engaging extractive companies in discussions on their decarbonization strategies.

The consultant then presented the research design, explaining that the study will use a multiple comparative case study approach across different island regions. The methodology will include desk research to gather existing knowledge, key informant interviews with experts and industry stakeholders, focus group discussions with affected communities, satellite imagery analysis to track forest cover changes and mining activity, and economic data analysis, including employment and tax revenue from the extractive sector.

The consultant emphasized the importance of collaborating with extractive companies, particularly those in transition minerals, to understand whether they are adopting renewable energy or implementing emission reduction strategies.

The consultant also incorporated feedback from the previous IC meeting in December, summarizing key points raised:



- a. **The need for specific data on transition minerals**, including the quantities required for the Philippines' energy transition. The consultant mentioned a study by SEAD that already estimates mineral needs and plans to conduct interviews to obtain more details.
- b. **Inclusion of company-specific strategies**, such as the use of renewable energy and carbon offsetting, through a proposed **workshop in late February** with transition mineral extractors.
- c. **Clarification of PH-EITI's role in energy transition reporting**, which will be addressed in an upcoming **meeting with the EITI International Secretariat next week**.
- d. **Development of clear recommendations** categorized into **short-term, medium-term, and long-term** strategies, aligned with PH-EITI's scope of influence.

The consultant then laid out the proposed timeline for consultations and site visits. Given time and budget constraints, the consultant also proposed conducting online consultations for some areas, particularly Batangas, where natural gas and coal power plants are concentrated.

Following the consultant presentation, a member of the MSG suggested the need for better coordination regarding coal power plants and coal mines. It was noted that while there are existing operating contracts, the large-scale coal mines are still in the exploration stage, and a reconciliation of data is necessary. The suggestion was well received, and the consultant expressed her willingness to discuss specific data further. Additionally, the MSG highlighted the availability of assistance from the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Management Bureau and Energy Policy Planning Bureau for energy transition efforts.

An MSG member from CSO raised concerns about the accuracy of the presented data regarding large-scale and small-scale coal mines in Surigao del Sur, especially as it was mentioned that small-scale coal mining activities are more prominent in Zamboanga Sibugay and other areas in Mindanao. This was then answered by a representative from the Department of Energy (DOE) who assured that they could provide the necessary data regarding small-scale mines in Surigao del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay.

A representative from CSO shared his observations about ongoing applications in Surigao, particularly in the districts of Lingig and Bislig. He recalled multiple discussions with the director in Davao City regarding the issue and raised concerns about applicants classified under small-scale mining operations who were allegedly using heavy equipment. This raised questions about compliance with regulations and the potential for large-scale operations to be misrepresented as small-scale. The Chair acknowledged these concerns, affirming that

small-scale coal mining does not permit the use of heavy equipment. It was reiterated that an investigation would be conducted to verify these claims, and feedback would be provided accordingly.

A representative from the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines provided his comments on the presentation, emphasizing three key points. Firstly, he suggested incorporating the Department of Energy's energy transition plan into the study to assess the mining sector's contribution to carbon emission reduction. Secondly, he inquired about the inclusion of the mining forest program and tree-planting initiatives, which have resulted in the planting of millions of trees. He requested numerical data on the potential carbon offset from these initiatives. Lastly, he highlighted the significance of Philippine nickel in the energy transition, pointing out that a substantial portion is used for stainless steel rather than renewable energy components. He proposed further validation of the proportion of Philippine nickel being utilized for batteries and solar panels to determine its classification as a critical mineral for the country's energy sector. The consultant acknowledged these points and expressed her intent to incorporate them into the study. She also raised concerns about the difficulty in obtaining supply chain data due to confidentiality issues but welcomed any recommendations on alternative data sources.

A CSO representative also recommended including Zamboanga Sibugay in the study and suggested engaging civil society organizations, such as GITIB, to provide insights on small-scale mining activities in the area.

A representative from the Department of Energy extended an invitation to the consultant to visit the Department of Energy, where she would be introduced to the Planning Bureau and the Renewable Energy Management Bureau for further discussions on energy transition. The consultant enthusiastically accepted the invitation, expressing her eagerness to engage in a more in-depth discussion.

### **3. Understanding EITI's new Term of Reference for EITI reporting**

The Secretariat proceeded with the next agenda item under Main Business: Discussion on the New Terms of Reference (TOR) for EITI Reporting, which was approved during the November EITI Board meeting. The Secretariat explained that this updated TOR is now open for comments and approval, depending on the MSG's assessment after reviewing the proposed changes.

The Secretariat introduced the key purpose of the new TOR, emphasizing that it provides standardized procedures for compiling and disclosing data under the 2023 EITI Standard.

This aims to ensure more consistent and reliable reporting of revenues and financial data from the extractive sector while improving the overall effectiveness of EITI implementation.

The Secretariat explained who the new TOR applies to and what key changes have been introduced compared to the existing system. The revised approach prioritizes consistent disclosure practices and places greater emphasis on clear, user-friendly data presentation and analysis. One of the significant shifts is that, under the previous model, EITI reporting relied heavily on an Independent Administrator (IA). However, with the new TOR, the National Secretariat and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)—in the Philippines' case, the Commission on Audit (COA)—are expected to take on expanded roles in EITI reporting.

The Secretariat outlined the main steps under the new TOR, emphasizing the structured process that will guide reporting:

1. **The Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) defines the objectives and adopts the Terms of Reference (TOR) for EITI reporting.** As part of this, the MSG must decide whether to use the **traditional reconciliation approach** or adopt a **risk-based approach** for data quality assurance.
2. **The MSG and designated reporting entities or consultants agree on the scope of reporting,** including what data will be collected and who will be responsible for compiling it.
3. **The designated consultant or entity compiles the necessary data, after which the MSG reviews, finalizes, publishes, and disseminates the report.**

The Secretariat then provided a detailed comparison between the two primary methodologies for EITI reporting—reconciliation and risk-based approaches—explaining their features, advantages, and limitations.

The reconciliation approach has been the standard method used for over a decade. It involves comparing company-reported payments with government-received revenues to identify discrepancies. While it is not an audit, the process follows the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS) 4400 methodology for agreed-upon procedure engagement.

#### **Key Features of Reconciliation:**

- **Heavy focus on payment and revenue reconciliation** to verify financial accuracy.
- **Comprehensive coverage**, meaning all major companies, projects, and revenue streams are included, regardless of their level of risk.
- **Standardized reporting scope**, where all entities are subject to the same level of scrutiny.

- **End product:** A reconciled report that highlights discrepancies between reported payments and government receipts.

#### **Limitations of the Reconciliation Approach:**

- **Resource-intensive:** Requires **substantial time and effort** to reconcile data, even for revenue streams with low risks or limited impact.
- **Limited insights beyond discrepancies:** The method does not provide deeper analysis of **systemic governance issues or financial risks**.
- **Equal treatment of all revenue streams:** This may divert attention away from **high-risk areas** that require closer examination.

The Secretariat then introduced the risk-based approach, explaining that it offers a more targeted and efficient method for EITI reporting. Instead of treating all revenue streams equally, this approach assesses the likelihood of material misstatements in revenue data and categorizes reporting entities based on their risk levels.

#### **Key Features of the Risk-Based Approach:**

- **Risk prioritization:** Focuses reporting efforts on **high-risk areas**, such as **tax evasion, environmental compliance, and social concerns (e.g., indigenous royalty payments)**.
- **Tailored reporting scope:** The **MSG has flexibility** in determining what should be reported based on the identified risks.
- **Efficient resource allocation:** Reduces the burden of reporting for low-risk entities, allowing resources to be **focused on high-impact issues**.
- **End product:** A report that provides **actionable insights into governance and transparency challenges**.

#### **Advantages of the Risk-Based Approach:**

- **More strategic:** Enables reporting that is **aligned with decision-making and governance improvements**.
- **Cost-effective:** Focuses resources **where they are most needed**, reducing unnecessary administrative burdens.
- **Broader coverage of risks:** Extends beyond financial reconciliation to include **environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues**.

#### **Limitations of the Risk-Based Approach:**

- **Technical and capacity requirements:** Effective implementation requires **specialized expertise and a consensus among stakeholders** on risk prioritization.

- **Potential oversight of low-risk areas:** If not carefully managed, some **low-risk revenue streams may be deprioritized**, leading to data gaps.

To address these challenges, the Secretariat noted that training opportunities are being explored to strengthen the technical capacity of the MSG and National Secretariat should the risk-based approach be adopted.

The Secretariat then outlined the revised EITI reporting cycle under the new TOR:

1. **Scoping Phase:** The MSG determines the reporting scope and selects the appropriate methodology (Reconciliation or Risk-Based).
2. **Data Collection and Analysis:** Companies and government agencies submit the required revenue data.
3. **Data Quality Assurance:** Measures are applied to validate the accuracy and reliability of data.
4. **MSG Review and Gap Analysis:** The MSG identifies potential reporting gaps and areas for improvement.
5. **EITI Reporting and Dissemination:** The final report is published and made publicly available.

The Secretariat, to close the discussion, emphasized that while the reconciliation approach has provided a strong foundation for financial transparency, the risk-based approach allows for a more strategic focus on high-impact governance challenges. Instead of viewing them as separate options, a hybrid approach—integrating reconciliation with targeted risk-based analysis—could be a viable strategy to enhance the effectiveness of EITI reporting.

The Chair inquired about the implementation timeline of the risk-based approach, confirming if it would apply to fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The Secretariat, while acknowledging the need for training, noted that available sessions were scheduled for May and June, which might delay decision-making. Given the importance of clear steps, the Secretariat suggested deferring the decision to another committee meeting before finalizing it in the next MSG meeting in February.

Another MSG member asked about global adoption, and the Secretariat confirmed that no country had yet implemented the approach, positioning the Philippines as a pioneer.

#### **4. Updates on the integrated Resource Management (INRM) Studies**

The Secretariat mentioned that while a set of slides had been submitted, the Secretariat decided to first present the sub-nationalization model at the upcoming Joint Stakeholder and Implementation Committee meeting before bringing it to the MSG. The MSG member

then informed that the matter would be set aside, as the submitted documents mainly contained fieldwork schedules. It was emphasized that the preference was to first present the models and the proposed way forward rather than data or field interviews.

An industry representative revisited his previous concern from the previous Implementation Committee (IC) meeting, asking the consultants to clarify their recommended model for subnationalization. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the model is doable, feasible, and sustainable for on-the-ground implementation. He urged the MSG to assess whether the model aligns with these criteria.

A government representative highlighted the PH-EITI Secretariat's previous regional roadshows in Cebu and Zambales. These roadshows involved gathering insights and inputs from relevant government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs). He suggested that this experience could serve as a valuable reference for developing a subnationalization model. The Secretariat agreed and said that it could also be used for implementing a risk-based approach to EITI reporting.

A civil society representative requested the consultants to identify specific conditions that could warrant subnationalizing pilot areas. She inquired about potential phasing options and whether certain sites or local government units (LGUs) could partially adopt subnationalization before a full rollout. She stressed the need for a gradual, well-planned approach rather than abrupt implementation, emphasizing that the process should involve clear stages.

An industry representative recalled that CSOs initially did the concept of subnationalization. He inquired whether any documents or models envisioned by CSO partners had been submitted or circulated in the past. Since consultations and groundwork had already been done on this initiative, he suggested revisiting these earlier efforts to assess their relevance and feasibility as a foundation for the consultants' current work.

A civil society representative highlighted that CSO-led initiatives, such as those by Bantay Kita, already engage in subnationalization efforts on the ground, even if they do not explicitly label it as such. She provided an example of how royalty payment issues involving mining companies and Indigenous Peoples (IP) groups are currently being addressed at the local level. She explained that Bantay Kita's efforts focus only on bridging gaps between communities and the government.

The same civil society representative also mentioned that based on her observation about the subnationalization that was being pushed through by the PH-EITI, PH-EITI is looking for a

model where they can activate or highlight the important role of extractive industries. She emphasized that a robust subnationalization model under PH-EITI should activate meaningful engagement among stakeholders, including government, mining companies, and civil society. This model, she suggested, should give equal importance to LGU roles, extractive industry best practices, and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau's (MGB) regional initiatives. According to her, such a model would provide a more in-depth and balanced approach, ensuring that all stakeholders have an equal footing in the process.

## **VI. Other matters**

The Secretariat then presented the two side-events of PH-EITI in the 2025 OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting, which was scheduled for February 4-5, 2025.

Following secretariat presentation for the 2-day side events, the Chair asked and inquired about scheduling a visit to the Department of Energy (DOE). A discussion ensued about possible dates, with Monday and Tuesday being considered. After confirming availability, the Chair assured the Secretariat that arrangements would be made with the other bureaus. Coordination tasks were then assigned to Leanne, who acknowledged the request.

A CSO representative asked regarding the list of invited participants for the OGP event. The Secretariat provided an update, explaining that invitations for speakers had already been sent, while participant invitations were scheduled for release that day. The list of invitees was compiled from previous event attendees and industry representatives identified through consultations with COMP. Additionally, those who had participated in the prior roundtable discussion on energy transition were included to ensure alignment with the second event on climate, equity, and energy transition.

The Secretariat further stated that the team planned to follow up with the 40 invited participants in the coming week to ensure attendance.

The same CSO representative then suggested that if publicity materials or promotional assets were available, they should be shared with national-level CSOs in Metro Manila to help expand outreach.

The Secretariat provided an update on logistical constraints, explaining that while OGP had certain requirements, funding was not yet available due to pending procurement approvals from the Department of Finance (DOF). Given these limitations, efforts were being made to secure funding. Additionally, the function room provided by OGP was relatively small, which restricted the number of in-person participants.

A representative from CSO then asked if exploring the possibility of an online option, though technical feasibility was still under review. The Secretariat confirmed that they would assess whether the UP College of Law function room could accommodate online attendance and would provide updates accordingly.

The Secretariat presented updates on the MSG capacity-building activities and the ETW. Outlining the proposed dates, March 19 to 25, it was noted that the schedule remained tentative as they were still awaiting the approval of the APP. Consequently, procurement was expected to begin the following month.

A representative from the government was asked about the venue; the Secretariat clarified that the location was still to be determined and assured the attendees that updates would be provided once a final decision was made.

The Secretariat then shifted the discussion to the ETW. While originally scheduled for March, the event had been postponed due to limited resources and overlapping commitments, including the roadshow and coordination with the World Bank. Following a recent meeting, it was decided to reschedule the event for September, as a significant portion of participants—mainly from NGAs and GUs—would be engaged in the upcoming elections. The delay would also allow newly appointed officials to settle into their roles, ensuring smoother dissemination of invitations and other preparations.

A representative from the civil service organization (CSO) suggested incorporating training on legal frameworks related to offshore mining, seabed quarrying, and deep-sea mining into capacity-building programs. She explained that national civil society coalitions monitoring the extractive industries—particularly in relation to energy transition—were beginning to focus on these issues. As a result, PH-EITI might soon receive letters from communities and CSOs requesting an examination of these matters.

The same CSO recommended that the Secretariat begin identifying relevant legal frameworks and government agencies that could provide necessary insights. She emphasized that understanding these issues in advance would be beneficial for PH-EITI when interacting with broader civil society groups concerned with energy transition and extractivism in the Philippines.

The Chair and Secretariat acknowledged the concern and mentioned that the International Seabed Authority (ISA) might be a relevant entity in this discussion.

The same CSO representative elaborated, stating that Bantay Kita had been invited to an ISA training organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in October 2023. The training aimed to help various stakeholders understand deep-sea mining from a Philippine



perspective. She also pointed out that the Philippine Maritime Zones Act, passed in November 2024, could be relevant to PH-EITI's scope of work. However, she raised the question of whether PH-EITI had jurisdiction over extractive activities occurring beyond 200 nautical miles from the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Given that some Philippine-backed private entities might seek to explore and extract resources in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, she suggested that PH-EITI prepare for possible inquiries or engagements on this issue.

The Chair and Secretariat acknowledged the insights and thanked the CSO representative for raising them.

As the meeting wrapped up, the Secretariat took the opportunity to follow up on pending speaker confirmations from MGB and DOE. They requested assistance in finalizing speaker participation and confirmed that further coordination would take place.

## VII. Summary of Agreements

A representative from the Secretariat presented the summary of agreements.

Agreements	In charge	Timeline
95.1 The MSG provisionally approved the minutes of the 94th MSG meeting and agreed to provide members with a one-week timeframe to submit their comments and suggestions.	MSG	
95.2 The MSG agreed to set the deadline for the revisions of Country Report on February 14, 2025 to give the MSG an ample time to review and submission by end of February 2025	FY 2022 Report Consultant	
95.3 The MSG approved the exclusion of 'Under Care and Maintenance' for the targeted mining projects in the current report (FY 2023-2024)	Secretariat	
95.4 The MSG approved deadline adjustments for FY 2023 activities and opening the FY 2024 reporting cycle	Secretariat	

95.5 The MSG instructed the consultant to coordinate efforts concerning the energy sector, particularly with regard to coal power plants and coal mines (DOE, Bantay Kita).	Energy Transition Consultant	
95.6 The MSG suggested highlighting the DOE's energy transition plan in the report, acknowledging the country's objectives and the mining industry's role in contributing to these efforts, particularly in reducing carbon emissions, which can be tracked, especially within the mining sector.	Energy Transition Consultant	
95.7 The MSG suggested including the progress of the Mining Forest Program and its contribution to carbon offsetting in the consultant's report, with an emphasis on better understanding how the mining sector specifically contributes to these offset efforts.	Energy Transition Consultant	
95.8 The MSG suggested emphasizing Philippine nickel, ensuring it is not overlooked, and possibly validating whether it qualifies as a critical mineral in the Philippines, especially considering its use in stainless steel rather than batteries.	Energy Transition Consultant	
95.9 The MSG suggested emphasizing Philippine nickel, ensuring it is not overlooked, and possibly validating whether it qualifies as a critical mineral in the Philippines, especially considering its use in stainless steel rather than batteries.	Energy Transition Consultant	
95.10 The MSG recommended communicating with Zamboanga Sibugay to identify social action initiatives and provide recommendations, particularly for	Energy Transition Consultant	

Small-Scale Mining (SSM) in coal areas.		
95.11 The MSG suggested including in the subnationalization study the conditions that could warrant subnationalizing pilot areas, whether there should be different levels or phases, and whether LGUs can be involved in the sub-nationalization process. We should also understand the stages before proceeding with the pilot.	Subnationalization Consultants	
95.12 The MSG instructed the Secretariat to coordinate with Bantay Kita regarding CSO participants for PH-EITI side events during OGP. The MSG also agreed to consider the feasibility of having a hybrid online setup.	Secretariat	
95.13 The MSG suggested considering for MSG capacity building activities the topic on legal frameworks for Offshore Mining, Seabed Quarrying and Deep Sea Mining.	Secretariat	

The MSG members did not provide any comments on the Secretariat's presentation of the summary of agreements.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

With no other matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 11:0a.m.