

**Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative****99th MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP (MSG) MEETING**

May 22, 2025, Thursday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Online via Google Meet

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

Dir. Maricor Ann D.G. Cauton

Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)

Engr. Romualdo Aguilos

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)

Dir. Ricardo L. Bobis, Jr.

Local Fiscal Policy Service, Bureau of Local Government  
Finance (LFPS-BLGF)

Mr. Reymark Tablanza

Department of the Interior and Local  
Government (DILG)

Atty. Ronald Rex S. Recidoro

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP)

Atty. Kiril Caral

Petroleum Association of the Philippines (PAP)

Atty. Odette Javier

Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.

Ms. Beverly Besmanos

Bantay Kita (BK)

Prof Maria Aurora Tabada

Visayas State University (VSU)

Atty. Avril De Torres

Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED)

Mr. Jeffrey Carin

Father Saturnino Urios University Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Elaine Joyce V. Borejón

Oxfam Pilipinas

Ms. 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 S. Ong

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	PH-EITI Secretariat

#### **Agenda:**

- I. Call to order**
- II. Approval of the agenda of the 99th MSG meeting**
- III. Approval of the minutes of the 98th MSG meeting**
- IV. Matters arising from previous meetings**
- V. Main Business**
  - 1. 2025 Work Plan
  - 2. Update on the PH-EITI Report Production
  - 3. Updates from the 1st TWG Meeting with NCIP
- VI. Other Matters**
  - 1. Accomplishment Report as of April 30, 2025
  - 2. Workshop on the MGB National Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Tool
  - 3. Upcoming PH-EITI Activities
- VII. Summary of Agreements**
- VIII. Setting of the Next Meeting**
- IX. Adjournment**

## Proceedings:

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dir. Maricor Ann D.G. Cauto of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) as presiding officer

### II. Approval of the agenda of the 99th MSG meeting

The Secretariat proposed to add to the agenda the approval of the highlights of the recent workshop on the MGB National Gender Impact Assessment Tool. The proposal was acknowledged by the Chair, who also noted the value of the said workshop. No further additions were raised from the floor.

### III. Approval of the minutes of the 98th MSG meeting

The Presiding Officer proceeded to the next item on the agenda — the approval of the minutes of the 98th MSG Meeting. The Secretariat had already circulated the draft minutes along with the provisional agenda for the current meeting. Following standard MSG practice, the members were given five (5) working days from the date of the meeting to review and provide comments. Should there be no substantial inputs or objections within the review period, the minutes shall be deemed approved.

### IV. Matters arising from previous meetings

The Chair invited the National Coordinator to provide updates on matters arising from the previous MSG meeting. A representative from the Secretariat clarified at the outset that the report would focus only on the ongoing action points, in the interest of time and to streamline discussion. Items that have already been completed or closed would not be revisited in this segment.

No.	Agreements	Status	Remarks/ Progress Update
98.1	The Chair recommended allowing an additional week for MSG members to review the minutes. Should there be any substantial comments, these will be raised and	Completed	As the Secretariat did not receive any comments within the set deadline, the minutes are considered

	discussed in the next scheduled meeting.		approved.
<b>98.2</b>	The MSG recommends refining the qualifications of the IA by including a legal background among the preferred criteria. Additionally, it was agreed to prioritize candidates with experience in the extractive industry or those who have been involved in related fields. The requirement for a CPA was also adjusted, reducing the minimum experience from ten (10) years to five (5) years, provided the individual holds good standing in the profession.	<b>Completed</b>	The agreed qualifications of the Independent Administrator are reflected in the TOR.
<b>98.3</b>	The MSG agrees that the contract should explicitly state that the individual must have no conflict of interest and must not be related by consanguinity or affinity to any member of the PH-EITI Secretariat.	<b>Completed</b>	The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the IA have been officially approved, with all recommendations from the MSG successfully integrated
<b>98.4</b>	The MSG noted the need for a more detailed analysis of the types of data being collected and the manner of collection, particularly as inconsistencies appear to stem from the use of three different data sources and varying report formats. To minimize reconciliation issues, the MSG recommends disaggregating the data collection process and standardizing reporting formats to allow for greater consistency and detail across all sources.	<b>Completed</b>	The requested data from both government agencies and reporting companies has already been disaggregated. The recommendations have been taken into account, and the secretariat is set to refine the data collection process while strengthening coordination with the IA to address outstanding issues and implement insights from previous

			reports.
<b>98.5</b>	The MSG agreed to highlight in the report the varying tax regimes implemented by different Local Government Units (LGUs). It was noted that this variation significantly affects the data reported at the subnational level and therefore warrants specific attention in the analysis.	<b>Ongoing</b>	The recommendation has been acknowledged and will be communicated to the IA upon convening the inception meeting.
<b>98.6</b>	The MSG recommended the need to contextualize and analyze the Independent Administrator's (IA) data findings alongside those released by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). It was observed that discrepancies exist among the datasets, and a comparative analysis is necessary to explain the differences in methodology, data sources, and reporting timelines that may have contributed to the inconsistencies.	<b>Ongoing</b>	The recommendation has been acknowledged and will be taken into account upon the completion of the reconciliation report.
<b>98.7</b>	The MSG approved the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Consultatn of the Reconciliation Chapters for the FY 2023–2024 Country Report, subject to the incorporation of amendments raised during the discussion. These amendments will be reflected in the final version of the TOR prior to implementation	<b>Completed</b>	The final version of the TOR incorporates the necessary amendments, ensuring alignment with the latest recommendations
<b>98.8</b>	The MSG recommended that GFNI include a cost-benefit analysis of adopting blockchain technology in	<b>Completed</b>	The recommendation has been forwarded to the blockchain study

	the development of a centralized data system. This aims to assess the long-term efficiency, transparency, and security advantages of blockchain integration in data management and royalty utilization. Additionally, the MSG suggested exploring the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop (EVOSS) as a reference model for streamlining digital systems.		proponent, and no further action is required from the Secretariat at this time.
<b>98.9</b>	The MSG further recommended the inclusion of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs), and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the Technical Working Group (TWG) on blockchain integration. Their participation is seen as vital in ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and the protection of community interests in the design and implementation of blockchain systems related to royalty management and data governance.	<b>Completed</b>	The recommendation was noted by the blockchain study proponent. The current members were representatives from the DOST, NCIP, DICT, and PH- EITI.
<b>98.10</b>	The MSG recommended proceeding with exploratory talks on the proposed blockchain initiative, with the understanding that further engagement will depend on whether the outcome proves to be beneficial to the MSG and aligned with PH-EITI objectives. The MSG emphasized the importance of ensuring that any new mechanism or partnership must add value to the	<b>Completed</b>	The recommendation was forwarded to the blockchain study proponent. No further action needed from the Secretariat for now.

	transparency, accountability, and inclusivity goals of the PH-EITI process.		
<b>98.11</b>	The MSG agreed that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data will be included solely in the Contextual Chapter of the FY 2023–2024 Country Report, and not in the Reconciliation Chapter. In support of this, the MSG also approved the Secretariat’s proposal to organize a forum session with the EITI International Secretariat to align with the environmental disclosure requirements under the EITI 2023 Standard. The forum will include presentations from the Climate Change Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)—the primary agencies responsible for GHG data—and will also highlight best practices from extractive companies that currently report their GHG emissions.	<b>Completed</b>	The GHG Forum is scheduled for June 20, 2025, with administrative and logistical preparations already in progress to ensure a seamless and well-coordinated event.
<b>98.12</b>	To manage stakeholder expectations, the MSG recommended rebranding the session to focus specifically on GHG data reporting, rather than positioning it under the broader theme of “energy transition.” This is to avoid misinterpretation and ensure that the forum reflects the current scope and availability of data.	<b>Completed</b>	Suggested alternative title: <b>"Carbon Clarity: Carbon Emissions Reporting and Offsetting Strategies for a Low-Carbon Future in the Extractive Sector"</b>  <b>Revised title reflected in the Concept Note</b>

<b>98.13</b>	The MSG recommended including in the FY 2023–2024 Contextual Information Report a specific unresolved case from the past 10 years of implementation to reflect ongoing challenges and avoid sugar coating.	<b>Ongoing</b>	The Secretariat has begun preliminary efforts to assess past challenges and recommendations outlined in the country reports, laying the groundwork for strategic improvements.
<b>98.14</b>	MSG also emphasized the need to apply a gender lens across the report, highlighting progress in mainstreaming gender in policies and disclosures, and ensuring it becomes a conscious and consistent element in every report.	<b>Not yet started</b>	The recommendation will be taken into account in the production of the report.
<b>98.15</b>	The MSG approved the outline of the Contextual Information Report for FY 2023–2024. The Secretariat will proceed with drafting the report, incorporating the comments and suggestions raised during the discussion.	<b>Completed</b>	The Secretariat will proceed with the approved outline of the Contextual Information Chapter as the framework for its implementation.
<b>98.16</b>	The MSG raised the need to include the status of non-operational mining companies, particularly those under suspension due to violations. The MSG agreed that companies should be clearly tagged as either under “care and maintenance” or “suspended,” to improve transparency.	<b>Partially Completed</b>	The Secretariat is currently compiling the documents submitted by companies concerning their non-operational or suspension status, ensuring a comprehensive record for further review and action.
<b>98.17</b>	The MSG deferred the discussion on the Terms of Reference (TOR) to support the Opening Extractives Program in the Philippines to the	<b>Ongoing</b>	The TOR was circulated to the MSG for approval via referendum. It was approved by 2



	next meeting, allowing MSG more time to review and provide input.		representatives from the government, 2 from industry, and 3 from civil society organizations.
--	---	--	---

**98.5:** The MSG previously agreed to highlight in the upcoming report the **variation in tax regimes implemented by different local government units (LGUs)**. It was emphasized that such inconsistencies significantly impact the accuracy and comparability of subnational data, warranting dedicated analysis. The Secretariat acknowledged this recommendation and committed to communicating it to the Independent Administrator (IA) once the initial coordination meeting is convened.

**98.6:** The MSG recommended that the IA's data findings be contextualized and analyzed alongside those from the **Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)** and the **Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)**. Discrepancies between datasets were observed in earlier reviews, likely due to differing methodologies, data sources, and timelines. A comparative analysis was recommended to address these inconsistencies. The Secretariat confirmed that this will be communicated to the consultant once work on the reconciliation report begins.

**98.13:** The MSG recommended the inclusion of unresolved cases from the past ten years of PH-EITI implementation in the **Contextual Information Report** for FY 2023–2024. This aims to reflect ongoing governance and transparency challenges and to avoid presenting an overly sanitized narrative. The Secretariat has initiated a review of historical issues and recommendations in past country reports, setting the stage for more strategic reforms. A meeting of the Implementation Committee will be convened to begin establishing the baseline and drafting the updated report.

**98.14:** The MSG reiterated the need to apply a **gender lens across the entire report**, not only by highlighting progress in mainstreaming gender in policy and disclosures, but also by ensuring that gender becomes a conscious and consistent consideration throughout PH-EITI reporting. This is being factored into planning for the next cycle.

**98.16:** The MSG had earlier raised the importance of including the **status of non-operational mining companies**, particularly those under suspension for violations. It was recommended that these companies be clearly tagged as either “under care and maintenance” or

“suspended” to enhance transparency. The Secretariat is currently compiling relevant submissions from companies to build a comprehensive record, which will be presented for further review in the next MSG meeting.

**98.17:** Regarding the **Terms of Preference for PH-EITI’s support to the Opening Extractives Program**, the draft was circulated for approval by referendum. The Secretariat reported receiving affirmative votes from two government representatives, two industry representatives, and three civil society organization (CSO) representatives. All submitted comments have been incorporated into the revised draft. The final version will be shared with MSG members.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat and asked the body for any comments or further recommendations. With no additional input, the MSG proceeded to the next agenda item.

## **V. Main Business**

### **1. 2025 Workplan**

The National Secretariat emphasized that the final version of the work plan was the product of a series of intensive discussions, particularly during the Special MSG Meeting held on **March 8**, as well as more recent subgroup meetings.

According to the Secretariat, all inputs raised by the MSG throughout the consultation period had been carefully reviewed and integrated into the document. The final draft was said to reflect alignment with the **2023 EITI Standard**, and had been updated to respond to emerging and evolving priorities among them, the growing emphasis on **subnational implementation, climate action**, and other strategic areas identified by stakeholders. The Secretariat then respectfully sought the formal approval of the body to proceed with the work plan’s implementation.

A civil society representative requested to raise a question. She first commended the Secretariat for its responsiveness and hard work in refining the draft, but flagged several items particularly under **Work Plan Components 1.1 and 1.2** which lacked **specific budget details**. This, she pointed out, was a crucial consideration in reviewing whether limited resources were being directed appropriately toward priority programs. Without this information, it would be difficult for the group to determine if the projected outcomes were feasible and if the Secretariat had the necessary operational support. The representative

suggested that, if the missing budget details were to be added, the MSG should be given additional time to review the document thoroughly before giving its final approval.

In response, the Secretariat acknowledged the concern and proceeded to provide a **verbal breakdown of the budget**, confirming that the total allocated budget for 2025 stood at **PHP 17.1 million**. It was explained that this budget had already been coordinated with relevant oversight offices and structured around PH-EITI's mandatory and strategic initiatives.

The Secretariat then walked the group through the key line items, including the following:

- **IP Engagement (1.1):** PHP 250,000
- **Gender Mainstreaming (1.2):** PHP 150,000
- **Secretariat Management:** PHP 8.5 million
- **Climate Action and Energy Transition:** PHP 825,000
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Management:** PHP 2 million
- **Communications and Operational Adjustments:** PHP 546,000
- **Office Supplies:** PHP 73,000
- **Consultancy Services (for both the IA and Contextual Chapter Writer):** PHP 1.3 million

It was also clarified that personnel salaries linked to report production and program management were already integrated into the **Secretariat Management** budget. Meanwhile, funding for consultations, meetings, national events, and travel, including costs related to civil society participation, had been itemized separately under operational and logistical expenses.

The same civil society representative raised a question regarding the budget reflected under item 1.2, specifically the amount of PHP 1.2 million. There was clarification from the Secretariat that item 1.1 was mistakenly referenced earlier, but that item 1.2 indeed pertained to legislative advocacy. It was explained that this item typically includes provisions for personnel services (PS) under the Secretariat's operations. The Chair reiterated that MSG members do not receive monetary compensation for their functions, and hence a zero budget line should be reflected for their participation.

The CSO representative further proposed that any item with zero budget should be clearly indicated in both the budget summary and the detailed work plan. She also recommended consolidating items 1.1 to 1.3 in the summary table to enhance transparency and clarity. Drawing from her experience in other grant-funded projects, she suggested computing the staff's work hours and allocating a percentage of their salaries to corresponding activities to reflect a more accurate and informative budget.

The Secretariat acknowledged the suggestion and confirmed that in previous work plans, especially for activities led by the Secretariat, a percentage-based approach was sometimes applied. However, they noted that in the current version, more explicit linkage between personnel time and activities might need to be visualized better.

Another representative from CSO echoed the need for clearer alignment between staff performance and activity implementation. She emphasized the importance of understanding how much of the budget goes to personnel versus direct community engagement. She raised concerns on budget equity, particularly between staff allocations and the support provided to community representatives in activities such as roadshows.

She also emphasized the importance of identifying the source of funds—whether from the General Appropriations (GA) or grants — and how this affects budgeting decisions. The Secretariat clarified that the PHP 17.1 million referenced was from the GA and remains the only amount guaranteed for inclusion in the work plan, as other external grants are yet to be confirmed.

To address the various concerns, the Chair suggested enhancing the budget summary format by clearly breaking down each program or activity by expense type — distinguishing between PS and other expenses — and specifying the source of funding (e.g., GA, Open Ownership, international donors). This approach was supported by the CSO and government representatives present.

The Chair then proposed that the Secretariat revise the budget table accordingly, and that a special MSG meeting be scheduled to finalize and approve the budget, pending these revisions. The Secretariat committed to submitting the updated budget format by the following day.

Before concluding the discussion, the CSO representative emphasized that having the detailed budget alongside the work plan is essential for setting expectations and prioritizing activities. The Chair agreed, affirming that the revised budget would support informed decision-making on both content and implementation scope.

The MSG agreed that the revised summary budget will be submitted by the Secretariat,

followed by the scheduling of a special MSG session dedicated to the final review and approval of the work plan and budget.

The Chairperson wrapped up the budget segment of the meeting by requesting the Secretariat to transmit the revised budget summary by the next day. She emphasized the importance of including a clear deadline for comments and approvals, with the goal of finalizing the work plan by the following Friday. A member of the Secretariat confirmed this timeline and asked whether the revised version could be sent via referendum, to which the Chair agreed, reiterating the importance of timely circulation and review.

Before the body transitioned to the next agenda item, a CSO representative raised a proposal to incorporate gender impact assessment (GIA) into the work plan. She referenced a recent GIA presentation attended by several agencies including MGB and DENR and noted that PH-EITI could strategically position itself to contribute to the formulation of the GIA tool and indicators. While expressing some reservations regarding the framework, she emphasized the relevance of gender mainstreaming as a priority activity for the year. This, she added, could be anchored on capacity-building initiatives for the Secretariat. She highlighted that such efforts might not entail significant financial costs but would require technical expertise and coordination.

The Chair expressed support for this direction, citing the importance of integrating GIA workshop outputs into the work plan. She acknowledged the broader implications of gender integration on extractive governance and suggested revisiting the work plan to accommodate this new focus.

The Secretariat confirmed that a subgroup had already been tasked to explore gender components, with updates to be shared at a later stage.

Following this, a civil society representative emphasized the need to broaden the scope of stakeholder engagement beyond NCIP, particularly in activities under item 1.3 related to indigenous peoples. She noted that PSA and RDC had proven useful in past data-gathering efforts and recommended including institutions like UP Baguio and other academic hubs to streamline coordination and reduce duplication. She urged the Secretariat to explore existing databases and partnerships to enrich PH-EITI's baseline and outputs.

Another representative from civil society, reminded the body to be cautious in revising budget items already allocated under the PHP 17.1 million appropriated for 2025. He recommended finalizing a more granular breakdown of the budget before opening the floor to formal feedback. He noted that this experience should help improve budget planning for

2026, particularly given the need for early alignment between work plan targets and financial resources.

The Chair acknowledged these reminders and reiterated the intention to use this work plan iteration as a basis for 2026 budgeting, recognizing that some items would carry over. She reminded the body of the possibility of a mid-year review to reassess activities and allocations, and committed to including the latest insights from this discussion in the revised draft.

Returning to the Secretariat, a representative expressed appreciation for the feedback and clarified that their budgeting method is based on expenditure programming, which includes both predictable and flexible line items. They committed to improving the budget breakdown, particularly with respect to personnel services (PS), other operational costs, and externally sourced funds.

Returning to the earlier discussion on governance and transparency, the CSO representative who had raised the GIA proposal noted the importance of MSG participation in planning processes. Citing recent capacity-building sessions led by the EITI International Secretariat, she emphasized that the MSG, not just the Secretariat, is expected to play a central role in preparing and approving the work plan. She also voiced concern over the appearance of chamber-led activities under gender components that were not fully discussed within the MSG. She stressed that such gaps should be avoided in the future through more inclusive planning.

She added that for the MSG to act with full confidence, all budget items - including embedded costs under staff salaries - must be clearly itemized and justified. This, she said, aligns with PH-EITI's commitment to transparency and strengthens the collective ownership of the work plan.

The Chair responded by affirming that all comments would be incorporated into the next iteration of the work plan, particularly the budget section. She confirmed that the Secretariat would transmit the revised documents by the agreed timeline and include a deadline for final comments and approval.

The meeting then transitioned to the next agenda item: updates on the PH-EITI report production

## **2. Update on the PH-EITI Report Production**

The Secretariat noted that the team would provide the latest updates via email as well. The report production update was then presented by the Secretariat, who shared the current

status of project submissions for the 2023 and 2024 reporting cycles.

There were 75 participating projects for 2023 and 78 for 2024. This marked an improvement in submission completeness - from 59% in previous cycles to 69% for 2023, and a similar upward trend for 2024. It was noted that PH-EITI is still expecting submissions from a number of companies, with outreach efforts ongoing. As of the meeting date, 74% participation had been recorded for 2023 and 72% for 2024, figures that are on par with or slightly below the 2022 rate of 73.65%.

The Secretariat shared that they continue to actively follow up with companies and coordinate closely with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), especially for projects that are currently non-responsive. A verification process is also underway to determine whether certain projects are still in commercial operation, under care and maintenance, or officially suspended. This would support the accurate exclusion or tagging of projects in the reporting process. From the initial 121 projects provided by MGB, adjustments have been made based on operational status, with letters and confirmations being compiled to support these classifications.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the update and inquired about the timeline for formally reaching out to MGB. The Secretariat confirmed that a letter was already being prepared and that outreach efforts would continue throughout May, ahead of the July report submission deadline. The Chair emphasized the importance of expediting coordination with MGB to ensure maximum participation and report coverage. She also requested that the Secretariat keep the MSG informed on follow-ups and progress.

With no further comments from MSG members on the report production, the Chair then transitioned the meeting to the next agenda item.

### **3. Updates from the 1st TWG Meeting with NCIP**

The Secretariat presented an update on the first Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), which took place on May 7, 2025. It was noted that the NCIP actively coordinated with the PH-EITI team, including representatives from its legal, ancestral domains, and policy offices. The engagement marked a renewed effort to align EITI processes with Indigenous Peoples (IP) concerns and ensure data-sharing frameworks are participatory and inclusive.

The TWG implementation plan was outlined with three main phases: (1) Immediate Actions, (2) Rollout and Implementation, and (3) Institutionalization and Sustainability. Under the first phase (May–July 2025), key activities include the formation of the TWG with representatives from ICCs/IPs, identification of relevant data sets (e.g., royalty payments,

FPIC compliance, and related costs), and initial coordination for a pilot region. Another immediate priority is the enhancement of NCIP's monitoring tool on royalties and IP benefits. The TWG Chair had recommended that the TWG include at least one representative each from government, industry, and civil society. Industry representatives from the Chamber of Mines and the Philippine Petroleum Association were mentioned as potential nominees, alongside CSOs with prior engagement in ICC/IP dialogues.

The second phase (August 2025–January 2026) will focus on the rollout of the compliance monitoring framework, inclusive of training for NCIP personnel and pilot data collection in selected regions. Recommendations were raised to engage regional development councils and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) for improved data verification and accessibility. The third phase will pursue institutionalization through an NCIP Administrative Order formally integrating IPO participation in EITI processes. An annual review summit is also envisioned to assess progress and refine strategies.

The Chair commended the Secretariat for the comprehensive update but raised a clarification on the terminology used during the presentation to avoid ambiguity in future TWG meetings.

A CSO representative flagged past challenges in implementing the NCIP monitoring tool, despite previous collaborations, issues around the download and internal adoption by regional NCIP offices remained unresolved. It was suggested that central office directives do not always reach regional levels, requiring parallel agreements or MOUs for actual implementation.

She further recommended ensuring diverse CSO representation in the TWG, especially from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, given the contextual differences in IP communities across island groups. The Chair supported this and suggested an even deeper look at tribal representation, though for now, island-based representation may suffice.

Another CSO representative echoed this and emphasized the importance of local engagement when discussing royalty and data management. She noted that regional NCIP offices should be involved early, as national-level agreements do not always translate to operational actions at the ground level. Additionally, clarity is needed regarding NCIP's visitorial powers and their scope in monitoring royalties.

A member of the Secretariat responded that there were no restrictions on the number of TWG members, allowing flexibility should the MSG decide to expand representation. He reiterated the proposal to include one representative per sector—government, industry, and



civil society—as a baseline, while still opening the floor for more specific nominations.

The Chair thanked the members for their inputs and confirmed that the composition of the TWG would be discussed further, with openness to increasing representation especially for CSOs and IP groups.

With no further comments, the Chair transitioned the body to the next item on the agenda.

## **VI. Other Matters**

### **1. Accomplishment Report as of April 30, 2025**

The Secretariat presented the PH-EITI Accomplishment Report covering the period of January to April 2025. The presentation began with a note of appreciation to the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) and the national secretariat for their continuous contributions. The Secretariat acknowledged the collective effort that went into planning and executing various activities, including concept note development, scriptwriting, program preparation, visual material design, administrative coordination, budgeting, and other preparatory tasks that often go unnoticed but are critical to successful implementation.

To accompany the presentation, a short audiovisual presentation was played, showcasing highlights from recent engagements and milestones.

Among the key activities reported were the following:

- **Strengthening Local Voices Dialogues** in Benguet, where the Subnational Stakeholder Knowledge Mechanism (SSKM) and gender-responsive community engagement strategies were introduced, particularly in the context of subnationalization and extractives governance.
- Participation in **PH-EITI side events** during the 2025 Asia-Pacific Contracts Conference, which focused on climate change, data sharing, and system interoperability.
- The signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between the Department of Finance (DOF) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), formalizing a data-sharing agreement on monitoring Indigenous Peoples' royalty payments.
- Hosting of the **Women in Extractives Forum** during Women's Month, which gathered around 100 participants from government, industry, and civil society sectors.

- Participation in the **2025 DOF Gender and Finance Summit**, where the Secretariat delivered a presentation on mainstreaming gender in transparency initiatives.
- Conduct of an **Online Reporting Tool Orientation** for industry stakeholders, aimed at improving responsiveness and data submission accuracy.

International engagements included:

- Hosting **two side events** during the EITI Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on climate justice and data interoperability.
- Convening of the **98th MSG Meeting** and capacity development sessions, which also served as onboarding for newly accredited CSO members.
- Participation in **peer learning exchanges**, including capacity-building sessions where PH-EITI shared its tools for transparency and its experience with translating country reports into accessible formats for public dissemination.
- Attendance at the **62nd EITI Board Meeting** and other regional fora, where PH-EITI introduced its risk-based approach to country report development and subnational transparency innovations.

The Secretariat also reported that PH-EITI has maintained active **digital engagement**, including the launch of the 2024 reporting cycle via its website and the provision of reporting deadlines and company profiles. They also recognized the passage of **Republic Act No. 11220**, which supports natural gas industry development, as a relevant policy milestone aligned with extractives governance and climate goals.

Strategic social media engagement was also highlighted. Online campaigns celebrated Zero Waste Month, Mother's Day, and Women in Extractives, while also promoting messages on good governance, climate action, and sustainable development. PH-EITI also shared regular news updates on mining-related developments, gender and climate issues, and energy transition policies.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for its comprehensive presentation and officially acknowledged the progress and accomplishments made during the first quarter of 2025. The body then proceeded to the next item.

## 2. Workshop on the MGB National Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Tool

The Secretariat provided an update on the National Gender Impact Assessment (NGIA) Tool Workshop held on 20 May 2025, a joint initiative led by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Chamber of Mines. The workshop introduced a proposed tool designed to systematically assess the gender-differentiated impacts of mining operations across their full lifecycle - from exploration to closure and rehabilitation. The NGIA tool aims to guide mining companies, government agencies, and communities in identifying gender gaps and promoting equitable outcomes in the extractive sector.

The workshop featured discussions on the tool's structure, objectives, and preliminary results. Participants came from various sectors, with 110 attendees in total (58 face-to-face and 52 online), including representatives from government, industry, civil society, and the academe. The gender breakdown was 34 women and 18 men for the in-person session.

Key recommendations raised during the consultation included:

- Clearly specifying the Gender and Development (GAD) framework used in the tool's design.
- Issuing an MGB directive mandating mining companies to implement the tool and allocate a portion of their budget for GIA activities.
- Developing a distinct questionnaire for Indigenous Peoples to reflect their unique socio-cultural contexts.
- Integrating gender assessments into the broader social impact assessment process.
- Ensuring a diverse and representative selection of key informants and respondents, including those from affected communities.
- Recognizing self-identified gender rather than limiting responses to sex assigned at birth.
- Sharing materials, improving study clarity, and involving other agencies (e.g., PSA) in refining the tool.

The Secretariat noted that a follow-up meeting with MGB would be held to determine next steps. An evaluation form would also be circulated to participants to gather feedback on the event and its outputs.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the update and emphasized the need to adopt relevant recommendations in future engagements. She then opened the floor for comments.

A civil society representative welcomed the initiative but raised concerns regarding the lack of baseline benchmarks, which are essential for assessing progress over time. She inquired whether EITI has a mechanism to integrate or analyze GIA results meaningfully.

Another CSO representative agreed that while the initiative shows promise, the workshop

lacked a clear presentation of the gender framework guiding the tool's development. She noted that PH-EITI could strategically shape this space by helping define foundational concepts such as gender mainstreaming, especially in the context of mining projects and community engagement.

An industry representative mentioned that PH-EITI had previously supported research on gender-inclusive workplaces in the extractives sector and suggested building on that work to define a framework moving forward.

Secretariat emphasized the value of linking the GIA tool with existing EITI disclosures, particularly under Requirements 6.1 and 2.3. She noted that GIA findings could inform EITI's policy recommendations by offering grounded insights into how mining activities affect women's livelihoods and community resilience.

The discussion also clarified that the data presented during the workshop served as part of a pilot or validation phase for the tool, rather than as a formal baseline study. This prompted further reflection from MSG members on the intended use of the results and the importance of clearly defining the research objectives from the outset.

The Chair thanked the members for their insights, emphasizing that PH-EITI will consider the recommendations as it plans future activities.

### **3. Upcoming PH-EITI Activities**

The Secretariat proceeded to update the body on the lineup of PH-EITI activities for the remainder of May through June 2025. Among the highlighted events was a virtual peer learning exchange between Ukraine and the Philippines, scheduled for May 23. The exchange will feature insights from both countries' experiences in implementing the EITI Standard, including a showcase of their respective online portals. It will also include a session on systematic disclosures, led by the EITI International Secretariat. All MSG members are invited to attend, and the Secretariat is committed to sending the link shortly.

Following that, the Secretariat confirmed that the Philippines will participate online in the 63rd EITI Board Meeting on June 18 and 19. Immediately after, on June 19, the 100th MSG meeting will be held in person at the Department of Finance. This milestone session is expected to gather members across sectors and reaffirm the multi-stakeholder platform's commitment to transparency and collaboration.

Another representative from the Secretariat then introduced the Carbon Emissions Reporting Forum, set for June 20. The event, previously titled the Energy Transition Forum, has been renamed in response to feedback from MSG members to better reflect its focus. It

will now center on carbon emissions reporting in the extractive sector, with the goal of improving transparency and understanding of how mining and petroleum companies report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The event will bring together stakeholders from government, industry, civil society, and academia. Among the key presentations will be those from the Philippine Stock Exchange on sustainability reporting requirements, as well as case studies from companies that have already adopted GHG reporting frameworks. Representatives from the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Energy, and the international EITI community will also participate. The forum is designed not just as a learning event but as a collaborative space to explore how emissions data can inform public discourse and future policy directions.

A member of the technical team explained that the forum will culminate in a workshop segment, where participants can collectively examine and compare the methodologies companies use in measuring their carbon footprint. This is expected to lay the groundwork for more consistent and comparable disclosures across the extractive sector in the long term.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the detailed rundown and opened the floor for comments. One CSO representative requested a future orientation session specifically for civil society participants to clarify PH-EITI's internal accounting processes, particularly with regard to reimbursements. She cited past instances where local transport expenses, such as Grab or taxi fares, were disallowed, and emphasized the need for consistent guidance on allowable claims. The Secretariat acknowledged the concern and assured the body that clarification would be provided.

Another MSG member asked if the draft event outline for the carbon emissions forum had already been circulated. The Chair clarified that the presentation was still in draft form and would be formally shared with MSG members for comment and review before finalization.

Before moving to the next agenda item, the Chair confirmed that no additional events beyond those already discussed were scheduled at the moment. With no further comments, the body proceeded to the next item in the agenda: the summary of agreements from the meeting.

## **VII. Summary of Agreements**

Agreements	In charge	Timeline
The Chair granted MSG members an additional five (5) days to review the minutes of the meeting for the 98th MSG meeting. Any substantial comments received within this period will be addressed in the next meeting. If no comments are submitted, the minutes will be considered approved.		
MSG suggested that the budget per program must be included, as this information is crucial for evaluating whether our limited resources are sufficient to achieve the intended outcomes. MSG also recommends allowing a few additional days for the members to go over the Workplan once the budget details are incorporated.		
The MSG proposed that under item 1.7 Secretariat Management, the working hours of the secretariat staff should be reflected along with their corresponding hourly rates, to ensure a more accurate representation of personnel-related expenses		
The Chair and members recommended revising the budget to show a detailed breakdown of each item — including PS, MOOE, and other expense components — indicating the source of funds, listing all program activities.		
The Secretariat proposed circulating the revised version of the Work Plan by referendum, which the MSG agreed to, with members suggesting that they submit their feedback by next week.		
The MSG suggested including the MGB Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) tool in the work plan		
The MSG recommended including activity in the work plan on possible collaboration with Phil. Statistics Authority (PSA) and Regional Development Council (RDC) to collect relevant data on IPs/ICCs, to supplement the information that the NCIP is currently unable to provide.		

The MSG recommended continuing coordination with MGB/COMP to seek their support in encouraging reporting companies to participate and further boost the participation rate before the end of the month.		
The MSG suggested that civil society representation in the NCIP TWG should include three members, with one each from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.		
The Secretariat will circulate to the MSG for approval the potential representatives from each sector to serve in the NCIP TWG.		
The MSG suggested revisiting the gender research previously conducted by PH-EITI to explore how its framework can be adapted or improved for the MGB GIA Tool		
The MSG suggested clarifying the intended purpose of the GIA Tool, whether it is meant to gather baseline data or serve another specific function.		
The MSG requested an orientation on the reimbursement process to guide CSO representatives accordingly.		

## **VII. Adjournment**

The Presiding Officer thanked all MSG members for their valuable insights and active participation in the 99th MSG meeting. With no further matters to discuss, the session was officially adjourned at 12:00 PM