



## **Press Statement**

**Date: October 2, 2017**

**Yangon**

**The two-year report on Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative will be released by the end of March 2018**

The report which covers two years of data for the Myanmar financial year of 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 on the activities of Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (MEITI) will be released by the end of March 2018. It will be assessed by the International EITI Board and we are confident that our report will serve an essential step for the country to become a full-fledged compliant country of the EITI Standard.

The report will reveal how the extractive industries related stakeholders and agencies have been trying to be in line with the suggestions and recommendations contained in the First Report and the developments in reforming management of natural resources. Furthermore, the two-year report will include how we are promoting cooperation among government, civil society organizations and private sectors to adopt better policies for jade and gems sector.

The previous government administration had adopted its framework for economic and social reforms during its five-year term and as part of the process of reforming management of natural resources, it had introduced the program of extractive industries transparency initiative by establishing a Myanmar EITI Leading Committee and Multi-Stakeholders Group (government, civil society organizations and private sector).

The Union of Myanmar is still only a candidate country at present. In January 2016, the first Myanmar EITI Report was produced and published. It was found in the 2016 Corruption Perception Index, that Myanmar has risen from the rank of 172 to 136 which our EITI process supports as a part of political landscape changes and good results can be seen by the international assessment with rejoice. We are trying our best to produce this new two-year report better than the first one under the close management of MEITI-MSG.

Under the new government, implementing of EITI program has been re-launched on 19 December 2016. The Union Minister for the Ministry of Planning and Finance has been appointed the National Champion and the Chair of the Leading Committee. The Multi-Stakeholders (MSG) was re-established through written notification on 28 February 2017. The MSG consists of 25 members from (7) representatives from government, (7) representatives from private sector and (9) representatives from civil society organizations, and one Chair and Vice-Chair by issuing State notification in February 2017.

## **Aims and Objectives of the implementation of EITI process and formation of Multi-Stakeholders Group (MSG)**

- a) To support for the development of extensive reforms in good governance of natural resources in the Union of Myanmar.
- b) To create an effective, encouraging and enabling environment in the implementation of EITI standard and processes.
- c) To provide preparation and help support to implement the EITI processes.
- d) To receive relevant data and information related to the natural resource management in the Union of Myanmar, to get up-to-date, accurate and reliable data and information regarding the tax and revenue related to such industries and businesses and to publish data and information received for the general public in timely.

With the intention of enhancing the accountability and transparency of natural resources extractions, the multi-stakeholder assessment reports are to be produced annually in accordance with EITI standard. We are convinced that a law is necessary for implementing EITI program in a sustainable manner under subsequent democratic governments.

## **Major achievements of the Multi-stakeholder Group on EITI implementation**

| <b>Sr.</b> | <b>Date</b>              | <b>Milestone Activities</b>   |
|------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1          | 15/12/2016               | First Beneficial Ownership Workshop   |
| 2          | 13/03/2017               | First multi-stakeholder group meeting and first MEITI re-launching event  |
| 3          | 23-24/03/2017            | Workshop on the draft Beneficial Ownership Roadmap  |
| 4          | 30/03/2017               | Sent a revised draft Beneficial Ownership Roadmap to the EITI International Secretariat   |
| 5          | 31/03/2017               | Second multi-stakeholders group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forestry sector was decided to include as an exclusive report</li> <li>- Selection Sub-Committee was formed urgently in order to choose Independent Administrator</li> </ul>   |
| 6          | 19/05/2017               | Third multi-stakeholders group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confirmed IA for the main report</li> <li>- Decided to start recruitment on forestry sector independent administrator</li> <li>- Started recruitment on Mining cadaster consultant</li> <li>- Started recruitment on Beneficial Ownership consultant</li> <li>- Eight- month workplan against budget for MEITI was approved</li> <li>- Decision for starting operation of National Coordination secretariat and process of hiring staff.</li> </ul> |
| 7          | 14/06/2017<br>16/06/2017 | Successfully negotiated on inclusion of forestry sector in the second and third reports with concerned ministry.  |

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|    |                                     | <p>Detailed discussion and getting agreement with Myanmar Timber Enterprise and Forestry Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representatives from the Forest Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise are added in the formation of Government working committee by notification</li> </ul>   |
| 8  | 30/06/2017                          | <p>Fourth multi-stakeholders group meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set timeline and agenda for reporting</li> <li>- Set areas for conducting survey</li> </ul>   |
| 9  | 28/07/2017                          | <p>Fifth multi-stakeholders group meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set survey map, information and data; and discuss related issues</li> <li>- Approve the annual development report to be sent to the EITI International Secretariat</li> <li>- Select and confirm a person for independent administrator of the forestry report</li> </ul>  |
| 10 | 11/09/2017                          | <p>Sixth multi-stakeholders group meeting held</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiation contract with Independent Administrator for the forestry Report and approve data and timeline</li> <li>- Approve definition of Beneficial Ownership and Politically Exposed Person (PEP)</li> </ul>   |
| 11 | 18/09/2017                          | <p>Workshop for producing the two-year report with government working group from various departments and state-owned enterprises under the three ministries</p>   |
| 12 | 23/09/2017                          | <p>Workshop on Forestry Report preparation with the special working group from Forest Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation</p>   |
| 13 | 27/09/2017                          | <p>Workshop for producing the two-year report with representatives from mining, pearl, jade and gems enterprises and oil &amp; gas industries. Template reporting timeline had been negotiated</p>  |
| 14 | 2/10/2017                           | <p>Seventh multi-stakeholder meeting</p>  |
| 15 | End June and Beginning of September | <p>Introduce with Independent Administrator Moore Stephens to departments for providing him regarding to relevant information</p>   |
| 16 | End September                       | <p>Review scoping study report (draft) and data clarification on the information of the report</p>  |
| 17 | Up to now                           | <p>Technique and Reporting Sub-Committee meetings: (6) times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and decision on negotiation points on technical and financial proposal by Independent Administrator</li> <li>- Draft reconciliation report process timeline</li> <li>- Review and agreed on Annual Progress Report</li> <li>- Agree on the definition of Beneficial Ownership</li> <li>- Formulation of ToR for all consultants</li> </ul> |
| 18 | Up to now                           | <p>Workplan and Governance Sub-Committee Meeting: (5) times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One-year workplan against budget was approved</li> <li>- Draft roles and responsibilities of National Coordination Secretariat</li> <li>- Three-year workplan against budget was drafted</li> <li>- MEITI- Implementation manual was reviewed and approved for budget expenditure and implementation the process</li> </ul>                        |

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| 19 | Up to now | Communication and Outreach Sub-Committee Meeting: (4) times<br>- Drafted communication strategy<br>- Communication Strategy workshop was done<br>- Draft capacity building plan  |
| 20 | Up to now | Selection Sub-Committee Meeting: (3) times<br>- Independent Administrator for main report was selected<br>- Independent Administrator for Forestry sector report was selected<br>- Beneficial Ownership Consultant was selected<br>- Mining Cadaster consultant was selected |
| 21 | Up to now | Mining Cadaster Sub-Committee Meeting: (2) times   |
| 22 | Up to now | 5 sub-committee was formed under the management of Multistakeholder Groups and held regular meeting for running MEITI operation process.   |
| 23 | Up to now | Leading committee's meetings (3) times,<br>Government Working Committee's meetings (2) times   |

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