

## Meeting 16

### Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

#### Meeting 16

**Date:** Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**Venue:** Office of the President

**Time:** 14:00 hrs

#### Attendance:

Name	Institution
His Excellency President Jagdeo	Office of the President
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Dr. Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
William Woolford	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Jocelyn Dow	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Vanda Radzik	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG)
Gerry Gouveia	Private Sector Commission (PSC)
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
Mimi Fernandes	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDP)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Alfred King	Youth Representative
Lester Flemming	Toshao from Mauritaro
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity

#### Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President	Excused
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President	Excused
Michael Brotherson	Office of the President	Excused
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association (FPA)	Excused
David James	Individual Capacity	Excused
David Singh	Conservation International (CI)	Excused
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Absent
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trade Unions Congress	Absent
Jean La Rose	Amerindian People's Association	Absent by Choice

#### Guest

Edward Dreyfus	Office of the President
----------------	-------------------------

## **1. Call to Order**

His Excellency President Jagdeo opened the meeting.

## **2. Updates and Reports**

### **Report from UN Climate Change Meetings**

- 5.1 His Excellency stated that the meeting will not follow the usual agenda but will be discussion on his meetings in New York.
- 5.2 His Excellency informed the MSSC that there was a lot of coverage given to Guyana especially for a developing country. His Excellency said he was thankful that CI was there and informed that the delegation attended several public events and participated in a number of interviews. HE pointed out that the delegation met with the editor of the New York Times, CEOs of major companies: Johnson & Johnson, WalMarts, and Starbucks etc. and these are valuable contacts for us because of investment and procurement. His Excellency stated that Harrison Ford spoke about Guyana and whether tourism was big here and informed that Harrison Ford can be swayed to come to the interior to promote Guyana. His Excellency informed the MSSC that there was coverage of Guyana in the international and local newspapers and it helped that we took our own media people.
- 5.3 His Excellency told Mr. Gerry Gouveia that he had spoken to cricketers Ramaresh Sarwan and Shivnarine Chandarpaul to get involved in the marketing of Guyana and Kaieteur. His Excellency advised that Mr. Gouveia should work with them to promote Guyana's tourism.
- 5.4 His Excellency stated that there was a round table meeting with Prime Minister Gordon Brown which he co-chaired and which went well and there were a number of countries there. His Excellency said Mr. Brown came with preconceived thoughts for the developing world and at the forum His Excellency informed that Guyana is opposed to the Mexican proposal that all countries should pay for climate change. One of the arguments by the UK is that you will get back more than you put in. But if this is so why do the need to pay in the first place? His Excellency informed that the Heads of States were exposed to climate change issues during the roundtable discussions and most people left with the recognition that it is something serious. HE noted that the negotiations have shifted from the technical level to the political level and that there are positive signs with Japan and Brazil among others have made positive statements.
- 5.5 His Excellency informed that there were other meetings with Hilary Clinton, the US Secretary of State. HE noted that forests will be a part of the Copenhagen Agreement however a key issue is if financing at the magnitude will be available. It was noted that there was agreement in the AOSIS meeting because His Excellency was adamant in his argument on climate change. They have included forests and funding mechanism: market based and fund.
- 5.6 Ms. Jocelyn Dow reported that the Guardian had an article for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, on the trip to New York. That is a big step. Ms. Dow stated she is glad the public is on this side. Ms. Dow also said that the article reported by Janette Bulkan needs a response and that IIED will respond to the article.
- 5.7 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that most Guyanese are very pleased about the meetings in New York. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time in a long time that there are positive things said about Guyana and not the ghost of Jonestown. MS. Radzik informed the MSSC that Dr.David Singh said that from CI perspective the meetings were incredible. Dr Singh said it was a high point for their work. The meeting with the industrial CEOs was very significant in their view.
- 5.8 His Excellency informed the MSSC that he met with the head of ESRI who is prepared to provide software for free for the MRV system. In addition ESRI will send expertise to provide training and a small group of technical persons will be convened. Also, Guyana could establish a separate institution on GIS for specialised skill training to be used for several areas like land use, crime

and as a mapping tool. This small institute could accommodate 30 students who can then be deployed across Ministries.

- 5.9 Ms. Vanda Radzik enquired about the meeting at the opening of the Takatu Bridge.
- 5.10 His Excellency stated that it was a good meeting. But, there were those persons who brought up the questions related to schools and other issues. Many people were concerned about jobs etc. His Excellency said that opportunities will be present for the people in the area while emphasising the need to keep the environment safe. His Excellency said that he spoke of the ecosystems and about benefits and what Guyana is trying to get. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time since 1993 when His Excellency went with Dr. Jagan that Brazil has shown real willingness to share technology outside specific investments. They guard their technology very well.
- 5.11 Minister Pauline Sukhai said that persons at the opening were concerned about markets and what is needed to expand markets.
- 5.12 Mr. Sydney Allicock requested that in order for people to be excited in the bigger world it is important that the information is trickled down to the communities. It is difficult to partake if they do not know what is going on the international scene.
- 5.13 His Excellency informed Mr. Allicock that nothing will change fundamentally what Guyana is trying to achieve. All these meetings are to get forest included in Copenhagen. His Excellency reiterated that if there is no financing then the LCDS cannot be funded. The forest initiative will flop. His Excellency pointed out that people need to read and stay informed, Government can only give the basics. In terms of going back to the communities, nothing will change till December, and thereafter then Guyana will go back to the communities.
- 5.14 Ms. Jocelyn Dow asked if a “Dear Citizen” letter should be written to inform the public of the outcome of the New York Meetings.
- 5.15 His Excellency stated that when the Strategy is finalised, it might be the right time to write as this is part of the process. When the Strategy is finalised, a note can be sent to communities on what happened to bring them up to date on what we expect from Copenhagen.
- 5.16 Mr. Edward Dreyfus asked if the funds from Norway are dependent on the outcome of Copenhagen to which His Excellency informed that the Agreement with Norway is not dependent on Copenhagen.

## **6 Any Other Business**

- 6.1 Mr. James Singh stated that a mission from the World Bank will be coming for 6<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>. It will be their 2<sup>nd</sup> visit and will visit the communities of Nappi and Kamarang.
- 6.2 Mr. Ashton Simon informed that the Indigenous NGOs completed the awareness outreach in Regions 7 and 8, returning on Tuesday last and is preparing a report which will be sent to the OCC.
- 6.3 Mr. Joe Singh informed that he will part of a Military Group in Europe for Security on Climate Change. It consists of retired military officers from around the world. There will be a meeting for the Group in Brussels next week to come up with something sensible for Copenhagen.
- 6.4 Ms. Mimi Fernandes stated that people are getting mixed up with REDD and the LCDS because some Toshias did not explain to their villagers the difference and what they are about.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

**End of Minutes**

A number of key points were made and follow up action identified. This is summarised below.

<b>Key Points</b>	<b>Follow Up</b>
Mr. Sarwan, Mr. Chandarpaul and Kaieteur News should get involved in the marketing of the country's tourism sector.	Gerry Gouveia to follow up
A response should be made for the article written to the Guardian by Janette Bulkan	IIED to follow up
The I-NGOs should be present when the World Bank visits Nappi and Kamarang	I-NGOs to follow up
After the finalising of the Strategy the MSSC should meet once every 2 weeks	OCC to follow up
The NTC should send a letter to all relevant bodies establishing their credentials as the head body representing the Indigenous people in Guyana.	NTC to follow up