

REPUBLIC OF GHANA
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP
ROAD MAP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GHANA'S FOUR-YEAR 5TH OPEN
GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ghana in its efforts to deepen democracy and good governance practice signed-on to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative in 2011 to reaffirm its commitments to open, transparent, participatory and accountable governance. The OGP is a multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at securing concrete commitments from governments to promote accountability, transparency, and citizen participation using innovative technology in service delivery. Since 2012, the Government of Ghana has developed National Action Plans (NAPs) jointly with Civil Society Organizations towards the fulfillment of key governance principles of OGP. Four National Action Plans have been successfully developed and implemented.

Ghana's approach to the implementation of the OGP conforms to the dictates of the global framework. An equal number of public sector and Civil Society Organizations constitute the Steering Committee (SC). It is however important to mention that the SC also brings on board representatives of Government (the executive arm), Parliament, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The National Steering Committee is chaired by a government representative and co-chaired by a CSOs representative.

The Public Sector Reform Secretariat (PSRS), under the Supervision of the Office of the Senior Presidential Advisor (OSPA) is the host Organization for the OGP. Its mandate is to facilitate the development of the country's Action Plans and coordinate their implementation. The OSPA /PSRS as the host organization for OGP, has the responsibility to also mobilize resources from Government and other sources for the implementation of the country's National Action Plans.

2.0 THE GHANA OGP CONTEXT

Ghana's commitment to developing and implementing OGP activities is strong as ever. This is because the Government of Ghana considers OGP as one of many important mediums for shaping concrete and effective policies to positively impact the quality of life of the citizenry.

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana provides a framework for the people to commit themselves to open government under 'The Directive Principles of State Policy'.

Within this overall framework, Ghana has adopted and implemented a wide variety of measures in all the open government thematic areas namely transparency, citizens' participation, accountability as well as technology and innovation.

The 4th National Action Plan had broad commitments to reform under the five key pillars of OGP. These are transparency, accountability, citizens' participation, technology and innovation, and open parliament. Under these pillars specific commitments were made for the country to implement within a two-year implementation cycle. The implementation of the 4th National Action Plan ended in June 2023.

By the OGP criteria, Action Plans are developed every two years, however, Ghana has decided to extend its 5th National Action Plan development and implementation cycle, to cover four years. This is for cost efficiency reasons and, to allow a longer time for implementation by the relevant agencies of the state.

The 5th National Action Plan is due for submission by 31st December, 2023. Some of the new areas of interest in the development discourse that has attracted attention stems also from the Independent Reporting Mechanism Ghana - Co-Creation Brief 2023

https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Ghana_Co-Creation-Brief_2023.pdf and likely to feature in the 5th Action Plan include Right to Information, Health Sector Accountability, Energy Sector Contract Transparency and Open Fisheries policy making, and others that may be proposed and prioritized during stakeholder consultations.

3.0 GHANA'S OGP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Ghana OGP is governed by a 20-member Steering Committee (SC) with membership drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and CSOs. It was established in August 2012, and is currently chaired by the Senior Presidential Advisor, and co-chaired by a CSO representative. Additionally, Parliament has two representatives on the SC which ensures issues are representative and capture the voices of the legislature.

The multi-stakeholder SC has responsibility for the development of national action plans, which captures the country's OGP commitments. The action plans are co-created, with a shared responsibility for their implementation. Selected institutions with priority issues featuring in the NAP are assigned the lead role while others support. Resourcing for the implementation is supposed to be planned for in the annual budgets of the sector institutions and drawn from the consolidated fund. Despite the fact that planning and budgeting is done, resources allocated are usually limited therefore making it difficult for implementation of planned actions.

From the SC, working groups have been created around the various thematic areas of OGP namely transparency, citizen participation, accountability and technology and innovation. These working groups follow-up and monitor implementation of commitments in Action Plans.

Two other groups focusing on sensitization and awareness creation of the OGP to promote visibility among the public sector and secure commitment for implementation on the NAPs. The second of this group is the recently created adhoc resource mobilization team charged with the responsibility to identify and engage prospective development partners and donors to support resources from the government for the effective co-creation process and coordination of the activities.

S/N	ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN (ROADMAP)	RESPONSIBILITY	DATES
1.	Preparation of end of term Self-Assessment Report for the IRM Report	Steering Committee (SC) Members/Point of Contact	17 th - 4 th August, 2023
2.	Review of 4 th National Action Plan and Political Economy Analysis	SC Member consultant	August, 2023
3.	Discuss results with SC/MSG member consultant on the review exercise and to set the parameters for consultation on the 5 th Action Plan	Steering Committee Members	11 th -15 th September, 2023
4.	Invite for inputs and disseminate draft commitments to wider stakeholders by uploading them on the OGP Ghana google drive and share via social media, and emails	SC Members/Point of Contact	18 th September to 2 nd October, 2023
5.	Organize three (3) Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meetings in the Southern, Middle and Northern belts of the country to prioritize the proposed commitments and agreed areas from the review of the 4 th NAP to be carried into the 5th Action Plan	SC Members/ Point of Contact	9 th – 13 th October 2023
6.	Hold Bilateral Meetings and sensitize potential Ministries, Departments and Agencies, collaborating state actors and Civil Society Organisations which will implement proposed commitments in the 5 th OGP NAP to secure their buy-in and to ensure that they budget for the commitments. This	SC Members/Point of Contact Implementing Institutions/Agencies	16 th – 31 st October, 2023

	meeting would target Senior Management of the target entities		
7.	Organize a multi-stakeholder meeting to validate the priority areas that stakeholders agreed to at the consultative and bilateral meetings with stakeholders towards the finalization of the 5 th Action Plan	SC Members/Point of Contact	13 th – 17 th November 2023
8.	Submission of draft 5 th Action Plan to Steering Committee	SC Member consultant	6 th November, 2023
9.	Submission of Final 5 th Action Plan to Steering Committee	SC Member Consultant	December 2023
10.	Submission of Final 5 th Action Plan to OGP Support Unit	Point of Contact	December 2023
11.	Designing and Printing of 300 copies of NAP-5	Point of Contact	January, 2024
12.	Sectoral Engagements & dissemination of NAP-5	SC Members/Point of Contact	January, 2024