



18<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **OPEN GOVERNMENT WEEK CELEBRATION IN GHANA**

As the world marks the Open Government week, (OpenGovWeek) the Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) together with OGP National Steering Committee, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), and the Ghana Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations Network (GPMON) is by this release announcing the commencement of the Open Government Week (OpenGovWeek) in Ghana

Ghana joins over 70 member countries worldwide of Open Government Partnership (OGP) to commemorate the Open Government Week which takes place from Monday, 17-Friday, 20 May, 2021. This week is set aside for stakeholders within the OGP community to converge and discuss the successes and challenges bedeviling the achievement of the objectives of the partnership which include promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. According to the Global OGP, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the critical need for openness in all public decisions relative to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance ‘open data is helping to track the spread of the virus and empowering citizens with the necessary information to keep them safe. Also, Open contracting, citizen participation, and transparent oversight offer a better path for governments distribution of vaccines within countries Open government ensures government is held accountable to the citizens on all public procurement aimed to managing the spread and treatment of COVID-19 cases. However, a lot more is still left to be done, it is in this regard that another ‘R’ is being introduced to signify *Open Renewal*. The other ‘R’s are *Open Response + Open Recovery* campaign. ‘*Open Renewal* is about more than resetting. It is about tackling the systematic weaknesses in our societies that for too often have held too many countries back’.

In Ghana, 2021 marks another milestones in the history of the country’s OGP journey. The country is currently going through the process of finalizing its 4<sup>th</sup> National Action Plan, and is commencing a conversation on Open Parliament which is a critical part of the OGP process. As part of the weeklong OGP activities, the processes culminating into the adoption of Ghana’s 4<sup>th</sup> OGP National Action Plan will be enhanced. It is critical that this process which will result in the NAP4 speaks to advancing; Transparency and Accountability, Tackling Systemic Inequalities, Protecting Democracy and Civic Space, and Enhancing Citizen Participation.

Ghana became a member of OGP in September 2011, and has since implemented 3 National Action Plans with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan ending in 2019. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Action plan focused greatly on initiatives that aimed to address corruption, through disclosure of information in different sectors, enacting new legislation and promoting citizen feedback at the local level. A national Steering Committee of 20 members, with representation and support from civil society organisations was formed to lead the co-creation process of the National Action Plan.

Activities slated to celebrate the OpenGovWeek in Ghana are as follows:

- Wednesday, 19 May | National Stakeholders Consultative Meeting for the Development of the 4<sup>th</sup> OGP National Action Plan.
- Thursday, 20 May | Open Parliament Conversation in Ghana

We therefore count on your continuous support towards promoting transparency, accountability and responsive government in Ghana.

*All questions relating to this release should be brought to the attention of Mr. Benjamin Opoku Aryeh (Senior Programme Officer) via email on [baryeh@parliamentafrica.com](mailto:baryeh@parliamentafrica.com) or 0547-018360*