

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE
(OGP-SC) MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 30TH MARCH 2023 AT ALISA HOTEL,
RIDGE, ACCRA AT 11:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| 1. Mrs. Linda Ofori-Kwafo | Executive Director, GII (Chairperson) |
| 2. Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah | Director, F&A and OGP PoC, PSRS |
| 3. Dr. Eric Oduro Osae | Director General, Internal Audit Agency |
| 4. Mrs. Eunice Osae | Director, CMD, OHCS |
| 5. Ms. Mary A. Addah | Programmes Manager, GII |
| 6. Mr. Joseph Oti Frimpong | Programmes Officer, CDD-Ghana |
| 7. Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah | Deputy Country Director, SEND-Ghana |
| 8. Mr. Stephen Azantilow | Director-Anti-Corruption, CHRAJ |
| 9. Ms. Esther Ahulu | Programmes Manager, CHRI/RTI Coalition |
| 10. Ms. Priscilla Solomon | State Attorney, ORC |
| 11. Mr. Musah Issah | Deputy Director Regulatory, MoCD / NITA |
| 12. Charles Nana Antwi | Deputy Executive Director, EOCO |
| 13. Ms. Mina Mensah | Director, CHRI, Africa Office |
| 14. Ms. Bridget A. Gyamfi | Assistant Director IIA, Ministry of Information |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY

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| 1. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo | Senior Presidential Advisor |
| 2. Mrs. Halima S. Yakubu | Chief Director, PSRS |
| 3. Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah | Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency |
| 4. Ms. Domtie Sarpong | Principal State Attorney, ORC |
| 5. Mr. Isaac Aidoo | OGP PoC, STMA |
| 6. Dr. Steve Manteaw | Co-Chair GHEITI |

MEMBERS ABSENT

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| 1. Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng | Member of Parliament, Juaben Constituency |
| 2. Dr. Kwesi Jonah | Senior Research Fellow, IDEG |
| 3. Ms. Kathy Addy | Deputy Chair, NCCE |
| 4. Ms. Nafi Chinery | West Africa Regional Manager, NRG |
| 5. Mr. Kwabena Denkyira | Director, HRMD, MLGRD |

IN- ATTENDANCE

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| 1. Mr. Robert Poku Kyei | Technical Advisor, OSPA |
| 2. Ms. Rushaiya Ibrahim-Tanko | Project Director, PPA Transparency, EFGH |
| 3. Mr. Samuel Bekoe | Executive Director, CEDA |
| 4. Ms. Nancy Avevor | Programmes Officer, BudgIT Ghana |
| 5. Ms. Jennifer Addochie Moffat | Communication Lead, BudgIT Ghana |
| 6. Mr. Khiddir Lddris | Research Lead, BUDGIT GHANA |
| 7. Ms. Annette O. Boateng | Programme Officer, PSRS |

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| 8. Mr. Nana Kwabena Nketiah | IT/IM Officer, PSRS |
| 9. Ms. Aseye Tinglafo | Research Officer, PSRS |
| 10. Ms. Albertha Ampoh | Secretary, PSRS |

	<p>Committee. This was to help the Committee consider advocacy in deepening health sector accountability and enhancing contract transparency in the power sector for its 5th National Action Plan.</p>	
3.0	Presentations	
3.1	<p>Presentation on Health Sector Accountability</p> <p>Ms Jennifer Addochie Moffatt, the Communications Lead, BudgIT Ghana was invited by the Chair to begin her presentation on Health Sector Accountability. Ms Moffatt touched on the functions and objectives of BudgIT, their presence and operations in five (5) Countries across the World, their activities in Ghana and their successes and milestones.</p> <p>Her presentation also highlighted Ghana's agreement to committing fifteen percent (15%) of its annual budget to improve health care at the African Union's Abuja declaration in 2001 and the need to address some pertinent challenges in the Health Sector which in her opinion, could be attributed to corruption, mismanagement, and the ignorance of citizens to demand improved health care from Government.</p> <p>She further indicated that, although Ghana had already implemented four (4) OGP National Action Plans, none focused on health sector. She however remained optimistic that, the OGP platform in Ghana could be used to speed up processes to attaining Universal Health Coverage by 2030.</p> <p>Ending her presentation, Ms Moffatt advocated for the inclusion of Health Sector Accountability in the 5th OGP National Action Plan with a focus on budget and expenditure tracking, leveraging technology. She believed that, if adequate resources were allocated to the Health Sector, and expenditure was properly monitored and tracked by independent Civil Society stakeholders, it would improve accountability and prudent spending in the sector, inform policy formulation and improve health care in Ghana.</p>	
3.2	<p>Presentation on Enhancing Contract Transparency in Ghana's Power Sector.</p> <p>The second presentation on enhancing contract transparency in the power sector was led by Ms Rushaiya Ibrahim- Tanko, Project Director, PPA Transparency, Energy for Growth Hub and Mr Samuel Bekoe, Executive Director, CEDA and Governance and Economic Consultant.</p>	

<p>3.3</p>	<p>Ms Rushaiya began the presentation by giving an overview of what a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was, the contract duration, and the type of procurement processes used for contracting.</p> <p>She defined a PPA as a standard contract for financing electricity infrastructure usually with a contract life between twenty (20) – thirty (30) years. She also mentioned that in Ghana, most Independent Power Producers (IPPs) were engaged in using the unsolicited procurement process.</p> <p>Siting an example of Brazil’s PPA contracting processes, she indicated that all relevant documents and processes were open and published on the contractor’s website. However, most African countries were required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement with IPPs which do not make the process transparent. She added that, so far, Ghana’s agreement with IPPs had been on a” take or pay” basis. This in her opinion results in accumulated national debts which could be managed or avoided if these agreements were made available for public scrutiny and stakeholder engagements were deepened.</p> <p>To further broaden the discussion, Mr Bekoe also indicated that there had been progressive growth in the Power Sector resulting from continual investments by successive governments. He also indicated that Ghana currently produces more power than it can consume. Additionally, about eighty percent (80%) of Ghana’s population have access to electricity.</p> <p>Backing his claims with data, Mr Bekoe passionately made a case for the use of the OGP platform to spur action for the inclusion of individual stakeholders and Civil Society Organisations in the Power Sector during Power Purchase Contract negotiations to promote transparency and minimize corruption in the sector.</p> <p><u><i>Concluding Remarks/Way Forward</i></u></p> <p>At the end of their insightful presentations, the Steering Committee agreed to include Enhancing Power Purchase Contract Transparency in the Power Sector to its commitments under the OGP 5th National Action Plan.</p> <p>The Committee also alluded to the enormous contributions of Civil Society Organisations who were investing and advocating to ensure transparency and growth in Ghana’s Health Sector. However, the Committee requested the BudgIT Ghana team to identify and collaborate with institutions in Ghana that already had commitments in the Health Sector and the type of commitments they had to inform their next course of action.</p>	
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<p>4.0</p>	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>The Chairperson called the meeting to order to continue the second session of the meeting.</p> <p>CORRECTION AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 15th December, 2022 were read and the following correction was made.</p> <p>Page 1, first paragraph, last sentence “Annette O. Boateng, Programmes Officer” was corrected to “Annette O. Boateng, Programmes Officer, Public Sector Reform Secretariat.”</p> <p>In the absence of any corrections, Dr. Eric Oduro Osae, Director General, Internal Audit Agency moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah, Deputy Country Director, SEND Ghana.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>		
<p>5.1</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p><u>Update on Conference on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure and discussion on way forward</u></p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah indicated that the Sub-committee which was set up to work on the issues and recommendations that came out of the Beneficial Ownership Conference and some recommendations were made. According to her, some of the issues were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obsolete Equipment • Data Integrity Issues and • Building the demand side and capacity <p>Looking at the issues above, the committee recommended that as a Country there was the need to tackle some of the problems and show some commitment afterwards, they could also ask for additional support elsewhere.</p>	
<p>5.2</p>		

Report on the Bilateral Meeting between the Hon Senior Presidential Advisor and Chairman of OGP Steering Committee in the 2022 OGP Africa and Middle East Regional Meeting and Matters Arising

The OGP Point of Contact mentioned the following which were discussed

- The issue was for Ghana to submit some difficult issues the country was not finding easy to tackle to OGP and to find out if we could learn from other countries that had gone through similar situations.

The committee were of the view that the country should try tackling some of the issues before seeking help outside the country.

- Another issue was for Ghana to consider a commitment in political party financing.

Regarding this issue, the committee indicated that Ghana was a beacon of hope to several countries in Africa so the Chief Executive Officer suggested Ghana could consider advancing the commitment in the next Action Plan which is the 5th Action Plan so that it could give hope for other countries to emulate.

Also, the Sub-Committee proposed that Ghana could study from other countries that had implemented a commitment in political party financing.

A member of the committee mentioned that there was a Civil Society Organization (CSO) Coalition led by Centre for Democratic Development-Ghana (CDD-Ghana) who were working on political party financing and that a lot of discussion in that area had been held in having regulations and a regime that was well defined.

The Sub-Committee also indicated that if the reason for advancing the commitment was to look at cost of elections and for competition in elections, then the Steering Committee could consider advancing the commitment in the next Action Plan.

- The next issue is for Ghana to join the Beneficial Ownership leadership group.

With this the Point of Contact indicated that the OGP Chief Executive Officer felt that Ghana was doing so well in terms of Beneficial Ownership Transparency and therefore should be a member of the Beneficial Leadership Group. She indicated that Ghana had joined the Beneficial Leadership Group through the

5.3	<p>assistance of the Chief Executive Officer, OGP. Mrs. Thelma-Ohene Asiamah stated that though she had not received any feedback from the Office of the Registrar of Companies regarding the matter, she believed that Ghana was officially in the group. She believed that from time to time the representative of the ORC would provide some information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another issue that came up for discussion was for Ghana to consider running for a seat on the Global OGP Steering Committee. <p>The PoC stated that Ghana qualified in all aspects except for non-payment of Ghana's subscription. She indicated that Ghana had made efforts to pay the outstanding debt for Ghana to join the Global OGP Steering Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana to attend the OGP Global Summit in Tallin in September, 2023. <p>According to the PoC, the Chief Executive Officer called on Ghana to attend the Summit. She indicated that an invitation letter had already been sent to the Chairman and once again the Committee suggested that the Government should sponsor a delegation from Ghana to represent her at the Summit. They suggested a core group which is the Chairman, Co-chair, Point of Contact, two (2) Parliamentarians who were on the Steering Committee, Speaker of Parliament, two (2) members of the Steering Committee and a representative from the local level of OGP. The PoC made it clear to members that, she was yet to deliver the message to the Chairman who was out of the office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding a cabinet Retreat/Workshop <p>The OGP Chief Executive Officer wanted OGP to be well known among Cabinet Ministers. He believed if they knew more about OGP, implementing the commitments would be much easier. According to him, it had been done in several countries. The committee then recommended that, the Chairman should take it up and ensure that it was incorporated in the programme for Cabinet</p> <p><u>Discussion on status of implementation of 4th OGP National Action Plan and way forward</u></p> <p>The PoC informed the meeting that she was tasked by the Chairman to organize a virtual Feedback and Monitoring Session but that had not been done. She had circulated a monitoring template to lead implementing agencies. According to</p>	<p>PoC, OGP</p> <p>Chairman OGP Steering C'ttee</p>
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5.4	<p>her she had received feedback from the Internal Audit Agency (IAA) and State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA). She stated that she was yet to receive a response from the other implementing agencies. The PoC made the committee aware that NRGi would be supporting the OGP Secretariat to organize an in-person feedback session between April and May, 2023.</p>	
	<p><u>Discussion on development of 5th Open Government Partnership National Action Plan</u></p> <p>The PoC stated that, it was approved by the Chairman and members of the Steering Committee to invite representatives from Energy for Growth Hub and BudgIT Ghana to make presentations for input into the 5th National Action Plan (NAP).</p>	
6.0		
6.1	<p>MAIN BUSINESS</p>	
	<p>Completion of 4th OGP National Action Plan (NAP) and matters arising.</p> <p>The PoC informed members that, by June 2023 the 4th Action Plan would have terminated and as part of the OGP rules, OGP Ghana is supposed to submit a Self- Assessment Report. She further stated that the feedback and monitoring session would help to collate some information for the Self –Assessment Report. The meeting deliberated on who should be contracted to prepare a Self-Assessment Report. The committee suggested Dr. Esther Offei-Aboagye who was a seasoned researcher, Mr. George Osei Bimpeh who also had experience in research and had also served on the OGP Steering Committee and Mr. Akumiah formerly of the National Information Technology Authority to do the Self-Assessment. The Co-Chair suggested that Terms of Reference (TOR) should be prepared for input from the Committee.</p> <p>Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah, Deputy Country Director for SEND Ghana was tasked to liaise with the OGP PoC to prepare the TOR.</p>	<p>Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah, PoC</p>
6.2	<p>Development and submission of 5th OGP NAP under these:</p>	

<p>6.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Map for Co-creation <p>The PoC suggested some activities to be undertaken (Roadmap) and the specific dates due. The activities are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review/ Validate Roadmap for the development of the 5th National Action Plan-30th March, 2023 ➤ Recruitment of consultant from within the SC for the preparation of the 5th National Action Plan-May 2023 ➤ Review of the 4th National Action Plan and Political Economy Analysis-June 2023 ➤ Meeting with consultant to discuss results of the review exercise and to set the parameters for consultation on the 5th Action Plan-July 2023 ➤ Organize 1st Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting for the developing of the Next Action Plan-August 2023 ➤ Hold Bilateral Meetings and sensitize potential Ministries, Departments and Agencies which will implement proposed commitments in the 5th OGP NAP to secure their buy-in and to ensure that they budget for the commitments. -September 2023 ➤ Submission of Final 5th Action Plan-31st December 2023 <p>The roadmap was accepted by the Committee. The PoC then stated that she had suggested Dr. Steve Manteaw, Co- Chair, GHEITI to the Chairman to prepare the 5th NAP. The Co-Chair and members deliberated on it and finally agreed for Dr. Steve Manteaw to prepare the 5th NAP.</p> <p>Two-Year NAP Versus Four-Year NAP</p> <p>The OGP PoC stated that the new standards from the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) had given room for countries to develop either two years or a four-year NAP. The only distinction was that with the four-year NAP, two years down the line, a refresh would be done. This meant going back to do consultations to find out what had been implemented and if there was the need to review commitments.</p>	
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