

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP STEERING
COMMITTEE (OGP-SC) MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 23rd JUNE, 2022 AT
THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISOR AT 10:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| 1. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo | Senior Presidential Advisor (Chairman) |
| 2. Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah | Director, F&A and OGP PoC, PSRS |
| 3. Dr. Steve Manteaw | Co-Chair, GHEITI |
| 4. Ms. Linda Ofori-Kwafo | Executive Director, GII |
| 5. Ms. Domtie Sarpong | Principal State Attorney, RGD |
| 6. Ms. Mary A. Addah | Programmes Manager, GII |
| 7. Mr. Mawuli Segbefia | Director, PPMED, Ministry of Information |
| 8. Ms. Eunice Osae | Director, OHCS |
| 9. Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah | SEND-Ghana |
| 10. Mr Richard Ebo Amuah | Chief Budget Analyst, MoF |
| 11. Mr Isaac Aidoo | OGP PoC, STMA |
| 12. Ms. Nafi Chinery | West Africa Regional Manager, NRG |
| 13. Mr. Musah Issah | MoCD, NITA |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY

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| 1. Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah | Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency |
| 2. Mrs. Halima S. Yakubu | Chief Director, PSRS |
| 3. Ms. Mina Mensah | Director, CHRI, Africa Office |
| 4. Dr. Kwesi Jonah | Senior Research Fellow, IDEG |
| 5. Ms. Regina O. Amanfo | Senior Programmes Officer, CDD-Ghana |
| 6. Mr. Kwabena Denkyira | Director, HRMD, MLGRD |
| 7. Charles Nana Antwi | Deputy Executive Secretary, EOCO |
| 8. Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng | Member of Parliament, Juaben Constituency |
| 9. Ms. Esther Ahulu | Programmes Manager, CHRI/RTI Coalition |
| 10. Ms. Kathy Addy | Deputy Chair, NCCE |
| 11. Dr. Eric Oduro Osae | Director General, Internal Audit Agency |

IN ATTENDANCE

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| 1. Ms. Annette O. Boateng | Programmes Officer, PSRS |
| 2. Mr. Ato K. Bessa-Simons | Assistant Programme Officer, PSRS |
| 3. Nana Kwabena Nketia | IT/IM Officer, PSRS |

| NO. | SUBJECT | ACTION BY |
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| 1.0 | <p>OPENING</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am with a prayer by Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah, Director F&A and OGP PoC, PSRS.</p> <p>The meeting was chaired by Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo, Senior Presidential Advisor and Chairman of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Steering Committee.</p> | |
| 1.1 | <p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>The Chairman, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo welcomed all members to the meeting and acknowledged the presence of two (2) new Steering Committee members in the persons of Mrs. Eunice Osae, Office of the Head of Civil (OHCS) and Mr. Musah Issah, Ministry of Communication and Digitalisation (MoCD) who were appointed by their various Institutions to the National Open Government Partnership Steering Committee.</p> | |
| 2.0 | <p>CORRECTION AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting was read, and the following corrections were made:</p> <p>Page 7, first paragraph, last line, sentence “The OGP Secretariat was task to have it rectified” was corrected to read “The OGP Secretariat was tasked to have it rectified”.</p> <p>In the absence of any further corrections, Ms. Domtie Sarpong Principal State Attorney, RGD moved for the adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah SEND-Ghana.</p> | |
| 3.0 3.1 | <p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Update on Sourcing of funds for activities of the OGP Secretariat for implementation of the 4th OGP NAP</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah indicated that she had completed the assigned task to circulate the draft proposal to solicit for funding for the implementation of OGP activities to Steering Committee members, Mrs. Mary Addah, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) and Dr. Steve Manteaw, Ghana Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) for their input.</p> | |

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| <p>3.2</p> | <p>Hosting of the 2022 OGP Regional Meeting</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, informed members that, a Concept Paper and Budget estimates was sent to the Chairman for his approval to seek for extension of the deadline for the bid to host the 2022 OGP Regional Meeting.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Morocco expressed the interest to host the Africa and middle East Regional meeting ahead of Ghana and this has had been approved.</p> | |
| <p>3.3</p> | <p>Discussion on the draft Review Report on the 4th Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP)</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, informed members that the task to submit comments on the Action Plan Review Report on the 4th OGP NAP via email latest by 18th March, 2022 for onward submission to the IRM team by 22nd March, 2022 had been completed.</p> <p>She further informed the meeting that copies of the 4th OGP NAP had been forwarded to the newly appointed members of the Steering Committee.</p> | |
| <p>3.4</p> | <p>Update on Sensitization meetings with Lead Implementing Agencies</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact updated members on the Sensitization meetings with Lead Implementing Agencies.</p> <p>According to her, ten (10) Institutions had been sensitized. She added that during the sensitization at the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development (MLGDRD) the team was tasked to schedule a meeting with the Minister of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development (MLGDRD) with the help of the steering committee member from that Ministry on legalizing political party participation in district level elections, but that had not been done.</p> <p>She added that a follow up would be made to have that meeting with the Minister on the issue.</p> | |

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| <p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> | <p>She informed the meeting that, during the sensitization with the Ministry of Finance the team was tasked to rectify the commitment on the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982) which was suspended in July 2020 and would be restored in 2024. This she stated, had been done.</p> <p>MAIN BUSINESS</p> <p>Discussion on way forward with recommendations and suggested revisions from the Action Plan Review Report on the 4th OGP NAP</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed the meeting that the IRM team had recommended that Ghana should amend its 4th OGP NAP and resubmit in accordance with recommendations in the Action plan Review Report. She added that Ghana had up to October to submit a revised 4th OGP NAP.</p> <p>At this stage, Ms. Nafi Chinery, West Africa Regional Manager, NRGi suggested a meeting should be set up to zero in on the commitments the IRM team was concerned about and set timelines to accomplish them. She further added that a team should be set up and must constitute members working directly on the various commitments under-listed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment 1: Public Accounts Committee and Audit Report • Commitment 3: Witness Protection Act • Commitment 4: Public Officials' Asset Declaration • Commitment 6: Citizens Complaint Centers • Commitment 9: Beneficial Ownership • Commitment 12: Citizens Participation <p>Ms. Linda Ofori-Kwafo , Executive Director, GII added that, some members are experts in these commitments so a meeting should be held to discuss such matters.</p> <p>The Chairman however indicated that the task should be assigned to specific people from the various Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Public and Private spaces who are knowledgeable in these commitments to get a good work technically done.</p> <p>He further added that he would have consultations with one or two persons to get a core list of each commitment and indicated that these members will decide on experts to invite and assist in getting these commitments in the 4th Action Plan amended.</p> | |
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| 4.2 | <p>The Chairman added that SC members who would want to work on some commitments based on their experience and requisite knowledge were most welcome, he again pointed out that he would be glad to open the floor for such volunteers and have their names added to the list.</p> <p>Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah, SEND-Ghana suggested that the OGP Secretariat has the background of all SC members and their institutions so they could come out with suggested names, circulate amongst members, get people to buy in and get the work to commence.</p> <p>The Chairman reiterated that the OGP Secretariat would create a core group for each commitment to be looked at in detail and pointed out that these groups would have the right to invite experts to contribute to their discussions.</p> <p>He tasked the OGP Point of Contact to take the necessary steps to consult other members and create core groups around each commitment together with their conveners by Friday 30th June,2022.</p> <p>Update on sourcing for support for OGP activities</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact updated members on sourcing for support for OGP activities.</p> <p>She informed members that, the OGP Secretariat had engaged some Development Partners such as Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ,) United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Embassy of France, Department for International Development (DFID) and Star Ghana Foundation to help solicit for funding for the implementation of OGP activities.</p> <p>She again briefed members that the Embassy of France had indicated that they were interested in getting a Local Authority in France to partner Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) in areas of mutual benefit. She stated that the Chairman had sent a letter requesting the STMA to come up with a Concept paper which would be forwarded to the Embassy of France. STMA was asked to come up with a concept paper on the collaboration and this had been forwarded to the Embassy of France. The Embassy in turn indicated that they were working to secure a Local Authority to partner STMA.</p> | OGP Point of Contact |
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| <p>4.3</p> | <p>She further stated that the OGP Secretariat together with Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) had sent a proposal to Open Society Foundation Africa (OSFA) another funding Organization to solicit for funding for OGP activities and the Secretariat was awaiting feedback from them.</p> <p>Ms. Mary A. Addah Programmes Manager, GII added that Open Society Foundation Africa (OSFA) is a very reliable and credible donor source that has supported CSOs including GII in the last few decades and across Africa, and therefore it was ideal for GII to partner the OGP Secretariat and send a proposal to OSFA hoping to get funding to implement OGP activities.</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed members that GIZ had requested the OGP Secretariat to submit a concept paper without a budget and indicate areas of interest so they could support.</p> <p>She added that the Concept Paper had been prepared but had not been finalized with the Chairman for onward submission to GIZ.</p> <p>Contributing to the discussion, the Chairman urged that a research should be conducted on GIZ to know their areas of interest with respect to funding so request to solicit for funds could fall within their area of interest.</p> <p>Update on Ghana’s priority commitment Beneficial Ownership Disclosure in the 4th OGP NAP</p> <p>Regarding Ghana’s priority commitment on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure in the 4th OGP NAP the OGP Point of Contact informed members that based on the selection of Beneficial Ownership Disclosure (BOD) as the priority commitment, the OGP Support Unit had reached out to the OGP Secretariat and the Registrar-General’s Department to organize a virtual meeting to deliberate on how to support Ghana host a multi-stakeholder Forum on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure (BOD).</p> <p>She indicated that a committee had been set up by the Chairman to work on organizing the one-day Multi-Stakeholder Forum on BOD and they constituted officers from the Registrar-General’s Department (RGD), Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) and OGP Steering Committee members.</p> <p>Additionally, she informed members that the one-day conference was expected to be held between Kempinski Hotel and Labadi Beach Accra.</p> | |
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| <p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> | <p>ANY OTHER MATTERS</p> <p>Call for Local Assemblies to Join OGP</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed members that four other Municipal Assemblies namely Ketu-South Municipal Assembly, Anloga District Assembly, Tarkwa-Nsuem Assembly and Wassa-Amenfi Assembly who applied to join OGP had been approved to join Sekondi-Takoradi and Shama Municipal Assemblies as members of OGP at the local level.</p> <p>Mr. Isaac Aidoo, OGP Point of Contact, Sekondi-Takoradi Municipal Assembly informed members that he had contacted various local Assemblies including Tamale Municipal Assembly (TMA) to sensitize and get them on board. He added that he will help ensure that other more Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to join the OGP.</p> <p>The Chairman urged the OGP PoC, STMA to use his connections at the Local level to get other MMDAs to join.</p> <p>Global Steering Committee Election</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed members about the Global Steering Committee Elections and urged members to vote for countries who were standing for elections. These were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile representing the Americans • Cote d'ivoire representing Africa • Germany representing Europe • Indonesia representing Asia Pacific <p>After further deliberations, it was decided that OGP Ghana would vote based on the rankings below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cote d'ivoire representing Africa • Germany representing Europe • Indonesia representing Asia Pacific • Chile representing the Americans | |
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| <p>6.0</p> | <p>CLOSING</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all members for honoring the invitation to the meeting and for their active participation.</p> <p>In the absence of any further deliberations, the meeting ended at 1:00pm with a closing prayer by Ms. Linda Ofori-Kwafo, Executive Director, GII.</p> | |
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