

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30TH APRIL, 2021 AT THE CONFERENCE
ROOM OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
AT 11:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo	Senior Presidential Advisor (Chairman)
2. Mrs. Halima S. Yakubu	Chief Director, PSRS
3. Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah	Director, F&A and OGP PoC, PSRS
4. Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah	Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency
5. Dr. Kwesi Jonah	Senior Research Fellow, IDEG
6. Dr Steve Manteaw	Co-Chair, GHEITI
7. Ms. Domtie Sarpong	Principal State Attorney, RGD
8. Ms. Mary A. Addah	Programmes Manager, GII
9. Mr. George Osei-Bimpeh	Country Director, SEND-Ghana
10. Ms. Nafi Chinery	West Africa Regional Manager, NRG
11. Ms Patricia Dovi Sampson	Director, PPME, MoI
12. Mr Isaac Aidoo	OGP PoC, STMA
13. Ms Mina Mensah	Director, CHRI, Africa Office
14. Ms Mavis Asare Donkor	Director, PBMED, OHCS
15. Mr Richard Ebo Amuah	Chief Budget Analyst, MoF

ABSENT

1. Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng	Member of Parliament, Juaben Constituency
2. Ms. Kathy Addy	Deputy Chair, NCCE
3. Ms. Fati Lily Soale	Director, Human Resource, MLGD&RD
4. Ms. Esi Sey	Chief of Operations, IDEG
5. Ms. Esther Ahulu	Programmes Manager, CHRI/RTI Coalition

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Mr. Robert K. Poku Kyei	Technical Advisor, OSPA
2. Mr. Michael Adu-Gyamfi	Deputy Director, PSRS
3. Ms. Annette O. Boateng	IT/IM Officer , PSRS
4. Mr. Ato K. Bessa-Simons	Assistant Programme Officer, PSRS
5. Dr. Winnifred Nafisa Mahama	Director, Information Services Department
6. Mr. Emmanuel Bediako Mamfe	Special Aide, OSPA
7. Mr. Nana Kwabena Nketiah	Assistant Programmer, PSRS

No.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>Opening</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 11:33 am with a prayer by OGP Point of Contact, Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah.</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>	
2.0	<p>Opening Remarks by Chairman</p> <p>The Chairman, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo welcomed all members to the virtual meeting and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was for the Consultant contracted to prepare the 4th OGP National Action Plan (NAP 4) to make a presentation to the Committee.</p>	
3.0	<p>Main Business</p>	
3.1	<p>Presentation on the draft OGP 4th NAP by the Consultant</p> <p>The Consultant, Dr. Kwesi Jonah expressed his sincere appreciation to the chairman for the strong interest, he had shown for OGP activities.</p> <p>The Consultant in his submission indicated that the presentation would cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a review of some of the occurrences that had happened since the completion of the implementation of the three previous NAPs. • an attempt to respond to some of the comments or criticisms that researchers and experts passed on the implementation of previous NAPs. 	
3.1.1	<p>Highlights of Key Points</p> <p><u>Transparency and Accountability</u></p> <p>According to the Consultant, the major initiative taken in this thematic area is the decision in 2017 by the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to implement a significant anti-corruption pledge in NPP 2016 election manifesto.</p> <p>He gave the under listed as some key milestones that have been achieved under the Transparency and Accountability thematic area:</p>	

- Creation of the Office of the Special Prosecutor
- Implementation of the Beneficial Ownership Bill
- Passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Act
- Passage of the Right to Information Act

He also gave the two (2) setbacks to the implementation of this thematic area as:

- Forced retirement of the Auditor General and
- Resignation of the Special Prosecutor.

Civic Participation and Accountability

In relation to Civic Participation, the Consultant made members aware that NAP-3 and previous Action Plans in advancing the attainment of commitments under this thematic area overly focused on Client Service Units (CSU) and their integration with Social Accountability (SA) Units. The Local Government Level Client Service Units (CSUs) had been largely implemented but the opportunity to link the Sustainable Development Goal five (5) on gender equality to the thematic area had been consistently missed under OGP commitments.

He indicated that under this thematic area, much progress was not made on assets declaration by public office holders.

Technology and Innovation

According to the Consultant, in 2017 when NAP-3 was drawn up a major commitment under this thematic area was for the Ministry of Communication and related Ministries and Agencies to finalize the Ghana Open Data Policy by 2018 which had been done thereby making Ghana a leader in Africa in Open Data Initiative

The Consultant made members aware that the Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI) is under the leadership of the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) under the Ministry of Communication

and Digitization (MoCD). The GODI secretariat has since 2010 been located at NITA which functions to coordinate the initiative and respond to enquiries from data users.

He indicated that the importance of Open data for opening government derives from the fact that it promotes better governance and delivery of public services through increased accountability and transparency of public officials.

3.1.2 Lessons from the Three Previous National Action Plan

The Consultant indicated that a critical review of the three National Action Plans implemented to date points to several key lessons which should be factored into the ensuing plans going forward and summed them up as follows:

- Previous Action Plans were not strong on gender equity and social inclusiveness. Therefore, in spite of persistent efforts by civil society groups to have gender issues addressed in Ghana's governance agenda, little or no effort had been made to incorporate them into the previous action plans.
- Failure to ensure that commitments made in Action Plans become integrated into the priority plans and strategies of the government and civil society advocacy.
- Problem of overloading commitments. It is better to have a few OGP relevant specific commitments that can be effectively implemented than to have a tall list that cannot be implemented.

He proposed that the lessons enumerated above should serve as useful signpost that guides Ghana in terms of where we want to be in running a government that is open to the people in whom national sovereignty resides.

3.1.3

Comments and Contributions

<p>4.0</p>	<p>The Chairman, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo wanted to know how the Committee intends to communicate the implementation of OGP activities to government.</p> <p>It was explained that various Sector Ministries would be made an integral part of the consultation fora to be held on the development of the 4th OGP NAP.</p> <p>A member of the Steering Committee, Mr. George Osei-Bimpeh (Country Director, SEND-Ghana) also asked the Consultant to explicitly define the role of CSOs in the implementation of the NAP-4 since it was not captured.</p> <p>The Committee agreed and tasked the Consultant to replace the University of Professional Studies (UPS) with Ashesi University under collaborating institutions for implementing activities under the thematic area, Technology and Innovation.</p> <p>Agreement on new dates for Physical and Virtual National Stakeholder Consultative and Validation Meetings.</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah, proposed the third week of May, 2021 (i.e., between 17th and 21st May) for the Stakeholder Consultative meeting on the development of the OGP 4th NAP.</p> <p>She also suggested that after the Stakeholder Consultation, there should be a Stakeholder Validation meeting to finalize the draft OGP 4th NAP in June, 2021. This was agreed by members.</p> <p>2021 Global Open Government Partnership Elections.</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed members of the upcoming OGP global elections and stated that Ghana will not be able to partake due to the non –payment of its subscription fees.</p> <p>Closing</p>	<p>Dr. Kwesi Jonah, Consultant</p>

	<p>The Chairman thanked all members especially the Consultant for his dedication towards the preparation of the 4th OGP National Action Plan.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 12:10pm after the closing prayer was said by the Chief Director, Mrs. Halima S. Yakubu.</p>	
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