

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MINISTER
AT 11:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| 1. Mrs. Halima S. Yakubu | Ag. Chief Director, OSM |
| 2. Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah | Director, F&A and OGP PoC, OSM |
| 3. Dr. Steve Manteaw | Co-Chair, GHEITI |
| 4. Nana Antwi | Deputy Executive Director (EOCO) |
| 5. Ms. Domtie Sarpong | Principal State Attorney, RGD |
| 6. Ms. Fati Lily Soale | Director, Human Resource, MLGRD |
| 7. Ms. Patricia Dovi Sampson | Director, PPME, MoI |
| 8. Mr. Richard Ebo Amuah | Chief Budget Analyst, MoF |
| 9. Mary A. Addah | Programmes Manager, GII |
| 10. Ms. Linda Ofori-Kwafo | Executive Director, GII |
| 11. Ms. Regina O. Amanfo | Snr. Programme Officer, CDD |
| 12. Mr. Eric Akumiah | Data Expert, MoC |
| 13. Mr. George Osei-Bimpeh | Country Director, SEND-Ghana |
| 14. Ms. Mina Mensah | Director, CHRI, Africa Office |
| 15. Ms. Kathy Addy | Deputy Chair, NCCE |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY

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| 1. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafa | Hon. Senior Minister |
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IN ATTENDANCE

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| 1. Mr. Michael Adu-Gyamfi | Deputy Director, OSM |
| 2. Mr. Ato K. Bessa-Simons | Assistant Programme Officer, OSM |

NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
1.0	<p><u>Opening</u></p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 11:14 am with a prayer by Ms. Patricia Dovi Sampson, Director, PPME, Ministry of Information. This was followed with a self-introduction by members. It was chaired by the Ag. Chief Director, Office of the Senior Minister (OSM) on behalf of the Hon. Senior Minister.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Opening Remarks by Chairman</u></p> <p>The Ag. Chief Director, OSM apologised for the late start of the meeting and indicated that she was representing the Hon. Senior Minister since he was on another official assignment.</p> <p>She observed that most staff of OSM had little knowledge about the activities of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative and therefore Dr. Steve Manteaw, Co-Chair, Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) was invited to sensitize staff on the OGP Initiative.</p> <p>The Ag. Chief Director introduced the new Point of Contact (PoC) for OGP as Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah, Director, Finance and Administration, OSM and asked her to brief the meeting on the discussion held with the Chairman of the Committee on the status and way forward for OGP.</p> <p>The Point of Contact indicated that the meeting with the Hon. Senior Minister was as a result of an email she received from the OGP Country Support Unit reminding the Country of the rules and guidance relating to OGP Action Plan submissions, extension on implementation periods and Independent Reporting Mechanism Review processes. This was because the submission of the 4th Action Plan of OGP and its implementation had delayed.</p> <p>She added that in view of the penalty that the country risked for not submitting its 4th National Action Plan, the Hon. Senior Minister sought for authorisation for the extension of the submission of the 4th Action Plan to 31st August, 2021 from the OGP Country Support Unit and an emergency OGP Steering Committee meeting organised. She announced that approval for the request had been granted.</p> <p>She also made members aware of Hon. Senior Minister's desire to see all hands on deck to ensure that OGP activities are revived and its implementation accelerated. This was reiterated in the brief opening remarks read on behalf of the Chairman.</p>	
2.2	<p><u>Overview of OGP</u></p> <p>In view of the request for more information about the activities of the OGP, Dr. Steve Manteaw Co-Chair, GHEITI gave an overview of the OGP. He stated that it is an international initiative that seeks to secure concrete</p>	

	<p>commitments from governments to promote transparency, enhance citizen's participation, promote accountability, and adopt new technologies to enhance good governance. Within the framework of promoting state-civil society collaboration, the OGP is governed by a Global Steering Committee comprising representatives of government and civil society organizations.</p> <p>He continued that the formal launch of the OGP took place on 20th September, 2011, when eight founding governments, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States of America endorsed an Open Government Declaration and announced their country action plans. Over 78 participating countries and 20 subnational governments around the world, including Ghana, have since joined the initiative.</p> <p>He informed members that Ghana was required to set up a multi-stakeholder governance structure to oversee the implementation of the initiative. A 16 - member Steering Committee chaired by the then Minister of State responsible for Public Sector Reforms and with membership drawn from relevant MDAs and civil society was subsequently established.</p> <p>The Programmes Manager, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) added that after Public Sector Reforms was placed under the oversight of the Senior Minister, the Steering Committee held a meeting to brief the Hon. Senior Minister on the implementation status of the OGP.</p> <p>She indicated that an amount of Eight Thousand US Dollars (US\$8,000) which was transferred to Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) as a grant to support the OGP Co-creation process had still not been utilised.</p> <p>She stated that there was the need to write to the Donor of the grant to seek permission to use the funds for the OGP initial processes leading to the preparation of the 4th Action Plan.</p> <p>A member advised that a copy of the letter written by the OGP Secretariat requesting for the extension in the submission of the 4th OGP National Action Plan should be attached to the letter to the Donor.</p> <p>The Programmes Manager, GII was tasked to share copy of the grant document with members.</p>	
<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p><u>Main Business</u></p> <p>Road map for the Preparation of a National Action Plan</p> <p>Members suggested and agreed on the following activities to form the basis of the road map leading to the preparation of 4th National Action Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review the 3rd National Action Plan to ascertain what is relevant or irrelevant to the 4th Action Plan; ii. Organise stakeholder consultative meetings to ensure that the activities 	<p>The Programmes Manager, GII</p>

	<p>in the action plan are in sync with the planned and budgeted activities of the various implementing agencies.</p> <p>iii. Draft the National Action Plan</p> <p>iv. Validate the National Action Plan</p> <p>The Committee tasked the OGP Point of Contact to develop the suggested activities further into a draft road map to serve as a guide to the Steering Committee in preparing the 4th OGP Action Plan and share with members for their inputs for finalisation.</p> <p>Additionally, the OGP Point of Contact was tasked to liaise with the Programmes Manager, GII for copies of all past OGP Action Plans for circulation to members by close of day Tuesday, 15th September 2020.</p>	<p>OGP Point of Contact, OSM</p> <p>OGP Point of Contact, OSM</p>
3.2	<p>Agreement on Steering Committee Meetings</p> <p>Members agreed that the Steering Committee should meet quarterly starting from January, 2021. However, due to the enormity of the task ahead of the Steering the Committee before the end of December 2020, members agreed that monthly meetings, both virtual and physical should also be held.</p>	
3.3	<p>Development of a Monitoring Framework for OGP Implementation</p> <p>Regarding this, members agreed that it will be considered during the preparation of the National Action Plan.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Any Other Matters</u></p>	
4.1	<p>OGP Digital Youth Summit</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed members about an email she received in relation to an upcoming OGP Digital Youth Summit and wanted to seek the guidance of members on the way forward. Having deliberated on the issue members asked her to forward the mail in question to all Committee members for their perusal.</p>	<p>OGP Point of Contact, OSM</p>
4.2	<p>Opportunities for Funding OGP Activities</p> <p>The Point of Contact called on members to suggest possible ways to secure funds for the implementation of OGP activities.</p> <p>It was recommended that Development Partners such as United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the French Embassy in Ghana among others, were all interested in financing activities that brings accountability and transparency into governance and could be contacted in that regard.</p> <p>The Country Director, SEND-Ghana, Mr. George Osei-Bimpeh and Dr. Manteaw, Co-Chair, GHEITI were tasked to assist the OGP Secretariat in developing proposals to raise funds from Development Partners.</p>	<p>Country Director, SEND-Ghana & Co-Chair, GHEITI</p>

<p>5.0</p>	<p>Additionally, the Country Director, SEND-Ghana and the Programmes Manager, GII were tasked to assist the OGP Point of Contact to lead the process of the development of the 4th Action Plan.</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, OSM was also tasked to create a WhatsApp platform for members as well as circulate a tentative date for the next meeting by Thursday, 17th September, 2020.</p> <p>Closing</p> <p>The Ag. Chief Director, OSM thanked members for honouring the invitation to the meeting and for their active participation. She assured members of her full support for the OGP Initiative.</p> <p>In the absence of any further deliberations, the Deputy Executive Director, Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), Nana Antwi moved for the closure of the meeting and was seconded by Mrs. Linda Ofori-Kwafo, Executive Director, GII.</p> <p>The meeting came to a close at 12:45pm with a closing prayer by Mrs. Patricia Dovi Sampson, Director PPME, MoI.</p>	<p>Country Director, SEND-Ghana & Programmes Manager, GII</p> <p>OGP Point of Contact, OSM</p>
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