

CONCEPT NOTE

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOURTH OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

1.0 Background/ Introduction

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a multilateral initiative which aims at securing concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency and accountability; empower citizens through public participation, and fight corruption by harnessing new technologies to strengthen governance.

The OGP was founded by eight (8) governments (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States) and launched in 2011 by endorsing the Open Government Declaration. These countries then developed country specific action plans that detailed ambitious commitments they plan to implement. Till date, seventy-eight (78) countries have acceded to the declaration and joined the OGP.

Open Governance aims at strengthening democracy, with its core principles and demands of governments being the right of citizens to freely access information, right to participate in decision-making processes, and right to demand accountability, which requires that there is control and oversight in governance institutions.

2.0 Ghana's participation in the OGP

In September 2011, Ghana signed onto the OGP, as the principles and values of OGP are also enshrined in the 1992 Constitution and statutes. Over the years, successive governments have taken measures in one way or the other to promote transparency and accountability, enhance citizens' participation and adopt new technologies to enhance good governance. By signing onto the OGP, the government hopes to embark upon the open government principles of OGP namely transparency, civic participation, public accountability, as well as technology and innovation for openness and accountability- in a harmonious and consistent manner.

In 2012, 2015 and 2017, the Government of Ghana with support from civil society successfully developed and implemented the 1st, 2nd and 3rd National Action Plans (NAP) respectively. The NAPs were produced through several engagements with stakeholders at all levels. The implementation of the OGP NAPs does not see government as being solely responsible for the achievement of OGP objectives, but together with civil society. This broadens the engagement with all key stakeholders, especially where government is not visible. This co-creation and implementation mechanism provides the opportunity for government and civil society to continually collaborate with the aim of creating open and honest governance systems.

3.0 Proposed Activity

The NAP process is bi-annual and involves extensive consultations by all stakeholders, government and civil society, in order to arrive at the priority areas to be captured. Since the inception of OGP, Civil Society Organizations have been working closely with the Public Sector Reform Secretariat (PSRS) to ensure that the tenets of Open Governance are adhered to.

As the spirit of co-creation demands, it is imperative, again, that Civil Society Organization (CSO) and government come together to discuss and identify key priority commitments for the NAP 4. The proposed activity, a national stakeholder consultative meeting is expected to provide a platform for CSOs and government not only to discuss but also to identify and prioritize ambitious targets for NAP 4. Four (4) other virtual consultative meetings are expected to be held during the NAP development process to ensure Ghana comes out with a NAP 4 that meets the requirements of the community of OGP.

The first activity which is a one-day national stakeholder consultative meeting is scheduled to take place in Accra, in May, 2021 followed by four (4) other virtual stakeholder consultations. This event will result in the development of a draft NAP 4.

At the national stakeholder consultative meeting, the consultant to facilitate and lead the process of developing Ghana's 4th National Action Plan is expected to present the draft reports on the review of the previous three (3) NAPs and Political Economy Analysis (PEA). Participants are also expected to make inputs in terms of the four thematic areas of OGP, namely, transparency, accountability, citizens' participation and innovative and technology for incorporation into the draft NAP. The output of the multi-consultative meeting will be submitted to a national forum for validation.

4.0 Objectives

The Consultative process seeks to:

1. Report on the review of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd National Action Plans.
2. Report on the Political Economy Analysis on the governance architecture and capturing government's policy priorities to inform the development of the NAP 4.
3. Identify, prioritize and agree on key areas for inclusion in the National Action Plan four (NAP) 4.
4. Sensitise existing and potential Implementation Institutions and Agencies on OGP to secure their buy-in.
5. Review past approaches to implementing the first three (3) National Action Plans and agree on a modality to hold each other accountable for the implementation of the NAP 4.
6. Strengthen opportunities for interactions between government and CSOs on their role in development through the open governance process.

5.0 Expected Outcomes

1. Key areas for inclusion in NAP 4 identified, prioritized and agreed.
2. A Draft of the NAP 4 developed for validation.
3. Implementation Institutions and Agencies sensitised on OGP to secure their buy-in.
4. Clear modality/framework to hold each other accountable for the implementation of the NAP 4 developed.

6.0 Facilitators

For the consultative process, persons whose expertise has relevance to the principles and thematic areas of the OGP have been identified and will be engaged as facilitators and moderator as follows:

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| i. | Mr. George Osei-Bimpeh | - | Moderator (confirmed) |
| ii. | Dr. Steven Manteaw | - | Facilitator on Accountability |
| iii. | Mrs. Linda Ofori-Kwafo | - | Facilitator on Transparency |
| iv. | Mr. George Osei-Bimpeh | - | Facilitator on Citizens' Participation |
| v. | Mr. Eric Akumiah | - | Innovation and Technology |
| vi. | Rapporteur | - | To be confirmed by Consultant |

7.0 Participants

Participants to be targeted for the one-day Consultative Meeting are Sixty (60) and Forty (40) each for the four other virtual consultative meetings. They will be drawn from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and Private Sector.

8.0 Tentative Agenda

Time	Activity	Responsibility
9:00 am	Arrival and Registration	
9:30 am	Opening Prayer/Introductions	Volunteer/All
9:50-10:00 am	Welcome Remarks	Chief Director (OSM)
10:05-10:15 am	Brief Remarks	Senior Presidential Advisor
10:20-11:00 am	Presentation of draft 4 th National Action Plan	Dr. Kwesi Jonah
	Snack will be alongside breakout sessions	

11:00-1:00 pm	<p>Breakout Session: Sessions will be according to the thematic areas. (<u>transparency</u>, <u>accountability</u>, <u>citizens' participation</u> and <u>innovative and technology</u>)</p> <p>i. Facilitators will be expected to uncover the key issues from the point of view of the Consultant and from the various NAPs.</p> <p>ii. Discuss with group members about what other key issues scanning the open governance environment they propose should be incorporated into the NAP 4</p> <p>iii. Suggest the modalities for monitoring the NAP 4</p>	Facilitators & Participants
1:00- 2:00 pm	Lunch	All
2:00-3:00 pm	Plenary Session/Debriefing by Groups	Facilitators/Moderator
3:00-3:30 pm	Building consensus on commitment areas (Snack will be alongside)	Consultant/Moderator
3:35pm	Closing	