

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP STEERING
COMMITTEE (OGP-SC) MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2022 AT
THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISOR AT 10:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| 1. Mr. Robert K. Poku Kyei | Technical Advisor, OSPA- Ag. Chair |
| 2. Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah | Director, F&A and OGP PoC, PSRS |
| 3. Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah | Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency |
| 4. Dr. Steve Manteaw | Co-Chair, GHEITI |
| 5. Ms. Linda Ofori-Kwafo | Executive Director, GII |
| 6. Ms. Domtie Sarpong | Principal State Attorney, RGD |
| 7. Ms. Mary A. Addah | Programmes Manager, GII |
| 8. Mr. Mawuli Segbefia | Director, PPMED, Ministry of Information |
| 9. Mr. Kwabena Denkyira | Director, HRMD, MLGRD |
| 10. Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah | SEND-Ghana |
| 11. Ms. Regina O. Amanfo | Senior Programmes Officer, CDD-Ghana |
| 12. Ms. Esther Ahulu | Programmes Manager, CHRI/RTI Coalition |
| 13. Ms. Nafi Chinery | West Africa Regional Manager, NRGi |
| 14. Ms. Bridget A. Gyamfi | Asst. Director IIB, Ministry of Information |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY

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| 1. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo | Senior Presidential Advisor (Chairman) |
| 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. Mr Isaac Aidoo | OGP PoC, STMA |
| 6. Charles Nana Antwi | Deputy Executive Secretary, EOCO |
| 7. Mr Richard Ebo Amuah | Chief Budget Analyst, MoF |
| 8. Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng | Member of Parliament, Juaben Constituency |
| 9. Ms. Kathy Addy | Deputy Chair, NCCE |
| 10. Dr. Eric Oduro Osae | Director General, Internal Audit Agency |

IN ATTENDANCE

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| 1. Mr. Michael Adu-Gyamfi | Deputy Director, PSRS |
| 2. Ms. Annette O. Boateng | IT/IM Officer , PSRS |
| 3. Mr. Ato K. Bessa-Simons | Assistant Programme Officer, PSRS |

NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>OPENING</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Mr. Robert K. Poku Kyei, Technical Advisor, Office of the Senior Presidential Advisor (OSPA).</p> <p>He chaired the meeting on behalf of Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo, Senior Presidential Advisor and Chairman of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Steering Committee.</p>	
1.1	<p>Opening Remarks by Chairman</p> <p>The Technical Advisor, OSPA, Mr. Robert K. Poku Kyei welcomed all to the virtual meeting and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the draft Action Plan Review Report on the 4th Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP) • Update Steering Committee members on the Sensitization Meetings with Lead Implementing Agencies • Update Steering Committee members on the collaboration meeting with Parliamentary Network Africa. <p>He apologized on behalf of the Chairman and Senior Presidential Advisor who was not able to join the meeting because of other official engagements</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 1: Under members present, the name Mr. Robert K. Poku Kyei, Technical Advisor, OSPA was to be placed under the caption “In Attendance” on page 1.</p> <p>Page 1, Number 6: under Absent with Apologies, the name “Nana Antwi”, Deputy Executive Secretary, EOCO was corrected to read “Charles Nana Antwi”, Deputy Executive Secretary, EOCO.</p>	
3.0	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p>	
3.1	<p>Update on newly Appointed Steering Committee</p>	

	<p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah indicated that she had completed the assigned task of ensuring that Steering Committee members who were no longer at post in their respective Ministries are replaced.</p> <p>She stated that Mr. Kwabena Denkyira, Director, Human Resource Management and Development, Ministry of Local Government Decentralization and Rural Development (MLGDRD), Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah, SEND-Ghana, Dr. Eric Oduro Osae, Director-General, Internal Audit Agency (IAA) and Mrs. Eunice Osae, Office of the Head of Civil (OHCS) were new Steering Committee members who had been appointed by their various Institutions to the National Open Government Partnership Steering Committee.</p>	
3.2	<p>Sourcing of funds for activities of the OGP Secretariat for implementation of the 4th OGP NAP</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed members that the draft proposal to help solicit for funding support for the implementation of OGP activities was ready and would be circulated to Steering Committee members for their input.</p>	OGP Point of Contact
3.3	<p>Hosting of the 2022 OGP Regional Meeting</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed members that based on an estimated cost of hosting the 2022 Regional meeting contained in a memo that was received from the OGP Support Unit in South Africa, and due to budgetary constraints, the Chairman had recommended that Ghana should allow other countries in the Region to host the meeting and put itself in preparedness for the next one.</p> <p>However, some members were of the view that the full cost of hosting the Regional Meeting could be sourced from Development Partners and therefore a concept paper should be put together to source for funding.</p>	
4.0	<p>Mr. Robert K. Poku Kyei, Technical Advisor, OSPA proposed that going along with the recommendation from members, a Concept Paper and Budget estimates should be sent to the Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo, Senior Presidential Advisor (Chairman) for his approval and then seek for extension of the deadline for the bid to host the 2022 OGP Regional Meeting from the OGP Support Unit to the end of March.</p>	OGP Point of Contact
4.1	<p>MAIN BUSINESS</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 the meeting that the Action Plan Review Report on the 4th OGP NAP had been circulated by the Independent Report Mechanism (IRM) Team. She added that the IRM team tasked a researcher to interview some key stakeholders who were present at the Consultation and Validation meeting for the development and finalisation of the 4th OGP NAP.</p> <p>The key personalities interviewed included, Dr. Kwesi Jonah, Senior Research Fellow, IDEG and Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency.</p> <p>She indicated that a report was issued after the interactions and a Twenty-one (21) day window had been given to Ghana to submit the final report to the OGP Support Unit. According to her, the Review Report had been included in the agenda to solicit for comments from Steering Committee Members to be forwarded to the IRM team before publishing.</p> <p>She added that the following were some of the highlights that were made on Ghana's Action Plan Review 2021-2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of specificity in commitment design which had contributed to difficulty in assessing commitments' relevance to Open Government and potential for results. • Some commitments were assessed to have no or limited connection to Open Government and the remaining were not assessed to be promising and had either faced significant implementation challenges according to interviews conducted. These commitments were <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Commitments 4 (Public Officials' Asset Declaration) 5 (Resourcing the Office of the Special Prosecutor), and 8 (Restoring the Fiscal Responsibility Act) ii. Commitments 3 (Witness Protection Act) and 6 (Citizens Complaint Centers) iii. Commitment 7 (Open and Transparent Tracking of Public Investments) and 10 (Petroleum Sales Contract Transparency) <p>She again informed the meeting that three commitments were evaluated as most promising to contribute to substantial Open Government results and they were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment eleven (11) which aims to implement Ghana's 2019 Access to Information Law through training for responsible officials and the public, improved records management, and clear and standardized administrative processes. - • Commitment thirteen (13) which seeks to establish an Open Parliament Plan and parliamentary Open Government Steering Committee in collaboration with civil society. • Commitment fourteen (14) which aims to improve accessibility and scope of open data available on the National Open Data Portal and to implement a National Open Data Sharing Policy. 	
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5.0	<p>The OGP Point of Contact informed the meeting about a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Open Government Partnership Ghana Secretariat and Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica).</p> <p>She further briefed members present on the expected outcomes of the (MoU) which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint research, monitoring and evaluation of OGP activities from the angle of the legislature; • Joint training and capacity building for stakeholders on OGP; • Joint mobilization of internal and external funding for implementation of activities; • Creation and dissemination of educational materials and resources on OGP for publicity and media engagement. <p>Commenting on the MoU, some members were of the view that some CSOs had assisted in implementing the OGP programme in various ways in the past but did not sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the OGP Secretariat. There were also several CSOs which had been mentioned as collaborating institutions for the implementation of the commitment on Open Parliament and therefor advised that care should be taken so as not to sideline those CSOs through the signing of an MoU with one of them.</p> <p>Members asked that the MOU should be circulated to members and they should be given more time to thoroughly scrutinize the MoU before being signed.</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, Mr. Mawuli Segbefia from the Ministry of Information moved for the closure of the meeting and was seconded by Ms. Domtie Sarpong Principal State Attorney, RGD.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 12:35 pm with a closing prayer by the OGP Point of Contact, Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah</p>	
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