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

1. Mr. Robert K. Poku Kyei Technical Advisor, OSPA- Ag. Chair 2. Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah Director, F&A and OGP PoC, PSRS Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency 3. Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah Co-Chair, GHEITI 4. Dr. Steve Manteaw 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 Director, HRMD, MLGRD 9. Mr. Kwabena Denkyira 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 West Africa Regional Manager, NRGI 13. Ms. Nafi Chinery Asst. Director IIB, Ministry of Information 14. Ms. Bridget A. Gyamfi

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY

1. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo Senior Presidential Advisor (Chairman) Chief Director, PSRS 2. Mrs. Halima S. Yakubu 3. Ms. Mina Mensah Director, CHRI, Africa Office 4. Dr. Kwesi Jonah Senior Research Fellow, IDEG 5. Mr Isaac Aidoo OGP PoC, STMA Deputy Executive Secretary, EOCO 6. Charles Nana Antwi Chief Budget Analyst, MoF 7. Mr Richard Ebo Amuah Member of Parliament, Juaben Constituency 8. Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng

9. Ms. Kathy Addy Deputy Chair, NCCE

10. Dr. Eric Oduro Osae Director General, Internal Audit Agency

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Mr. Michael Adu-Gyamfi Deputy Director, PSRS IT/IM Officer, PSRS 2. Ms. Annette O. Boateng

Assistant Programme Officer, PSRS 3. Mr. Ato K. Bessa-Simons

NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
1.0	OPENING 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). He chaired the meeting on behalf of Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo, Senior Presidential Advisor and Chairman of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Steering Committee.	
1.1	 Opening Remarks by Chairman 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: 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. He apologized on behalf of the Chairman and Senior Presidential Advisor who was not able to join the meeting because of other official engagements 	
2.0	CORRECTION AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES The minutes of the previous meeting was read, and the following corrections were made: 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. 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.	
3.0 3.1	MATTERS ARISING Update on newly Appointed Steering Committee	

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.

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.

3.2

Sourcing of funds for activities of the OGP Secretariat for implementation of the $4^{th}\ OGP\ NAP$

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.

OGP Point of Contact

3.3

Hosting of the 2022 OGP Regional Meeting

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.

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.

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-Maafo, 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.

OGP Point of Contact

4.0 4.1

MAIN BUSINESS

Discussion on the draft Review Report on the 4th Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP)

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.

The key personalities interviewed included, Dr. Kwesi Jonah, Senior Research Fellow, IDEG and Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency.

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.

She added that the following were some of the highlights that were made on Ghana's Action Plan Review 2021-2023:

- 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
- 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)

She again informed the meeting that three commitments were evaluated as most promising to contribute to substantial Open Government results and they were

- 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.

According to her, the IRM team recommended that Ghana must create awareness on the OGP programme to encourage the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

She also informed members that the IRM team recommended certain revisions to be made on the 4th OGP NAP and Steering Committee members were expected to submit their comments on those commitments. She informed members that all comments were to be submitted via email

She informed members that all comments were to be submitted via email latest by 18th March, 2022 for onward submission to the IRM team by 22nd March, 2022.

Ms. Bridget A. Gyamfi, Ministry of Information drew the attention of members to the fact that Commitment 6 (Citizens Complaint Centers) as captured in the Independent Reporting Mechanism Action Plan Review: Ghana 2021-2023 should be changed to "National Information Center 311 Call Center". According to her, it would help prevent any duplications.

In response to this, OGP Point of Contact informed members that she had held extensive discussions with the OGP Support Unit on such issues and had been informed that changes would only be permitted if it would not affect the main context of the commitment.

The Ag. Chair asked for clarification on the Institution responsible for the commitment on Citizens Complaint Centres in the 4th OGP NAP.

The OGP Point of Contact in her response, indicated that the commitment was assigned to Ministry of Information during the National Consultation/Validation meeting for the development of the 4th OGP NAP. She indicated that even though the Steering Committee member representing MoI was present, she never mentioned that the commitment had nothing to do with them. According to her, it was after the OGP delegation had paid them a visit to sensitise them on their commitments that such a concern was raised.

The OGP Point of Contact again indicated that the OGP Secretariat was yet to have a meeting with the Commissioner of Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to ascertain if they were responsible for the commitment on Citizens Complaint Centres in the 4th OGP NAP.

At this stage, Dr. Steve Manteaw, Co-Chair, GHEITI stated that the defunct Citizen Complain Centre was a project financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and was housed on the third floor of the Public Service Commission Building. However, the control panel was at the Presidency. As to which Institution was responsible for it, he indicated that he was not sure and urged the OGP Secretariat to verify and make the necessary changes.

OGP SC Members

OGP Point of Contact

OGP Point of Contact

The Ag. Chairman urged the OGP Point of Contact to forward copies of the 4th OGP NAP to the newly appointed members of the Steering Committee.

Update on Sensitization meetings with Lead Implementing Agencies

The OGP Point of Contact brought members up to speed on the progress of the Sensitization meetings with the Lead Implementing Agencies.

According to her, as at last year, six (6) Institutions had been sensitized. They include: Ministry of Information (MoI), Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice (MOJAD), State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA), Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), Internal Audit Agency (IAA) and Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation (MoCD).

She further informed members that from the beginning of the year an OGP delegation made up of Ms. Mary A. Addah Programmes Manager, GII and Dr. Steve Manteaw Co-Chair, GHEITI and herself had visited four (4) institutions to sensitise them on their commitments in the NAP-4. These were the Registrar General's Department (RGD), Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLGDRD), Ministry of Finance (MOF) and Right to Information Commission (RTIC).

According to her, though the sensitization was largely successful, a few issues came up. She stated that one of the Commitments for the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development which is to ensure Government's progressive increase in women's political participation at all levels of government, provide opportunities for the political participation of Persons with Disabilities and legalize political party participation in district level elections. Thus, after thorough deliberations, it was decided that the commitment would be difficult to achieve without the buy-in of the Political heads of the Ministry.

Consequently, the OGP Point of Contact was advised to bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman of the OGP Steering Committee so that a meeting could be scheduled with Hon. Daniel Botwe, Minister of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development to help court his buyin.

Additionally, the OGP Point of Contact indicated that the Ministry of Finance also had issues with one of its commitments. According to them, the commitment on ensuring that the Fiscal Responsibility Act which was suspended in July 2020 is restored by June 2023 will be difficult to achieve since plans were to have it restored in 2024. The OGP Secretariat was task to have it rectified.

Collaboration with Parliamentary Network Africa

OGP Point of Contact

OGP Point of Contact

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).

She further briefed members present on the expected outcomes of the (MoU) which included:

- 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.

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.

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.

5.0

CLOSING

The Chairman thanked all members for honoring the invitation to the meeting and for their active participation.

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.

The meeting ended at 12:35 pm with a closing prayer by the OGP Point of Contact, Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah