

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP STEERING
COMMITTEE (OGP-SC) MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST JUNE, 2023 AT
THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISOR, RIDGE, AT 11:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| 1. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo | Senior Presidential Advisor (Chairman) |
| 2. Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah | Director, F&A and OGP PoC, PSRS |
| 3. Dr. Eric Oduro Osae | Director General, Internal Audit Agency |
| 4. Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah | Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency |
| 5. Dr. Steve Manteaw | Co-Chair GHEITI |
| 6. Ms. Mary A. Addah | Programmes Manager, GII |
| 7. Ms. Domtie Sarpong | Principal State Attorney, ORC |
| 8. Mr. Stephen Azantilow | Director-Anti-Corruption, CHRAJ |
| 9. Mr. Isaac Aidoo | OGP PoC, STMA |
| 10. Ms. Esther Ahulu | Programmes Manager, CHRI/RTI Coalition |
| 11. Ms. Kathy Addy | Chairperson, NCCE |
| 12. Mrs. Lucille Hewlett Annan | Ag. Commissioner Secretary, NCCE |
| 13. Mr. Musah Issah | Head, Regulatory, MoCD / NITA |
| 14. Ms. Mina Mensah | Director, CHRI, Africa Office |
| 15. Mr. Dennis Gyeyir | Natural Resource Governance Institute |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY

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| 1. Dr. Alex Amankwah-Poku | Ministry of Finance |
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MEMBERS ABSENT

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| 1. Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng | Member of Parliament, Juaben Constituency |
| 2. Mrs. Eunice Osae | Director, CMD, OHCS |
| 3. Mrs. Linda Ofori-Kwafo | Executive Director, GII |
| 4. Mr. Charles Nana Antwi | Deputy Executive Director, EOCO |
| 5. Dr. Kwesi Jonah | Senior Research Fellow, IDEG |
| 6. Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah | Deputy Country Director, SEND-Ghana |
| 7. Ms. Nafi Chinery | West Africa Regional Manager, NRG |
| 8. Mr. Kwabena Denkyira | Director, HRMD, MLGRD |

IN- ATTENDANCE

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| 1. Mr. Robert Poku Kyei | Technical Advisor, OSPA |
| 2. Mr. George Osei Bimpeh | Observer |
| 3. Mr. Ato K. Bessa-Simons | Programme Officer, PSRS |
| 4. Mr. Nana Kwabena Nketiah | IT/IM Officer, PS |

NO.	SUBJECT	RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	<p>OPENING</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 11:36 am by the Chairman and Senior Presidential Advisor, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo with an opening prayer by the OGP Point of Contact (PoC), Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed participants, both in-person and online to the Second Steering Committee meeting of the year.</p>	
2.0	<p>CORRECTION AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 20th March 2023 were read, and the following corrections were made:</p> <p>The Chairman indicated that the pages for the minutes for the previous meeting should all be numbered to enable readers find specific information quickly.</p> <p>In the absence of any further corrections, Dr. Eric Oduro Osae, Director General, Internal Audit Agency (IAA) moved for the acceptance of the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Musah Issah, Head, Regulatory, MoCD/NITA.</p>	
3.0	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p>	
3.1	<p>Update on the completion of 4th OGP National Action Plan (NAP) and matters arising.</p> <p>The Point of Contact (PoC) indicated that Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah, Dep. Country Director, SEND Ghana was tasked to liaise with her to prepare the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Self-Assessment Report on the 4th National Action Plan (NAP).</p> <p>She explained that the Self -Assessment Report was done at the completion of the implementation of an Action plan. She added that attempts to get a copy of a previous TOR from older members to draft a new one had proved futile.</p>	
3.2	<p>Funding for the development of the 5th OGP NAP</p> <p>Regarding this, the Point of Contact informed the meeting that the OGP Regional Manager for Africa and the Middle East, Mr. Theophilus Chivru who was to give approval for the funds to be expended for other OGP activities had resigned from his post and</p>	

	<p>as a result she could not discuss issues pertaining to the funding for the development of the 5th OGP NAP.</p> <p>Ms Mary A. Addah, Programmes Manager (GII) mentioned that the Africa Support Unit had other team members so the OGP Secretariat could take the matter up to them for discussion and seek their approval for the funds to be used for the 5th OGP NAP.</p>	
4.0	MAIN BUSINESS	
4.1	<p>Preparation of Self-Assessment Report on completion of the 4th National Action Plan (NAP)</p> <p>The PoC indicated that by June 2023 the 4th NAP would have terminated and as part of the OGP rules, Ghana is supposed to submit a Self- Assessment Report on the 4th NAP.</p> <p>She stated that at the previous meeting, it was agreed that there was the need to contract an individual to prepare the Self-Assessment Report. She added that the meeting suggested Dr. Esther Offei-Aboagye who was a seasoned researcher, Mr. George Osei Bimpeh, who also had experience in research and had served on the OGP Steering Committee and Mr. Eric Akumiah formerly of the National Information Technology Authority and the Steering Committee to prepare the Self-Assessment Report. Members deliberated on this and agreed that Mr. George Osei Bimpeh should be contracted to prepare the Self-Assessment Report.</p> <p>The Chairman congratulated Mr. George Osei Bimpeh for his nomination and urged that the needed support should be extended to him to enable him to prepare the Self -Assessment Report. Regarding his remuneration, the Chairman stated that it would be discussed later.</p> <p>The Director General, IAA commented that Mr. George Bimpeh was a superb consultant with a wealth of knowledge in that field and therefore was up to the task.</p> <p>At this point, Mr. Stephen Azantilow, Director-Anti-Corruption, CHRAJ enquired about when the Terms of Reference (TOR) would be ready as members had been informed at the previous meeting that it was going to be ready by 21st June,2023.</p> <p>The PoC explained that Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah, Deputy Country Director, SEND Ghana, had been assigned to work with her to prepare the TOR. However, efforts to get a previous TOR for Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah to prepare a new TOR had proved futile. She added that since Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah was not present, he could not comment on the situation.</p>	

4.2	<p>The Co-Chair, Ghana Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (GHEITI), Dr Steve Manteaw stated that he would contact a consultant by name Mr. Nicholas Odametey to request a sample Self-Assessment Report to serve as a guide for Mr. George Osei Bimpeh.</p> <p>Hon. Emmanuel Bedrah, Member of Parliament for Ho West Constituency and Mr. George Osei Bimpeh mentioned that the OGP Support Unit usually published guidance notes on preparation of the Self-Assessment Report and that could guide the development of the TOR for the assignment.</p> <p>Hon. Emmanuel Bedrah (MP) added that the PoC should contact Mr. Pethuel Danyo, the former OGP PoC who supervised three (3) OGP National Action Plans for Ghana for copies of the previous Self-Assessment Reports.</p> <p>Sourcing of funds and Co-Creation of the 5th National Action Plan (NAP)</p> <p>The PoC informed the Committee that to co-create the four-year 5th National Action Plan, the Steering Committee (SC) would have to engage a consultant from the SC to review the 4th NAP.</p> <p>She also mentioned that it had been decided at the previous meeting that Dr. Steve Manteaw, Co-Chair, GHEITI would lead the development of the 5th NAP.</p> <p>She also provided a detailed road map for the preparation of the 5th National Action Plan, and they were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage a consultant to review the 4th OGP Action Plan to inform the development of the 5th Action Plan • Conduct a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) • Organize series of Steering Committee to accept some of the priority areas that come up from the review • Development of a comprehensive road map for stakeholder consultative meetings with Multi-Stakeholders. • Hold Bilateral Meetings with lead Implementing agencies MDAs • Validation Forum <p>The PoC informed the meeting that activities for the development of the 5th National Action Plan had been costed. She took members through the budget estimates for the development and implementation of the 5th OGP National Action Plan (NAP).</p> <p>She indicated the need to source for a total amount of Two Hundred and Eighty-One Thousand and Seven Hundred</p>	<p>Co-Chair, GHEITI</p> <p>PoC</p>
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	<p>Ghana Cedis (GH¢281,700.00) towards the development and implementation of the 5th NAP.</p> <p>The Technical Advisor to the Senior Presidential Advisor enquired about how to finance the development of the 5th NAP.</p> <p>According to Ms. Mary A. Addah, Programmes Manager, GII, members of the Civil Society Organisations (CSO) side of the Steering Committee believed that the Government should first specify how much money it intended to allocate for the OGP process and if that amount was insufficient, other Development Partners could be contacted for extra funding.</p> <p>She used the opportunity to inform the meeting that during the development and implementation of the 4th NAP, it was suggested that the various relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) should include OGP activities in their budget estimates for smooth implementation. She added that this approach would make it easier to seek for assistance from donors to carry out OGP activities.</p> <p>Ms. Esther Ahulu, Programs Manager, CHRI/RTI Coalition, reiterated the need for government to allocate funds for OGP activities and to indicate the precise amount for OGP activities for each year so it will be an incentive for other stakeholders and CSOs to also support.</p> <p>Responding, the PoC stated that the Public Sector Reform Secretariat (PSRS) typically does not receive sufficient funding to enable it to support the entire co-creation process. She stated that several CSOs on the Steering Committee such as Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) helped during the implementation of the 4th NAP by hosting the Planning Committee members for the Conference on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure in Ghana and supporting the Stakeholder Engagement on the implementation of the 4th Action plan.</p> <p>She indicated that the PSRS would fund some of the co-creation activities, which included Virtual Stakeholder Consultation and Validation Fora for MDAs, MMDAs, Private Sector & CSOs.</p> <p>Dr. Steve Manteaw, Co-Chair, GHEITI, asked why as a Steering Committee, they never got to discuss the OGP Budget, particularly the portion of funds that came from government.</p> <p>He outlined the roles played by each stakeholder in the implementation of OGP activities and added that Ministries</p>	
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<p>Departments and Agencies (MDAs) were responsible for carrying out commitments so there was the need to budget for each one separately. However, the OGP Secretariat budget was meant for Steering Committee meetings, outreach activities, and routine evaluation of OGP performance.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that though a budget was approved by Parliament, when it came to disbursement from Ministry of Finance (MoF), amounts approved were never fully disbursed because of shortfalls in revenue mobilization and this had been the issue with budget and disbursement in the country. Rarely was the entire amount approved in Parliament disbursed in full.</p> <p>The Co-Chair, GHEITI, called on the Chairman to utilize his excellent position to influence the flow of funding from the MoF to carry out OGP activities.</p> <p>The PoC informed the meeting that following the Conference on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure in Ghana, the UN Resident Coordinator promised to give the Committee a slot at the Heads of Cooperation (HoCs) meeting but that meeting never came up. She continued that a last-minute invitation was received to make a presentation again but due to the unavailability of Steering Committee members to support her, that opportunity was missed.</p> <p>She indicated that the objective of the presentation was to sensitize Development Partners about the OGP and to source for funding for OGP activities. The Director-General, IAA offered to assist the PoC make a presentation at the next Heads of Cooperation meeting. Ms. Lucille Hewlett Annan, Acting Commissioner Secretary, National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) also opted to support the PoC at the next HoCs meeting.</p> <p>The Director-General, IAA noted that in order to gain the support of some of their Development Partners, he would also use some of the platforms of the IAA to explain the OGP process.</p> <p>A representative of CHRI, Ms. Mina Mensah also mentioned that the OGP Secretariat's position was to coordinate OGP activities and there was the need to also monitor the implementation of commitments by MDAs.</p> <p>The PoC responded that a monitoring framework for the 4th NAP was developed with the help of the Monitoring and Evaluation Secretariat under the Office of the President. This was presented at the Stakeholder Engagement on the implementation of the 4th NAP to MDAs. She added that after the engagement, she circulated the</p>	<p>Director- General, IAA & Ag. Commissioner Secretary, NCCE</p> <p>Director-General, IAA</p>
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4.3	<p>monitoring framework to MDAs for feedback on what had been implemented however, only the Internal Audit Agency (IAA), State Interest and Governance Authority (SIGA), Ministry of Information (MoI), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) submitted their feedback.</p> <p>Additionally, she indicated that bilateral engagements should be conducted again to create awareness on commitments that MDAs would be implementing in the 5th NAP. This was to enable them adequately budget for the commitments.</p> <p>Having extensively deliberated on the issue, the Chairman asked for suggestions as to how and where to source for funding for the co-creation process.</p> <p>In his response, the Co-Chair GHEITI, stated that the OGP Secretariat would need to look at the country priorities of some of the Development Partners before approaching them for financing.</p> <p>The Chairman therefore suggested that a committee should be constituted for fund raising for the co-creation of the 5th NAP and it should be led by the Co-Chair, GHEITI, Dr. Steve Manteaw.</p> <p>Ms Mina Mensah, representative, CHRI, Ms. Mary Addah, GII and the PoC volunteered to join Dr. Steve Manteaw for the fund raising.</p> <p>Way forward with OECD collaboration</p> <p>The PoC informed the meeting that the OGP Secretariat held a virtual meeting with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and discussions were held on areas OECD could collaborate with the Ghana OGP.</p> <p>She continued that they suggested the following as ways that OECD could work with Ghana and could be considered for the country's benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for Ghana to start thinking of a more comprehensive, long-term and strategic approach to open government i.e. having an Open Government Strategy with periodic Action Plans to operationalize the Strategy. • OECD to carry out surveys to assess Open Government and prepare reports that could be used as a resource mobilization tool. <p>She commented that the OGP Directorate under the OECD had not collaborated with any sub-Saharan African country and so they would want to Ghana to be the first sub-Saharan country they will work with since Ghana was a leader when it came to OGP.</p>	
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	<p>She indicated that there was the need for the committee to be specific on which areas they would prefer to collaborate with OECD.</p> <p>Having deliberated on the issue, members agreed that the collaboration should be both the study on OGP implementation and the OGP Strategy.</p> <p>5.0 ANY OTHER MATTERS</p> <p>5.1 Update on newly Appointed Steering Committee Members The PoC indicated that representatives of some Government and Civil Society Organizations on the Committee who had been absent from SC meetings for over a year had been replaced.</p> <p>She announced that Mrs. Lucille Hewlett Annan, Ag. Commissioner, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Mr. Dennis Gyeyir, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and Dr. Alex Amankwah-Poku, Ministry of Finance (MoF) were the new Steering Committee members who had been appointed by their various institutions to serve on the Steering Committee.</p> <p>The Chairman on behalf of the Committee congratulated the new members on their nomination and urged them to help move OGP to the next level.</p> <p>6.0 CLOSING</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all members for their active participation and dedication towards the OGP and encouraged members to work assiduously towards the development of the 5th NAP.</p> <p>In the absence of any further deliberations, Dr. Steve Manteaw Co-Chair, GHEITI moved for the closure of the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Stephen Azantilow, Director-Anti-Corruption, CHRAJ at 1:40pm.</p>	
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