

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2020 AT THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MINISTER
AT 11:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo	Senior Minister (Chair)
2. Mrs Halima S. Yakubu	Ag. Chief Director, OSM
3. Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah	Director, F&A and OGP PoC, OSM
4. Ms Domtie Sarpong	Principal State Attorney, RGD
5. Dr Kwesi Jonah	Senior Research Fellow, IDEG
6. Ms Mary A. Addah	Programmes Manager, GII
7. Ms Regina O. Amanfo	Snr. Programme Officer, CDD
8. Mr Eric Akumiah	Data Expert, MoC
9. Ms Nafi Chinery	West Africa Regional Manager, NRG
10. Mr Richard Ebo Amuah	Chief Budget Analyst, MoF
11. Ms Mina Mensah	Director, CHRI, Africa Office
12. Nana Antwi	Deputy Executive Director, EOCO

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY

1. Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah	Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency
2. Ms Patricia Dovi Sampson	Director, PPME, MoI
3. Mr George Osei-Bimpeh	Country Director, SEND-Ghana
4. Linda Ofori-Kwafo	Executive Director, GII

ABSENT

1. Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng	Member of Parliament, Juaben Constituency
2. Ms Kathy Addy	Deputy Chair, NCCE
3. Dr Steve Manteaw	Co-Chair, GHEITI
4. Ms Mavis Asare Donkor	Director, PBMED, OHCS
5. Ms Fati Lily Soale	Director, Human Resource, MLGRD
6. Ms Esi Sey	Chief of Operations, IDEG
7. Ms Esther Ahulu	Programmes Manager, CHRI/RTI Coalition

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Mr Michael Adu-Gyamfi	Deputy Director, OSM
2. Mr Ato K. Bessa-Simons	Assistant Programme Officer, OSM
3. Ms Annette Boateng	Assistant Programmer, OSM
5. Ms Beatrice Fianko	ADIIB, MoI

No.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>Opening</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 11:48 am with a prayer by Ms Regina O. Amanfo, Senior Programme Officer, Centre for Democratic Development – Ghana (CDD-GH).</p> <p>The meeting was chaired by Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo, Senior Minister and Chairman of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee.</p>	
2.0	<p>Opening Remarks by Chairman</p> <p>The Chairman, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo welcomed all members to the meeting and briefed members about his participation in a Virtual Ministerial Roundtable Meeting hosted by the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The objective of the meeting was to share experiences on how various African countries are dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>He indicated that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Prof. Maloka and the CEO of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), Sanjay Pradhan were present. Other participants at the meeting were Ministers from Nigeria, South Africa, representatives of the African Development Bank (AFDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). An Advisor to the Deputy President of Kenya and a representative of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).</p> <p>According to him, members at the roundtable meeting were impressed with the measures Ghana had put in place to fight against and to alleviate the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic. He urged members to continue to demonstrate the OGP message of openness in their work.</p>	
3.0	<p>Correction and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on Tuesday 20th October, 2020.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 20th October, 2020 was read, and the following corrections were made,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The name “Ms Mina Mensah Director, CHRI, Africa Office” on Page 1, under the heading ‘Absent’ was to be moved to the list of names under the heading ‘Absent with Apology’. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 3, Item 3.2: “The OGP Point of Contact” was corrected to read OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah”. <p>In the absence of any further corrections, Ms Dometie Sarpong, Principal State Attorney, Registrar General’s Department moved for the acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting. Her motion was seconded by Ms Nafi Chinery, West Africa Regional Manager, Natural Resource Governance Institute.</p>	
4.0	Matters Arising	
4.1	<p><u>Mainstreaming the Relationship between Local Government and National Open Government Partnership Process</u></p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah informed members of the Steering Committee that she contacted the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) OGP Point of Contact and invited him to the meeting. She added that in view of budgetary constraints, the STMA OGP Point of Contact had joined the meeting through the zoom virtual platform.</p> <p>The Chairman officially welcomed the STMA OGP Point of Contact, Mr Isaac Aidoo to the meeting.</p>	
4.2	<p>Costing of OGP Activities</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah informed the meeting that activities for the preparation and implementation of the 4th National Action Plan had been costed and will be presented in the course of the meeting.</p>	
5.0	Main Business	
5.1	<p>Update on the Recruitment of a Consultant for the Preparation of the 4th OGP National Action Plan (NAP)</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact informed the meeting that the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the consultancy assignment was advertised on the OGP Steering Committee’s WhatsApp platform and since none of the members expressed interest, Mr Kwesi Jonah, a Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Democratic Governance (IDEG) and a Steering Committee member who was recommended had been given the consultancy assignment for the preparation of the 4th OGP National Action Plan.</p>	

5.2	<p>The Chairman therefore introduced the Consultant, Mr Kwesi Jonah and asked him to give a brief about his background to members.</p> <p>The Consultant in his submission stated that he used to be a Lecturer at the Political Science Department of the University of Ghana until his retirement in 2011.</p> <p>According to him, he had been working with the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) as a Senior Research Fellow on governance issues after his retirement. He also mentioned that he was the consultant who prepared the first OGP National Action Plan.</p> <p>Ms Mary A. Addah, Programmes Manager (GII) informed the meeting that, OGP International had approved for the utilisation of the funds lodged at Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) to finance the activities outlined for the preparation of the 4th National Action Plan.</p> <p>She indicated that the OGP Senior Regional Coordinator, Africa and Middle East, in a virtual meeting mentioned that the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) had expressed interest in giving technical support to Ghana for the preparation of the 4th National Action Plan and therefore ACET would be contacted for that support.</p> <p>The Chairman therefore tasked the Consultant, Mr. Kwesi Jonah, the OGP Point of Contact, Mrs. Thelma Ohene-Asiamah and Ms. Mary A. Addah, the Programmes Manager, GII to liaise with ACET to collaborate on the political economy analysis aspect of the assignment.</p> <p>Discussion of TOR with Consultant to give direction on emerging issues and government policies to be considered in the NAP 4 (Inception Meeting)</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah called on Ms Mary A. Addah, Programmes Manager (GII) to lead the inception meeting with the Consultant.</p> <p>The Programmes Manager, GII explained to members that inception meetings are held to engage with consultants on how they intend to undertake a consultancy assignment and also share their perspective on an assignment and in this case, the development of the NAP 4.</p> <p>She further indicated that, based on the discussions that will transpire at</p>	<p>OGP Point of Contact/ Consultant/ Prog. Manager, GII</p>
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	the Inception Meeting, an Inception Report will be prepared.	
5.2.1	<p><u>How the Consultant Intends to Move the NAP 4 Process forward</u></p> <p>The Consultant, Mr Kwesi Jonah, IDEG stated that OGP National Action Plans are such that activities that are not priority areas for the Government of the day could not be included. He added that whatever is put into the Action Plan should be something the government intends to implement.</p> <p>The Consultant indicated that he would begin the task by conducting a gap analysis of all the previous OGP Action Plans to have a better picture of its failures and successes.</p> <p>He added that he will also review and analyse the governance sections of the Manifestos of the two (2) major political parties in the country to inform the assignment. He indicated that after the elections, the plan will be revised to include only the analysed governance section of the winning political party.</p>	
5.2.2	<p><u>Comments on the Consultant's Presentation</u></p> <p>A member wanted to find out what would be done if the winning political party does not have a robust agenda for a sector like the extractive sector which has activities that must be monitored and reported upon to help the open governance process.</p> <p>The Consultant responded that emphasis would not only be put on the Manifestos of political parties but the commitment areas that have been recurring in the OGP Action Plans would also be considered.</p> <p>It was suggested that the advocacy approach could be used by Agencies and Civil Society Organizations in the extractive sector to compel the government to buy into it.</p> <p>Ms. Mary Addah, Programmes Manager (GII) advised the Consultant to include stakeholder consultations as a key process in developing the NAP 4.</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah also informed the meeting that a Local Development Research Institution in Kenya made contacts with her and took some key Steering Committee members and her through a tool they had been developed to help with coming out</p>	

	<p>with commitment areas on anti-corruption. She indicated that the Organisation was prepared to offer their technical assistance to the Consultant in coming out with anti-corruption commitment areas.</p>	
5.3	<p>Presentation on Costing of Activities for the Development and Implementation of NAP 4</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah took members through the draft budget for the development and implementation of the 4th OGP National Action Plan and organizing Steering Committee meetings.</p> <p>The Chairman commented that it would be good to hold some of the meetings including the Steering Committee Meetings, the National Stakeholder Consultation and Stakeholder Validation Meeting virtually as a precaution against the Covid-19 pandemic and also a cost-control measure.</p> <p>In view of this, he proposed that the next Steering Committee meeting should be a virtual one and this was agreed by members.</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah was therefore tasked to come up with the cost implications if the Committee decides to hold most of its activities and meetings virtually.</p>	OGP Point of Contact
5.4	<p>Discussion on timelines for outlined activities for NAP 4</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact was tasked to update the draft Roadmap outlining all activities leading to the preparation of the 4th National OGP Action Plan and update members at the next OGP Steering Committee meeting.</p>	OGP Point of Contact
6.0	<p>Any Other Matters</p> <p>The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah, informed the committee of an upcoming virtual workshop for OGP Leaders in Africa and the Middle East on 24th November 2020. She mentioned that she would be participating from the Government side with Mrs Linda Ofori-Kwafo Executive Director, GII representing the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) side.</p>	

<p>7.0</p>	<p>Closing</p> <p>The Chairman thanked members for availing themselves for the meeting and for their active participation. The next Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 16th December, 2020.</p> <p>Ms Mary A. Addah, Programmes Manager (GII) moved for the closure of the meeting and was seconded by Dr Kwesi Jonah, Senior Research Fellow, IDEG.</p> <p>The meeting came to a close at 1:15 pm after the closing prayer was said by Ms Mary A. Addah, Programmes Manager, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII).</p>	
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