DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2020 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MINISTER AT 11:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Hon, Yaw Osafo-Maafo Senior Minister (Chairman) 2. Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah Director, F&A and OGP PoC, OSM 3. Linda Ofori-Kwafo Executive Director, GII 4. Mr Kwesi Jonah Senior Research Fellow, IDEG 5. Dr Steve Manteaw Co-Chair, GHEITI Principal State Attorney, RGD 6. Ms Domtie Sarpong 7. Ms Mary A. Addah Programmes Manager, GII Country Director, SEND-Ghana 8. Mr George Osei-Bimpeh

Mr George Osei-Bimpeh
 Ms Regina O. Amanfo
 Mr Eric Akumiah
 Country Director, SEND-Ghana
 Snr. Programme Officer, CDD
 Data Expert, MoC

11. Ms Nafi Chinery West Africa Regional Manager, NRGI

12. Ms Patricia Dovi Sampson Director, PPME, MoI

13. Nana Antwi Deputy Executive Director, EOCO

14. Mr Isaac Aidoo OGP PoC, STMA

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY

Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah
 Mrs Halima S. Yakubu
 Member of Parliament, Ho West Constituency
 Ag. Chief Director, OSM

ABSENT

Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng
 Ms Kathy Addy
 Ms Mina Mensah
 Ms Mavis Asare Donkor
 Mr Richard Ebo Amuah
 Ms Fati Lily Soale
 Member of Parliament, Juaben Constituency
Deputy Chair, NCCE
 Director, CHRI, Africa Office
 Director, PBMED, OHCS
 Chief Budget Analyst, MoF
 Director, Human Resource, MLGRD

7. Ms Esi Sey Chief of Operations, IDEG

8. Ms Esther Ahulu Programmes Manager, CHRI/RTI Coalition

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Michael Adu-Gyamfi
 Deputy Director, OSM
 Mr Ato K. Bessa-Simons
 Assistant Programme Officer, OSM
 Assistant Programmer, OSM

4. Awurakua Addo Nyarko ADIIB, MoI

NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION BY
1.0	Opening The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am with a prayer by Ms Annette Boateng, Assistant Programmer, Office of the Senior Minister (OSM).	
	The meeting was chaired by Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo, Senior Minister and Chairman of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee.	
2.0	Opening Remarks by Chairman The Chairman, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo welcomed all members to the virtual meeting.	
3.0	Correction and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on Wednesday 18 th November, 2020. In the absence of corrections, Ms Domtie 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 Mary A. Addah, Programmes Manager, GII.	
4.0 4.1	Matters Arising Update on Liaising with the African Center for Economic Transformation The OGP, Point of Contact Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah, informed members that Mr. Kwesi Jonah, Consultant, Senior Research Fellow, IDEG was still working on the gap analysis as part of processes towards the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP) 4 and was yet to liaise with the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) to collaborate on the political economy analysis aspect of the consultancy assignment.	
	She further informed the meeting that, she contacted the OGP Support Unit via email and a representative from the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) was introduced to her as the focal person to assist Ghana on matters of the political economy analysis bit of the NAP4. She indicated that she had made contacts with the representative from African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) but she was yet to receive a response.	Consultant
	The Committee advised that the Consultant, Mr. Kwesi Jonah should contact ACET.	

4.2 Discussion on timelines for outlined activities in the Draft Road Map for the Development of NAP4

The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah took members through the updated draft Roadmap outlining activities for the preparation of the 4th National OGP Action Plan.

She further informed members that <u>one (1) physical</u> and <u>four (4) virtual</u> stakeholder consultative meetings will be organised to garner stakeholder inputs and buy-in for development and implementation of the NAP4.

According to her, the first group of the consultative meeting will be made up of MDAs, second group will comprise MMDAs, third group will also include representatives from the Private Sector while the fourth group will comprise relevant Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

She indicated that the consultative meetings will also be used as a medium to review past approaches used in implementing the previous three (3) Action Plans and agree on a modality to hold each other accountable for the implementation of the 4th National Action Plan.

5.0 Main Business

5.1 Update on the Gap Analysis and the processes towards the preparation of the NAP 4 by the Consultant.

The Consultant, Mr. Kwesi Jonah in his submission stated that in doing the gap analysis, two main elements that has a high significance on the OGP process came up to put the whole NAP4 development process in context. They are:

- The COVID-19 Context, and
- The election results context

According to him, the outcome of the just ended December 2020 election which has divided Parliament almost equally between the ruling and the opposition parties and the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic had taught us that we must come together as a country to collaborate on all fronts as well as moving OGP forward.

He further informed members that, upon reviewing the 1st, 2nd

and 3rd NAPs, he observed some commitments that have spanned all the previous NAPs and these included the Right to Information Law, the Fiscal Responsibility Law, Open and Transparent Contracting by Government, Verification of Asset Declaration by Public Officers.

He indicated that OGP is a continuous process, so it is not out of place to roll-over activities that had not been implemented.

According to him, a desktop analysis he conducted on all the three (3) past OGP NAPs revealed some gaps that must be addressed. They include:

- Policy Gaps,
- Implementation Gaps, and
- Institutional Gaps.

5.1.1

Policy Gaps

The Consultant in his briefing, informed the meeting that, for more than four years some major government policies, had remained on the manifesto promises of the ruling party without being implemented. For some reasons, they had never found their way to the Open Government Partnership Action Plan. A good example is the Affirmative Action Bill, which he stated was a potential policy that could be attained but ignored.

Again, another important matter of interest to OGP is the people's participation in local governance, especially with the issue of the people directly electing their own Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCE).

5.1.2

Implementation Gaps

Regarding this, Mr. Kwesi Jonah indicated that implementation gaps are commitments in the various OGP National Action Plans that had not been realised by way of implementation.

He gave examples as the Right to Information Act (RTI) and the Fiscal Responsibility Act. He indicated that OGP has the responsibility to monitor their implementation so as to get to know their implementation challenges and the necessary redress mechanisms to put in place.

5.1.3

Institutional Gaps

The Consultant explained institutional gaps to mean the critical institutions helpful for the implementation of OGP

activities.

He indicated that institutions such as Institute of Fiscal Studies and Africa Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) would have contributed to the execution of some commitments in the previous OGP National Action Pans if they were brought on board.

He then suggested that it will be ideal to ensure that all these crucial institutions are brought on board and resourced to contribute immensely to the success of the OGP Action plan.

He was of the view that the State Interest and Governance Authority (SIGA) which was established just a year ago is a step in the right direction since it will help oversee government's tax investments.

How the Consultant intends to Bridge the Institutional Gaps.

He informed members he will engage the above institutions mentioned through interviews to get them interested in OGP activities to help them see the need to and bring them on board.

Consultant

The Chairman, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafo suggested to the consultant that in his consultation with SIGA, the Minister of State in charge of SIGA, Hon. Dr. Kwaku Afriyie should also be interviewed together with the Chief Executive Officer, Hon. Asamoah Boateng in the process.

5.2 <u>Presentation on Costing of Activities for the Development</u> and Implementation of NAP4.

The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah took members through the draft budget estimates on activities to be undertaken for the development of the 4th OGP National Action Plan.

She was asked to change the description "Sitting Allowance" to "Transport Reimbursement".

OGP Point of Contact/

The Chairman advised that efforts should be made to include stakeholders who are outside Accra in all activities of OGP.

5.3 Agreement on dates for Physical and Virtual National Stakeholder Consultative meetings and plans for OGP in 2021.

The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah took members through the proposed dates for both the face to face and Virtual National Stakeholder Consultative meetings and upon further deliberations, members accepted proposed dates as scheduled dates for the face to face and Virtual National Stakeholder Consultative meetings for OGP in 2021.

6.0 Any Other Matters

The OGP Point of Contact, Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah, informed the committee of a virtual workshop for OGP Leaders in Africa and the Middle East that took place in which she and Linda Ofori-Kwafo, Executive Director, GII represented Ghana.

She informed the Committee that the objective of the forum was to discuss the post pandemic world and map out priority areas for Government response.

She added that at the end of the meeting, the following priority areas came out; Citizen's Participation and Inclusion, Anti-Corruption, Transparency, Management of COVID-19 and Public Service delivery.

The OGP Point of Contact was tasked to contact the OGP Regional Support Unit for copies of the presentations made during the meeting or for a copy of the meeting report and circulate among committee members.

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.

7.0 Closing

The Chairman thanked members for their contribution and active participation in all meetings of the Committee and implored all to put their hands to the wheel to get the 4th OGP National Action Plan prepared.

The meeting came to a close at 1:20pm after the closing prayer was said by Mrs Thelma Ohene-Asiamah, OGP Point of Contact.

OGP Point of Contact/