



Draft Meeting Outcomes

OGP South Africa Multi-Stakeholder Forum Meeting Revival of the OGP in South Africa in line with the APRM-OGP Complementarity

Date: 12 December 2025

Time: 13:00-15:00

Venue: MS Teams

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The third meeting of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) South Africa Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) for 2025 was held on 12 December 2025 via MS Teams. This was the second meeting, following the adoption of the OGP South Africa MSF Terms of Reference on 05 June 2025, as a working document, and the transition from an Interim Steering Committee to a formal MSF.
- 1.2. The meeting was coordinated by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), in its role of as the OGP Point of Contact (PoC) in South Africa, and convened state and non-state actors in accordance with the National Roadmap on the Revival of the OGP South Africa and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and OGP complementarity.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1. Attendees

- 2.1.1. Mr Nkululeko Conco, Corruption Watch
- 2.1.2. Ms Gabriella Razzano, Open Up
- 2.1.3. Dr Paul Plantinga, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
- 2.1.4. Adv Gary Pienaar, HSRC
- 2.1.5. Ms Zukiswa Kota, Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM)
- 2.1.6. Mr Sephiri Tihomeli, National Treasury
- 2.1.7. Ms Xolile Mdluli, National Treasury
- 2.1.8. Ms Rakgadi Motseto, National Treasury
- 2.1.9. Mr Katlego Mohlabane, Civic Tech Innovation Network (CTIN)
- 2.1.10. Dr Patrick Sokhela, DPSA
- 2.1.11. Ms Gcino Mlaba, DPSA
- 2.1.12. Ms Marothi Ramphele, DPSA
- 2.1.13. Ms Nonkululeko Msibi, DPSA

2.2. Apologies

- 2.2.1. Ms Cecelia Kok, French Embassy
- 2.2.2. DCJ Dunstan Mlambo, Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa
- 2.2.3. Mr Zaaid du Toit, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution South Africa (C4IR) at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- 2.2.4. Ms Kgothatso Semela, OGP Country Support Office – Africa & the Middle East.
- 2.2.5. Mr Bheki Mbonani, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ &CD)
- 2.2.6. Mr Willie Vukela, Acting Director-General: DPSA

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1. The meeting adopted the agenda with the following additions:

- 3.1.1. CTIN collaboration.
- 3.1.2. Update on the OGP Action Framework Review.
- 3.1.3. OGP South Africa MSF ToR formalisation and implementation.
- 3.1.4. Civil Society report back from the OGP Global Summit

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:12 SEPTEMBER 2025

4.1. The minutes of the meeting of 12 September 2025 were reviewed and adopted.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

5.1. None

6. OGP SOUTH AFRICA MSF TOR IMPLEMENTATION (APRM & OGP COMPLEMENTARITY)

6.1. The meeting noted a major milestone, that the OGP South Africa will henceforth have a formal seat on the soon to be reconstituted APRM South Africa National Governing Council (NGC), as reflected in the South Africa *Government Gazette* Vol 726 No.53782 of 04 December 2025 This forms part of efforts to concretise and operationalise the APRM & OGP complementarity.

6.2. The integration aims to strengthen alignment between APRM recommendations and OGP commitments and enhance the complementarity across governance programmes.

7. OGP ACTION FRAMEWORK REVIEW

7.1. The meeting noted the ongoing global OGP Action Framework Review aimed at improving and modernising the OGP model.

7.2. Keys issues highlighted:

- 7.2.1. The need for greater flexibility in the framework, including less punitive responses for countries experiencing delays.
- 7.2.2. The importance of maintaining strong co-creation standards to safeguard the integrity of the OGP model.
- 7.2.3. The potential redesign of the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) in 2026, with significant implications for how countries are assessed.

8. G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP (ACWG) UPDATE

- 8.1. South Africa successfully chaired the G20 Presidency from November 2024 to December 2025.
- 8.2. Strong alignments were noted between the objectives of the OGP and the priorities of the G20 ACWG, chaired by the DPSA.
- 8.3. These linkages create opportunities for deeper collaboration between the OGP and the ACWG processes, specifically in areas where both platforms advance transparency accountability and ethical governance.
- 8.4. The MSF was encouraged to consider the ACWG outcomes that have direct relevance to the OGP South Africa and potential future commitments.
- 8.5. The meeting noted the ACWG four thematic focus areas:
 - 8.5.1. Ethical and accountable public service.
 - 8.5.2. Whistle-blower protection and technical support.
 - 8.5.3. Multi-stakeholder collaboration (public sector, private sector, civil society, academia).
 - 8.5.4. Mechanisms to support and protect whistle-blowers.
- 8.6. The meeting further noted that the ACWG documents are publicly available and were adopted by all G20 Member States.

9. FEEDBACK FROM THE OGP GLOBAL SUMMIT IN SPAIN, 06-10 OCTOBER 2025

- 9.1. The meeting noted South Africa's the high-level participation, reinforcing its role as a founding OGP member state and underscoring the need to increase visibility going forward.
- 9.2. The Global Summit showed an elevated level of enthusiasm for the Open Government Challenge, with delegates noting the value thereof for revitalising national action plans, recognising champions and enhancing multi-stakeholder participation.
- 9.3. Consultations at the Global Summit on revising the OGP Action Framework were highlighted including:
 - 9.3.1. Introducing greater flexibility for countries with different contexts and capacities.
 - 9.3.2. Avoiding punitive approaches that discourage participation.
 - 9.3.3. Maintaining strong co-creation standards.
 - 9.3.4. Concerns from CSOs and government about diluting OGP principles.
 - 9.3.5. Implications for the IRM which might undergo significant redesign in 2026.
- 9.4. Democratic backsliding was one of the key global discussions.
- 9.5. Access to Justice sessions reinforced South Africa's leadership in the policy area and highlighted opportunities for strengthening implementation.
- 9.6. South African stakeholders e.g. CAOSA awarded the Helen Derbyshire Award, received global recognition.
- 9.7. The event was hosted at state-level by Spain, which underscored the OGP's role as a diplomatic platform.

- 9.8. South Africa was encouraged to increase visibility as a founding OGP member.
- 9.9. Opportunities were identified to strengthen South Africa's Commitments on Access to Justice and Fiscal Transparency.

10. LAUNCH OF THE OGP SOUTH AFRICA OPEN GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE

- 10.1. The meeting noted the successful launch of the OGP South Africa Open Government Challenge at the University of Pretoria in October 2025.
- 10.2. The Challenge focuses on *Access to Justice*, particularly Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and legal support to vulnerable communities and marginalised groups.
- 10.3. Universities and law clinics across the country will collaborate to develop a National Action Plan on Access to Justice, aimed at harmonising Pro Bono legal initiatives and strengthening impact.
- 10.4. The OGP South Africa Point of Contact, Inkosi Buthelexi, Minister for the Public Service and Administration participated and supported the launch.
- 10.5. The launch was further positioned as part of South Africa's G20 Presidency legacy work, reinforcing existing synergies between OGP Commitments and the broader national governance priorities.

11. CIVIC TECH INNOVATION NETWORK (CTIN) COLLABORATION

- 11.1. The meeting noted that the Civic Tech Innovation Network (CTIN), a community of practice focused on civic technology, had hosted the Civic Tech Innovation Forum (CTIF) 2024 with financial support from the French Embassy and wishes to establish an ongoing collaborative relationship with the OGP South Africa.
- 11.2. The CTIF 2025 could not proceed due to insufficient fundraising. However, partial funding was secured from the French Embassy for a series of smaller civic-tech related activities.
- 11.3. The CTIN, in 2026, plans to host a series of small workshops and dialogues sessions with the aim of strengthening public participation and government-citizen engagement through digital and technology enabled tools, with support from the French Embassy.
- 11.4. A joint concept note is being developed by the CTIN and HSRC for an event on innovative public engagement in local government, initially targeting public participation officials in Gauteng, with the potential for extension to other provinces. The French Embassy explicitly requested that the initiative include OGP components such as:
 - 11.4.1. Showcasing the OGP South Africa's work.
 - 11.4.2. Hosting an OGP-aligned workshop.
 - 11.4.3. Incorporating open government into the sessions.
- 11.5. The CTIN, through Mr Mohlabane, requested guidance from the MSF on how best to integrate OGP objectives into planned activities, including:
 - 11.5.1. Showcasing OGP initiatives by using the CTIN workshops as a platform to showcase the OGP South Africa's work to both civil society and government actors, especially at local government level.

- 11.5.2. Deeper engagement with municipalities, through leveraging on the CTIN's e-participation pilots across municipalities, to introduce local government actors to the OGP processes. This could also be a future commitment or through showcasing local innovation that are aligned with the Open Government principles.
- 11.5.3. Embedding OGP Principles by integrating transparency, participation, and accountability into planned CTIN digital participation workshop content.
- 11.5.4. Creating an MSF engagement space through positioning the CTIN activities as a platform for MSF members and the wider state and non-state actors, to interact and deepen their understanding of open government practice.
- 11.5.5. Recognising the CTIN's work on e-participation as a potential basis for a future OGP Challenge or national Commitment, given the rising interest from provinces and municipalities.
- 11.5.6. Showcasing existing OGP tools / initiatives such as the Municipal Money platform and other open government tools to broaden the awareness among local government actors.
- 11.5.7. Leveraging on the OGP South Africa MSF Terms of Reference and aligning the CTIN engagements with the ToR emphasis on co-creation and broadening multi-stakeholder engagement.
- 11.5.8. Designing a challenge or learning activity for workshop participants linked to Open Government and technology.
- 11.5.9. Demonstrating digital participation tools in line with the OGP commitments.
- 11.6. CTIN reiterated that the workshops will centre on technology-enabled public participation and requested guidance on which OGP strategies or content would be most relevant in their context.
- 11.7. The CTIN expressed an interest in showcasing digital participation initiatives and integrating OGP content meaningfully.
- 11.8. A proposal was made to explore linkages between local government e-participation pilots and future OGP commitments.
- 11.9. The meeting noted strong interest in using the CTIN as a strategic platform to increase OGP visibility within local government spaces.

12. OGP SOUTH AFRICA WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

12.1. The meeting noted:

- 12.1.1. The DPSA ICT is developing a new, modern, and user-friendly OGP South Africa platform.
- 12.1.2. The upgraded platform will support multi-stakeholder contributions, supported by an internal verification workflow to maintain integrity and security.
- 12.1.3. A prototype has already been developed but is not yet public. The existing OGP South Africa remains active during the transition.

12.1.4. The upgrade carries no additional or external costs as the DPSA will host and maintain the platform.

13. UPDATE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMITMENT ONE: TRANSFORMATIVE FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

13.1. Vuleka Mali

13.1.1. No update was presented; written submission to the PoC to follow.

13.2. Municipal Money

13.2.1. Planning is underway for the 2026 Section 71 Public Webinar, which will present the final 2024/2025 municipal financial data to the public.

13.2.2. Upgrades to the Municipal Money platform will resume in January 2026. They will address outstanding data updates and platform enhancements.

13.2.3. The National Treasury is conducting active outreach and has prepared a 2026 programme of activities to promote the platform and strengthen public awareness.

13.3. Public Procurement Transparency

13.3.1. The meeting noted that the finalisation of the Public Procurement Act Regulations has been delayed and the National Treasury is seeking a Parliamentary extension to complete the process and allow for proper implementation and reporting.

13.3.2. Instruction Note 10 is now in effect and requires all government institutions to publish their procurement data. A public dashboard is now live on the National Treasury website.

13.3.3. Civil society invited to provide feedback on the functionality and accessibility of the procurement dashboard to support continuous improvement.

14. UPDATE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMITMENT TWO: OPEN DATA TRANSPARENCY ACROSS THE THREE SPHERES OF GOVERNMENT

14.1. No update was presented; written submission to the PoC to follow.

15. DISCUSSIONS

15.1. The MSF discussed the potential governance implications of the OGP South Africa MSF's formal representation on the APRM NGC, noting the new arrangement would create a two-way influence and that the MSF should reflect on what this means in practice.

The two-way influence outlined was the OGP, as one of the NGC sectors, could shape APRM processes, values, or priorities. This could lead to the introduction of OGP style approaches such as transparency, accountability into the APRM South Africa NGC's work. Secondly, the meeting noted that historically, the complementarity between the APRM and OGP, has assisted with the implementation of the APRM recommendations.

The above, highlighted the importance of establishing clear principles for how MSF representative/s would need to participate in external fora as the ToR did not anticipate

representation on external bodies such as the APRM NGC. As such, the responsibility now rests with the MSF to ensure transparent, mandate aligned, fair, inclusive, and well-defined representation that does not conflict with OGP principles.

- 15.2. The meeting acknowledged that the MSF ToR may need to be updated to reflect the raised governance considerations. The update would be part of the ongoing process to refine the ToR as a working document.
- 15.3. It was emphasised that the MSF decisions will guide the mandate of the OGP MSF representative on the APRM NGC. The representation will carry forward MSF resolutions, provide progress reports back to the MSF and influence the NGC based on these positions.
- 15.4. There was recognition of the alignment between the ACWG priorities and the OGP objectives.
- 15.5. The ACWG outcomes were recognised as relevant to future OGP commitments and the Open Government Challenge.
- 15.6. The meeting welcomed the CTIN collaboration with the OGP South Africa MSF and the incorporation of OGP principles and tools; the potential to formulate a future OGP Commitment or Challenge on the area of e-participation; and the collaboration with the French Embassy, on the integration of OGP activities into CTIN events/ programmes.

16. WAY FORWARD

16.1. APRM-OGP Complementarity

- 16.1.1. The meeting confirmed Ms Zukiswa Kota, OGP South Africa MSF Co-Chair, as the MSF representative on the NGC. The MSF may nominate an alternate, if allowable in terms of NGC representation.
- 16.1.2. The DPSA, as POC, to anchor the administrative coordination between the MSF and the NGC.
- 16.1.3. The MSF to refine its ToR to govern external representation, alternates, accountability/ reporting, conflict of interest and alignment with OGP principles.
- 16.1.4. The OGP representative(s) will be expected to report back to the MSF regularly.

16.2. G20-ACWG

- 16.2.1. A dedicated presentation at the next meeting will identify themes that are relevant to the OGP South Africa.
- 16.2.2. The MSF to identify which themes are relevant and feed into the OGP South Africa work.
- 16.2.3. A brief on South Africa's G20 Presidency and ACWG key recommendations to inform transparency and accountability commitments in the National Action Plan (NAP).
- 16.2.4. **OGP Action Framework Review**

16.2.5. South Africa, through the MSF, to provide a consolidated national input advocating for the simplification of the technical processes and balanced accountability mechanisms.

16.3. CTIN collaboration

16.3.1. The CTIN to share documentation via the PoC for ongoing coordination.

16.3.2. The MSF to identify speakers/ events and advise on integrating the OGP into materials and speakers.

16.3.3. Municipal e-participation pilots to be assessed for possible OGP integration/ commitments.

16.4. OGP website

16.4.1. The DPSA ICT to refine website prototype and share with the MSF for feedback and develop a content protocol and migration plan with the PoC.

16.5. Open Government Challenge (Access to Justice)

16.5.1. The DPSA PoC to coordinate implementation and reporting on the Challenge.

16.5.2. Universities/ Law Clinics to develop an National Action Plan on the Challenge implementation.

16.5.3. The MSF to monitor progress and identify synergies to align with the G20 legacy work.

16.6. Expansion into Rural and Semi-Rural Areas

16.6.1. The meeting agreed to expand OGP South Africa activities into rural and semi-rural areas in alignment with the District Development Model (DDM) model.

16.7. Visibility and outreach

16.7.1. The OGP South Africa to continue to build visibility through events, universities, local government engagement, and civil society partnerships.

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Annexes:

1. Annex A: Republic of South Africa *Government Gazette* Vol.726, No.53782, 04 December 2025.
2. Annex B: Attendance register.
3. Annex C: ACWG 2025 outcomes (links to documents)