



DRAFT OUTCOMES REPORT

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SESSION REVIVING THE OGP PROGRAMME IN SOUTH AFRICA DISCUSSION AND ENDORSEMENT OF DRAFT DETAILED COMMITMENTS FOR THE OGP 5TH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2023-2026

UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH AND MS TEAMS

30 NOVEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. A hybrid Multi-Stakeholder Session on the revival of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) was convened by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), as the OGP National Point of Contact and hosted by the University of Stellenbosch (SU) on 30 November 2023. In attendance were members of the OGP South Africa Interim Steering Committee comprised of Civil Society Actors and Government.
2. Mr Johnny Douglas from the Stellenbosch University School of Public Leadership (SU) welcomed the delegates and gave the opening remarks. He conveyed apologies on behalf of Prof Ndevu, Head of the School of Public Leadership (SU), who had extended support and well wishes to the programme.
3. Ms Zukiswa Kota on behalf of the South Africa OGP Interim Steering Committee, gave remarks in support of the revival process and:
 - 3.1. Acknowledged the important continuous and collaborative role all stakeholders and civil society played in the furtherance of the OGP initiative and commitments.
 - 3.2. Emphasised the importance of eliminating the government versus civil society divide.
 - 3.3. Encouraged the collaboration of the respective actors in the co-creation process in a non-adversarial collaborative space.
 - 3.4. Emphasised the importance of innovation, creativity, equality, and unity in the process of co-creation.
 - 3.5. Encouraged adherence to the five (5) key OGP goals in the co-creation processes as per the OGP 2023-2028 Strategy.

- 3.6. Encouraged that in crafting the country commitments, actors in the co-creation process should be ambitious but also realistic. Care should be taken to ensure appreciation of the responsibilities, areas of scope and influence the committee and Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) have, to ensure the creation of pragmatic commitments.
- 3.7. Extended appreciation to the DPSA on the creation of a space for Civic Actors to meet as civic engagement was important.
- 3.8. Encouraged the use of the word “Reformers” in reference to OGP activists, both outside and inside of Government as well as in Academia as per the OGP 2023-2026 Strategy.
- 3.9. Encouraged the session to note the significant choices and trade-offs made by the Civic Actors on what they can invest time and energy into because of the shrinking funding environment.
- 3.10. Encouraged the session to think of innovative ways to meaningfully connect the OGP to primary societal issues. This would be important ensure engagement, buy-in and ultimately joining in the work of the OGP by setting the initial agenda together.
- 3.11. Noted and appreciated the work undertaken by the National Treasury and Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) with the two (2) draft commitments on Transformative Fiscal Transparency and Open Data Transparency across the three spheres of government.
- 3.12. Advised the process must be informed by the respective interested reformers' participation or feedback.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION

4. The main objective of the Multi-stakeholder Session was to further confer with stakeholders on the feedback received from the public, as per the co-creation principle, on the two (2) draft commitments which would constitute the OGP 5th National Action Plan (NAP) among others:
 - 4.1. Conferring further with the stakeholders based on the feedback received on the two (2) commitments.
 - 4.2. Sharing the Roadmap on the consolidation of the OGP programme revival.
 - 4.3. Contextualising the two commitments within the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) National Plan of Action (NPOA), as per the principle of complementarity adopted by the South Africa Cabinet in 2022.
 - 4.4. Providing a platform for stakeholders to articulate their views/ opinions on the review process going forward.

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

5. Attendance

- 5.1. Mr Johnny Douglas, University of Stellenbosch
- 5.2. Ms Zukiswa Kota, Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) and OGP Interim Steering Committee member
- 5.3. Dr Paul Plantinga, Human Sciences Research Council and OGP Interim Steering Committee member
- 5.4. Ms Matshidiso Kgothatso Semela: OGP Secretariat: OGP Country Support
- 5.5. Mr De Wit Coetsee, Western Cape Government
- 5.6. Ms Lizelle Leonard, Western Cape Government
- 5.7. Mr Paul Cavalia, French Embassy in the Western Cape
- 5.8. Mr Zaid du Toit, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution South Africa (C4IR) (CSIR)
- 5.9. Dr Mary Mangai, University of Pretoria
- 5.10. Ms Sharon Sheldon, University of Stellenbosch
- 5.11. Mr Sephiri Tlhomeli, National Treasury
- 5.12. Ms Mpho Gaosime, National Treasury
- 5.13. Ms Prudence Cele, National Treasury
- 5.14. Ms Xolile Mdluli, National Treasury
- 5.15. Ms Una Rautenbach, National Treasury
- 5.16. Mr Navin Singh, National Treasury
- 5.17. Ms Kgothatso Matlala, National Treasury
- 5.18. Ms Mpho Gaosiwe, National Treasury
- 5.19. Ms Alufheli Swalivha, DPSA
- 5.20. Mr Moses Moshe, DPSA
- 5.21. Dr Patrick Sokhela, DPSA
- 5.22. Dr Mataywa Busieka, DPSA
- 5.23. Ms Gcino Mlaba, DPSA
- 5.24. Ms Nonkululeko Msibi, DPSA
- 5.25. Ms Marothi Ramphele, DPSA
- 5.26. Ms Matsetu Botha, DPSA
- 5.27. Mr Thabo Selomo, DPSA

6. Apologies

- 6.1. Prof Zwelinzima Ndevu, University of Stellenbosch.

PRESENTATIONS

7. The meeting received the following presentations:

- 7.1. The draft National Roadmap towards the OGP 5th NAP from the DPSA
- 7.2. South Africa's two (2) draft Commitments, namely:
 - 7.2.1. Transformative Fiscal Transparency from the National Treasury.
 - 7.2.2. Open Data Transparency across the three spheres of government from the CSIR.

DISCUSSIONS

8. The Session discussions centred on South Africa's efforts to deliver the country's 5th NAP to the OGP Secretariat before the set deadline of 31 December 2023. This deadline was per the letter from the OGP Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sanjay Pradhan dated 07 March 2023, advising South Africa of acting contrary to OGP Process and Status.
9. The session noted the OGP space was growing and that the session to confer on the progress of revival thus far was a vital part of the journey in crafting an inclusive experience.
10. The level at which organisations, civil society and government were able to invest time and resources in the work of the OGP as a collaborative and co-creative initiative was noted.
11. The meeting appreciated the innovative and creative nature of the OGP space offered to actors to co-create in a non-adversarial environment without the challenges of government and societal structures.
12. The South African OGP Interim Committee advised on their keenness to leverage the 5 Strategic Goals of the OGP in furtherance of the Partnership in the country.
13. The incremental work undertaken in Open Data Transparency was noted. Hope was expressed that other actors would be brought in to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the work.
14. The protection of the Civic Space was highlighted, with Civil Society Actors being encouraged to make trade-offs regarding what they could dedicate their resources to, given shrinking budgets.
15. The meeting took note of the difficulty in building a case for OGP when people were already inundated with their core functions at work. This served as a prompt for the Session and the MSF, to rethink mechanisms on how to build a meaningful case, to integrate the OGP into everyday life for all actors involved.
16. The meeting acknowledged the urban and rural digital divide in South Africa and agreed on the importance of it being minimised through the utilisation of Open Science to engage and connect with communities.
17. The session proposed the greater publicising of the OGP, through a newsletter to be developed on OGP internal and external news for dissemination to social media users i.e. X users.
18. The session acknowledged the efforts of the DPSA to raise the level of awareness on the OGP South Africa process through the resuscitation of the OGP website and the creation of a new X account, as there was no access to the previous X account.

19. The importance of co-creating the South African OGP Commitments through stakeholder engagement with communities but acknowledging the concern that the process was time-consuming was highlighted.
20. Piggybacking on available resources to publicise the OGP was encouraged.
21. The following was noted from the National Treasury:
 - 21.1. The National Treasury advised the meeting that their Departmental Communications team would be taking over the publicity for the two projects under the Transformative Fiscal Transparency Commitment i.e. Vuleka Mali and Municipal Money.
 - 21.2. Social media would be utilised to increase engagement and awareness.
 - 21.3. There is a plan to undertake roadshows in 2024.
 - 21.4. The planned marketing and publicity campaign is to ensure citizenry information and participation with the inclusion of the deaf community forming an integral part of the campaign. The next phase of the campaign would include information on Public Entities, which is not readily available to the public.
 - 21.5. A request to the South African OGP Interim Committee, to assist the National Treasury in taking the Municipal Money platform to the public and play a role in assisting citizens' awareness of their role in holding municipalities accountable.
 - 21.6. Targeted interventions to ensure learners and young people are involved in the co-creation process through training in a bid to raise awareness would be undertaken, The National Treasury's Communications Unit would, internally, present a plan and costed budget on the inclusion of young people in the OGP initiatives of the National Treasury. The meeting took note that there was no budget allocated for the above-mentioned at that time, but the National Treasury would make efforts to ensure the availability of a budget for marketing.
 - 21.7. The National School of Government (NSG) offers non-accredited training and courses on the matters covered by the National Treasury. To ensure gainful participation in training, efforts are underway to ensure the University of South Africa (UNISA) offers accredited training to encourage uptake.
 - 21.8. Advised at that time, there were no indications that the National Treasury would replicate the Municipal Money at a wider and national government level as its current focus was on municipalities at the local government level.
 - 21.9. The session noted that the National Treasury publishes the Municipal Money project information on their website as received from participating municipalities, with no alterations.

22. The meeting noted the importance of including the OGP and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as governance programmes to the scope of study available to students, especially at the master's level in Academia.
23. More access to information through zero-rated access technology was identified as crucial for communities. The Government was identified as the best-suited actor to address this challenge.
24. Caution was sounded on the importance of clear crafting and delivery of the OGP messages to intended audiences to ensure understanding, impact, and desired outcomes.
25. There was an agreement on the need to simplify the term “co-creation” and what it means to manage expectations accordingly.
26. It was outlined that there should be a clear difference between awareness and outreach in the engagement process of co-creation.
27. The session agreed that the geographic spread of Civil Society Actors and other Actors in the OGP needed to be widened.
28. The session agreed that caution must be exercised by Civil Society Actors to not hold space from others. In this context, it was identified as important to correctly identify the actors who are concretely part of the co-creation process, engagement and identify the criteria that inform their participation to allow for fruitful co-creation and participation.
29. The need for innovative co-creation was emphasised.
30. Concern was raised on the feasibility of meeting the timelines as outlined in the roadmap, especially the submission of the South Africa’s OGP 5th NAP by 31 December 2023 as committed.
31. The need to expand on the OGP Co-Creation process, specifically in the Academic Theory Process was highlighted. The need for the MSF to deliberate on how students and researchers could be involved and gain access to the OGP process was put on the table.
32. The importance of agenda setting, from the onset of co-creation processes, was highlighted to ensure all relevant stakeholders are brought on board and are committed to the process.
33. The involvement of the respective nine (9) provincial governments in OGP awareness sessions was emphasised.
34. The meeting noted the conclusion of Memoranda of Corporation (MoC) at the local government level between municipalities and provincial governments as great examples of collaboration in the policy space. This was especially noteworthy when considering the big challenges that are faced in the conclusion of policies and the signing of MoCs.

35. The advancement of sign language to the Deaf Community was acknowledged as an opportunity to be explored in expanding the reach to stakeholders.
36. The co-creation process to consider the National Development Plan (NDP) priorities of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) period while also looking at the instruments that are available globally and, on the continent, to assist with the issues the country is trying to address.
37. The CSIR advised the meeting of the intention to set up its multi-stakeholder Forum in the financial year next cycle. As such, an incremental approach would be followed. A plan to set up eight (8) Metropolitans as a starting point, has been put in place, with District Municipalities to follow. The meeting was advised the Western Cape and Mpumalanga Provinces had already been engaged and were ready to commence the co-creation process with the CSIR. The remaining seven (7) provinces would follow suit. Hope was expressed that the CSIR commitment to Open Data would be advanced until 2026 and the policy development methodology to be used would be in place by then.
38. The possibility for the Open Data Municipal Champions to take more of a leadership role in defining the objective of the project and driving the process in their respective municipalities was raised as a point for consideration in the policy development approach of the Open Data Project.
39. Linked to the above, it was proposed that this could be undertaken through a model where the CSIR serves as convener of a community of practice with Municipal Champions from different municipalities who actively engage to share experiences and knowledge. The CSIR could further support them in defining their policy journeys taking into consideration the differences in undertaking processes and appreciating the respective situational analysis of each municipality. This would ensure a collectively driven process that would avoid resistance to policy activities. It would further ensure that all stakeholders are involved from the early stages and set and own the agenda by defining the process and its intended objectives. The roles of the Champions could be elevated to ensure they are not just data movers between the OGP South Africa and Stakeholders, rather they should effectively lead and do most of the work related to the activities of the Open Data Project as the face of the project at the Coalface. The proposal was likened to the Train-the-Trainer initiative in the South African government sphere. The Champions to drive more of the process, with the support of the OGP South Africa and the CSIR as project lead.
40. The meeting noted that there were interchangeable terms used to refer to Municipal Champions i.e. Data Champions, Stewards, Custodians, Owners, etc on the Open Data project. It was noted the alignment of terms was necessary to be able to measure the available human resources in different centres doing the same function.
41. Emphasis was placed on the importance of ensuring that the Civil Society Community is involved in all aspects of co-creation. The active involvement of all stakeholders in the processes must always be at the forefront of OGP commitments, i.e. from agenda setting, and should flow through to the end of the policy cycle.

42. Emphasis was placed on the need to ensure that the OGP space allows for the existence of all stakeholders along a continuum in terms of how to co-create.
43. The OGP South Africa Point of Contact advised the session that the two (2) draft OGP South Africa Commitments had been published on the OGP South Africa website, with a six (6) week deadline, from Friday, 13 October 2023 to Monday, 27 November 2023, for comment by the public. Social media has also been utilised to garner interest and comment. The session was advised no feedback had been received from the exercise, rather it had been the office of the OGP South Africa Point of Contact that had been actively interacting with the draft commitments.

WAY FORWARD

44. The formation of the OGP South Africa MSF would be guided by the OGP Handbook in terms of representation and the quality of the forum in terms of its formation.
 45. The input received, if any, from the call for comments on South Africa's draft commitment and Roadmap, would be consolidated accordingly by the office of the OGP South Africa Point of Contact.
 46. The DPSA, as South Africa's OGP Point of Contact, committed to supporting the National Treasury and CSIR-C4IR as leads in the OGP commitments. They will further follow up with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) on the draft Commitment on Access to Justice as previously engaged.
 47. The session agreed to the proposal to move forward with the two (2) draft commitments in the process of reviving the OGP South Africa. The roadmap would assist the stakeholders and the MSF to zoom in on the details of reviving the structure.
 48. Ms Kota advised the session she would sponsor the draft proposal for the formalisation of the OGP South Africa Interim Steering Committee in due course as per the initial undertaking in the meeting of the Steering Committee on 06 October 2023.
 49. It is envisaged that the definition of the MSF and the formal endorsement of the Interim Steering Committee will be undertaken or achieved by June 2024. This would be undertaken following the adoption, and implementation through cross-cutting activities monitoring of the OGP 5th NAP and reporting to the various structures where the OGP is reported. The methodology of APRM/ OGP complementarity would be utilised.
 50. The session was assured that the process towards the revival of the OGP South Africa would be participatory and the available resources would be utilised to build confidence in the process and program.
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