



DRAFT OUTCOMES REPORT

OGP SOUTH AFRICA INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING REVIVAL OF THE OGP IN SOUTH AFRICA IN LINE WITH THE APRM - OGP COMPLEMENTARITY

09 MAY 2024: 10H00 - 13H00

MS TEAMS

INTRODUCTION

1. A meeting of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) South Africa Interim Steering Committee (Interim Steering Committee) took place on 09 May 2024 via Microsoft (MS) Teams as per the outcomes of the same structure meeting of 06 October 2023. In attendance were members comprised of state and non-state actors, coordinated by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) as the OGP Point of Contact in South Africa. This meeting was convened as per the adopted National Roadmap of the Revival of the OGP in South Africa, in line with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and OGP complementarity. It follows South Africa's submission of the OGP South Africa 5th National Action Plan (NAP) for 2023 -2026 in March 2024.

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2. Attendance

- 2.1 Mr Craig Meyer, Department of Communication and Digital Technologies (DCDT)
- 2.2 Ms Jeanette Morwane, DCDT
- 2.3 Ms Zukhanye Moropa, DCDT
- 2.4 Ms Kelepile Kgobokoe, State Information Technology Agency (SITA)
- 2.5 Ms Gabriella Razzano, OpenUp
- 2.6 Adv Gary Pienaar, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
- 2.7 Dr Paul Plantinga, HSRC
- 2.8 Dr Ngqapheli Mchunu, HSRC
- 2.9 Dr Simangele Dlamini, HSRC
- 2.10 Mr Martin Deramond, French Embassy
- 2.11 Mr Ivov Chipkin, New South Institute (NSI)
- 2.12 Ms Zukiswa Kota, Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM)
- 2.13 Ms Nicki Van 't Riet, Corruption Watch
- 2.14 Mr Zaaid du Toit, Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution South Africa (C4IR) at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- 2.15 Ms Rakgadi Motseto, National Treasury
- 2.16 Mr Sephiri Tlhomeli, National Treasury

- 2.17 Ms Mpho Gaosime, National Treasury
- 2.18 Ms Tshenolo Tshoaeidi, Community Advice Offices South Africa (CAOSA)
- 2.19 Ms Sheila Matsondota, CAOSA
- 2.20 Dr Patrick Sokhela, DPSA
- 2.21 Ms Nonkululeko Msibi, DPSA

3. *Apologies*

- 3.1 Ms Motlatsi Komote, Corruption Watch
- 3.2 Ms Prudence Cele, National Treasury
- 3.3 DDG Willie Vukela, Branch: Government Services Access and Improvement (GSAI)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 4. The meeting agenda was adopted as proposed with no amendments.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES - 06 OCTOBER 2023

- 5. The OGP South Africa Interim Steering Committee meeting minutes held on 06 October 2024 were adopted with no amendments.

NOTING OF THE REPORT- 30 NOVEMBER 2023

- 6. The report of the Multi-Stakeholder Session: Reviving the OGP Programme in South Africa- Discussion and endorsement of the draft detailed Commitments for the OGP 5th National Action Plan was noted.

7. A RECAP ON DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 30 NOVEMBER 2023

7.1 Cabinet Statement of 13 March 2024. The meeting noted that the OGP South Africa had missed the 31 December 2023 deadline to submit the 5th NAP to the OGP Secretariat due to internal processes undertaken to ensure collective agreement and support was received on the submission of the NAP from Cabinet. Assurance was provided that although the deadline was missed, the OGP Support Office in South Africa had been kept abreast of all developments in the bureaucratic process to indicate progress on the matter and mitigate any negative fallouts. The 5th NAP was adopted by Cabinet, supporting its submission to the OGP Secretariat on 05 March 2024. Subsequently, a Cabinet statement was released on 13 March 2024, which helped to publicise the OGP Process to more stakeholders by summarising the OGP South Africa process. Even though not required, for publicity and confirmation of the Commitments, it is viewed as an ideal principle to follow the Cabinet approach each time the OGP South Africa undertakes new OGP Commitments.

7.2 Update on the draft Commitment on Access to Justice. The meeting noted the developments and progress made in concretising the draft Commitment on Access to Justice. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) committed to work with the Community Advice Offices South Africa (CAOSA) and the OGP South Africa, through the DPSA, to gradually introduce the processes of the OGP and the APRM into existent DoJ&CD programmes. The current partnership between CAOSA and the DoJ&CD would be highlighted, and existing programmes would be showcased as structured programmes informed by the principles of the OGP and the APRM. This would effectively allow the country to commence reporting on the draft Commitment on Access to Justice in preparation for inclusion in the 6th NAP.

PROPOSAL ON THE FORMALISATION OF THE OGP SOUTH AFRICA MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM

8. A proposal on the formalisation of the OGP South Africa Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF), in the form of draft Terms of Reference (ToRs), guided by the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards was presented for consideration and input. It contained:
 - 8.1 A proposal for Civil Society within the Interim Steering Committee, to nominate a chairperson amongst themselves to co-chair the structure as it evolves into the envisaged MSF.
 - 8.2 A proposal that the current Interim Steering Committee members and stakeholders constitute the envisaged MSF. In the process of establishing and transitioning to the MSF, the proposed ToRs would guide the structure's work. The main intention at this stage of the OGP South Africa Revival is to firm up the proposal and focus on the details of the operations of the structure.

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

9. The OGP South Africa's Commitment to Transformative Fiscal Transparency has two (2) facets, Municipal Money (MuniMoney) at the municipal level and Vuleka Mali, at the National Level. The meeting received a report only on MuniMoney, focused on transformative fiscal transparency, specifically municipal financial data. A MuniMoney portal is in place and has successfully ensured that civil society and society in general, have access to the budget and spending data of all the 257 municipalities in South Africa. The data on the portal is updated quarterly on the National Treasury website and can be accessed and downloaded by communities and public users, with no need to register for access. The meeting was advised to note that the respective municipalities are accountable for the information loaded, the National Treasury merely hosts the portal for posting.
10. The meeting further noted the National Treasury is developing a marketing and communication plan for MuniMoney which will include the extensive use of social media and additionally, cater for the Deaf community as an integral part of the campaign. It was further noted that there are plans to involve the Interim Steering Committee when the National Treasury goes public to launch and publicise the campaign. The publicising of the campaign is a critical aspect to ensure the visibility of the Commitment to Transformative Fiscal Transparency, as part of the revival of the OGP in South Africa.

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

- 11.1 The meeting received a presentation on the Open Data Policy project, which was run by the South African Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) at the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). It served to develop a comprehensive approach to data governance and was funded by the British High Commission, with the key deliverables to develop Open Data Principles, an Open Data Principles Charter and implementation guidelines for local government. The project was piloted in four (4) metropolitans i.e. the Cities of Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg and Tshwane and eThekweni.
- 11.2 Linked to the above, the OGP South Africa National Secretariat took part in the C4IR Open Data Policy Principles Adoption Workshop on 27 March 2024 at the CSIR

International Convention Centre. The workshop served to adopt a list of policy principles that municipalities could adopt when implementing their Open Data policies. The adoption follows the need for a comprehensive approach to data governance, considering the evolving landscape of smart city initiatives in South Africa as evidenced by prominent national frameworks such as the South African Smart Cities Framework and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Smart City Development Maturity Framework.

- 11.3 The meeting noted the report on the Open Data draft policies co-created by the Cities of Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, Tshwane and eThekweni.
- 11.4 The Open Data Policy project has garnered interest in other provinces, resulting in the C4IR receiving requests to assist provincial, district and individual municipalities in the development of their respective open data policies in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.
- 11.5 The C4IR would be updating the Open Data Toolkit and the Open Data Almanac with the African Cities Network through the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), with the new findings and focus from this project. Additionally, the Smart Cities Framework is to be augmented with the open data information derived from municipalities.
- 11.6 The meeting noted the initiative by the SALGA to standardise data governance and information sharing in the 257 municipalities in the country through a collaboration with the South African Cities Network (SACN).
- 11.7 The importance for the DCDT, as policymakers for ICT in government, to emerge as a prominent actor in Open Data, was highlighted.
- 11.8 The meeting was advised that the eight (8) metropolitan municipalities had expressed a keen interest to serve as members of the envisaged OGP South Africa MSF as government actors so they can attain civil society views to assist improve their services.
- 11.9 The meeting noted that the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) currently has a Service Level Agreement between South Africa and Columbia on Open Governance and Data and the development of the architecture to build a centralised platform to host all the 257 municipal sets of data on one platform.

DISCUSSIONS

12. The meeting noted the DCDT has a great opportunity to connect its existing initiatives to the OGP as the department was previously involved in the initial stages of the OGP South Africa Open Data Commitment.
13. The further development and expansion of Vuleka Mali features, following migration to the National Treasury, were noted. The migration to include public, public entities, public entity allocations and entities features under schedule 3C in terms of the Public Financial Management Act (PFMA). Given the significant public and government interest this would garner, it was proposed that the Civil Society actors in the Interim Steering Committee continue to engage with the National Treasury concerning Vuleka Mali.

14. The meeting agreed that the OGP South Africa would be keen to receive input from the National Treasury on Procurement as a topical issue considering the reforms taking place under the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer. The National Treasury acknowledged the analysis on procurement, related to deviations and condemnations undertaken by Corruption Watch and expressed the hope they would share it with respective Interim Steering Committee members.
15. The Interim Steering Committee to explore elements of creativity and ambition that can be brought into existing platforms to aid in the revival process of OGP South Africa. This can be done by bringing more civil society organisations on board the OGP South Africa, specifically by creating information that is accessible and available by making it appealing to a wider range of user groups. The publicity and driving of the process were identified as crucial factors that would need to be paid attention to.
16. The meeting noted the National Treasury committed to undertake efforts to ensure their Departmental Units dealing with State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and Supply Chain Management (SCM) would also form part of the OGP South Africa platform and contribute in the best way possible to procurement at the local, provincial, and national government levels. This would be undertaken following engagement with the departmental Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) to discuss the best approach.
17. The meeting noted the Public Procurement Bill currently before Parliament, presented before the Zondo Commission recommendations, had been amended to cater for comments therein and could be leveraged for the furtherance of the OGP South Africa work. The National Treasury was encouraged to further explore the Commitment to Fiscal Transparency, through the introduction of the work on Procurement as it aligns with the National Treasury's Annual Performance Plan and Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF).
18. The importance of ensuring a participatory process in the co-creation process of the Open Data Charter inclusive of the municipalities, residents and the public and civil society was highlighted.
19. The meeting noted that the C4IR is in the initial stages of engaging with the Makhanda Municipality on an Open Data project, in line with the municipality's process of developing a local government action plan under the umbrella of the OGP SA.
20. The importance for all OGP South Africa actors to find opportunities to streamline and support the existing work that is undertaken by local governments under the OGP umbrella was highlighted.
21. A view to expand the envisaged MSF to the wider public invitation, to ensure there is openness and meaningful participation in the OGP process by actors, especially Civil Society Actors was put forward.

WAY FORWARD

22. The Interim Steering Committee to provide written narrative feedback on the proposed MSF by mid-to-end June 2024.

23. The Interim Steering Committee to convene for a two (2) day physical session in July 2024 to:
 - 23.1 Reflect on the envisaged future of the OGP South Africa.
 - 23.2 Review current, identify new Commitments, and commence with the formalisation process thereof in preparation for the next cycle of the OGP.
 - 23.3 Engage further on the formalisation of the MSF structure.
 - 23.4 Discuss how the OGP South Africa can be enhanced with the inclusion of the new stakeholders.
24. The National Treasury will keep the OGP South Africa National Secretariat abreast of developments and opportunities that may arise related to the launch of the MuniMoney portal.
25. Government departments in the Interim Steering Committee, to identify areas in their respective Annual Performance Plans (APP) and Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) to showcase under the umbrella of the OGP. This will enable the OGP South Africa to have an incremental list of Commitments, which can be reported on without the burden of funding as they are already Departmental imperatives.
26. A parallel process to effectively manage the OGP South Africa Revival process while understanding the broader objectives of the MSF will be undertaken on an incremental basis. This will ensure there are clear objectives and enhancements based on co-creation before the MSF comes into effect.
27. Corruption Watch committed to share their findings on deviations and expansions/condemnations, which they pulled through their procurement watch tool through the OGP South Africa National Secretariat for wider distribution.
28. Mr Zaaid du Toit to share the adopted principles of the Open Data Charter, with a cover letter to provide context, to allow the National Secretariat to process on behalf of the Interim Steering Committee for further comments. The idea, in terms of the OGP South Africa Commitment on Open Data, is that once the project is adopted at the local government level, it will then be tested with the other spheres of government to allow for consolidation of Open Data in all three (3) spheres of government.
29. Linked to the above, the adopted principles will be processed to Cabinet for noting. The six (6) principles that were adopted and are already being piloted in certain municipalities are:
 - 29.1 Open by default
 - 29.2 Timely and comprehensive
 - 29.3 Accessible and usable
 - 29.4 Comparable and interoperable
 - 29.5 For improved governance & citizen engagement
 - 29.6 For inclusive development and innovation
30. The Civil Society Organisations within the Interim Steering Committee to consider the proposal to nominate an Interim Chairperson from amongst themselves to co-chair the structure as it evolves into the formalised MSF.

///