

Open Government Partnership Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday 10th December 2020
Department of National Planning & Monitoring Conference Room

MINUTES

Co-chair Michael Kumung called the meeting to order at 10:00am, with representatives from the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM), Constitution for Law Reform Commission (CLRC), Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazard Management (DMPGM), Department of Treasury (DOT), Department of Finance, Department of Justice & Attorney General (DJAG), Department of Information and Technology and Transparency International PNG (TIPNG)

ATTENDANCE

Government representatives in attendance:

DNPM (Michael Kumung, Langa Kopio, Lawrence Duguman), CLRC (Michelle Taumpson), DOT (Enoch Savaro, Jonathan Wak), DMPGM (Vincent Johnny), DJAG (L Paiyo), PNG EITI (Christopher Tabel), DIT (Flierl Shongol)

Civil Society representatives in attendance:

TIPNG (Arianne Kassman, Barbra Ruin, Dempster Kiasaka, Larry Agdop, Rebekah Watinga, Marlyna Kisper)

Observers

Japanese Embassy (Kenichi Tanimoto)

Apologies received:

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

1. Opening Remarks by Government Co-Chair
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes & Status of Action Items
3. OGP Status Update
 - OGP Website – DCIT
 - NAP 2021 -2023
4. Presentations
 - Status of the IFMS Rollout
 - Status on the IRM Report
5. Update from Cluster Commitment
 1. Public Participation
 2. Fiscal Transparency
 3. Freedom of Information
 4. Extractive Resources Transparency

1. WELCOME BY GOVERNMENT CO-CHAIR

Mr. Langa Kopio opened the meeting with a Word of Prayer.

Mr. Michael Kumung welcomed all agencies present at the National Steering Committee Meeting No. 02/2020.

- He provided an overview of the Open Government Partnership framework as an important reform that promotes transparency, accountability and integrity for the country.
- OGP is paving way to address the lack of information accessibility, monitoring of public finance and restoring trust by the people and development partners in the service delivery of the country.
- There are other frameworks in which the government is engaging with the CSOs.
- The OGP contributes to the Mid-Term Development Plan and Vision 2050 aspirations of the country.

OGP CSO Co-chair, Arianne Kassman in her introductory remarks, gave a reflection on the National Action Plan 2018-2020.

- The Four Cluster; Public Participation, Fiscal Transparency, Freedom of Information and Extractive Resources Transparency and the 7 commitments outlined under the respective Clusters as per the NAP 2018-2020.
- In this Meeting each Cluster Co-chair will be present a status progress on the milestones as set in the NAP 2018-2020.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comments were made from the last Minutes for Meeting No. 01/2020;

- Mr. Christopher Tabel from PNG EITI notified for the Minutes to include his name as an attendee present at the last Steering Committee Meeting.
- Mr. Tabel stated that the Minutes be edited to specify EITI Commission Bill -under 6.4.
- Mr. Tabel also stated the changes to include EITI policy was endorsed by NEC 'not government'.
- Mr. Shongol asked that the Minutes include page numbers for reference.
- Mr. Jonathan Wak from Treasury commented that the statement from Treasury under Fiscal Transparency be edited to "in relation to procurement the concerns are being addressed of the National Pandemic Act not being subject to or in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act.

Resolution 1 : Christopher Tabel moved for minutes to be accepted and was seconded by Mr. Tiki from Finance Department.

Review of Action Items from last Meeting

Action Item	Status Update
1) Correction to the minutes to be made	Done

2) OGP co-chairs are to write to National Procurement Commission to provide an in the next Meeting	Letters have been sent to NPC- but there was no response
3) OGP Co-chairs to write to NRI and seek the status of the Independent Review Mechanism Report	NRI has completed the Review and sent the draft to Singapore, OGP Global Secretariat. The Report will be presented in the 1 st Quarter Steering Committee Meeting, 2021.
4) OGP Co-chairs to update NEC and recommend the set-up of a ministerial committee for OGP	Outstanding. Government Cochair, DNPM will make a submission to DJAG next year.
5) OGP Co-chairs to meet with Auditor General's Office regarding publishing of audit reports	Outstanding.
6) OGP Co-chairs are to set up committee for leaders' summit on OGP for quarter 1 of 2021	Outstanding. Will commence next year.
7) OGP Co-chairs to organize a meeting with Community Development and CIMC to discuss pending milestones under Public Participation.	Outstanding.
8) Department of Treasury to invite Civil Society to be part of the Budget Strategy Committee	Outstanding. Government Co-chair to draft an information paper and submit to NEC to endorse Civil Society participation in the Budgetary process.
9) Letter to Department of Finance to seek update on the roll out of the IFMS	Mr. Tiki will present as part of this meeting agenda.
10) Letter to NEFC to ensure participation in Fiscal Transparency	Outstanding.
11) Letter to the Center for Economic and Fiscal Inclusion to attend the next national steering committee	Outstanding.
12) OGP Co-chairs and DCIT to meet next week to progress on OGP PNG website	Done. Mr. Shongol will present as part of this meeting agenda
13) Letter to PNGEC to attend next OGP Steering Committee Meeting	Outstanding.

Note: Action items not attended to will be carried over to next year 2021.

3. OGP STATUS UPATE

3.1 OGP Website – Mr. Flirl Shongol, Department of Information and Technology

- PNG OGP Website Offline version is complete
- OGP Co-chairs, DNPM and TIPNG have given feedbacks on the website structure to include OGP elements
- Current status, DIT have submitted an application to register the domain name at the University of Technology and is pending approval
- The domain address given is: pngopengov.gov.pg
- The domain address is expected to be active or online this month of December.
- DIT will host the domain, maintenance and other associated costs for now until there are further changes to this arrangement
- The immediate next step is to produce operational guideline and policies to administer the domain
- Mr. Tabel commented that there should be a TOR or MoU between agencies in the Clusters to share information and if a Committee can be appointed to provide content for the Website
- Mr. Shongol responded that for now the Clusters can send their contents to DIT to upload until such a time when each clusters can be able to manage their own contents and upload.

3.2 NAP 2021 -2023

Mr. Kopio presented a brief outline on the plan towards drafting the next NAP 2021-2023.

- Review of the current NAP 2018-2020 will be done coinciding with a Governance Summit
- The Governance Summit will be attended by Key Ministers and Prime Minister to give remarks on the importance of transparency, accountability and good governance.
- Followed by 2 days of Workshop with technical working group to review the current NAP and drafting of the next NAP 2021-2023.
- An evaluation will be done on which cluster commitment to be brought forward to the next NAP or are there new important commitments that would need to be added.

CSO Co-chair, Arianne Kassman, gave an history into the adaption of OGP in PNG

- She described the challenge in producing the NAP 2018-2020 and eventual NEC endorsement which took 4 years.
- She said the Commitments drafted then were based on existing government initiatives
- The new NAP will need to capture developments from the Clusters and come from discussion from the Clusters.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Status of the IFMS Rollout – Mr. Tom Tiki, Finance Department

- The government has adopted the Integrated Finance Monetary System and is now rolling out in the provinces.
- The IFMS functions aids the Budgeting and Reporting System and has increased proficiency in the reporting system of the government
- National Procurement Commission has recently adapted the IFMS system but still needs a suitable procurement and contract management system for its operations.
- Covid-19 has disrupted the Department's effort in rolling out the IFMS system in the provinces for this year. Operations were halted in March in rolling out IFMS in the province.
- A total of 14 provinces are now implementing the IFMS system within the year 2020, the remaining provinces will be covered in 2021.

- The biggest challenges for IFMS in provinces is the reduction in budget allocation, Internet connectivity and electricity.
- The infrastructure setup is usually the responsibility agency or district.
- The IFMS aligns with the OGP as it promotes accountability

Comments were made from the presentations;

- Lawrence Duguman, mentioned for DIT to note the need for ease in internet connectivity and recommended for interconnectivity by service providers to use the same Tower
- John from DOT added that apart from Budgetary and Reporting purposes, the IFMS provides live figures that displays the amount of money sitting in the bank or that which has converted to cheque and easily tracks expenditure.
- Mr. Tiki also added to his presentation, that another advantage of the IFMS is it is automated system. When the government has announced a closure of account, IFMS shuts down and closes off any transactions that may have occurred in the previous finance system.
- Mr. Shongol responded to comments on internet connectivity and said that the Finance Department and provinces needs to communicate with DIT to use DataCo as a main network which is fibre-optic and is very fast.
- Mr. Shongol commented that when implementing such systems, it is advisable to be alert on the data security aspect of it and if the systems are protected internally with Anti-virus or external protections from cyber security.
- Mr. Shongol said while the Cyber Security Policy has been passed, the Cyber Security Office does not have man-power to attend to the country's cyber security issues.

4.2 Status on the IRM Report

- OGP Secretariat, Mr. Kopio provided an update which was captured in the section Review Action Items, Item No. 3 on page 3.

5. Update from Cluster Commitment

5.1 Public Participation

Langa Kopio from DNPM gave the update;

- Activities under Public participation are largely carried out through the CIMC platform
- All forum plans for this year have been cancelled due to Covid-19.
- There needs to be more collaboration with the Community Development Department to progress with the CSO Partnership Policy
- There are opportunities with DFAT in promoting government and CSO partnership and the Churches and Government partnership

5.2 Fiscal Transparency

Update on Fiscal Transparency was provided by Jonathan Wak, Department of Treasury

Next Meeting: Thursday, 03rd December 2020