

Third (3rd) Quarter Open Government Partnership National Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday 7th November, 2019
4th Floor, Vulupindi Haus, Waigani, NCD.

Meeting Minute No. 03/2019

Co-Chair by: Mr. Lawrence Duguman, First Assistant Secretary – Policy & Budgets Division, Department of National Planning & Monitoring (DNPM) and Ms. Arianne Kassman, Executive Director, Transparency International (TIPNG).

Apologies

Nil

Attendance

Government Representatives in attendance:

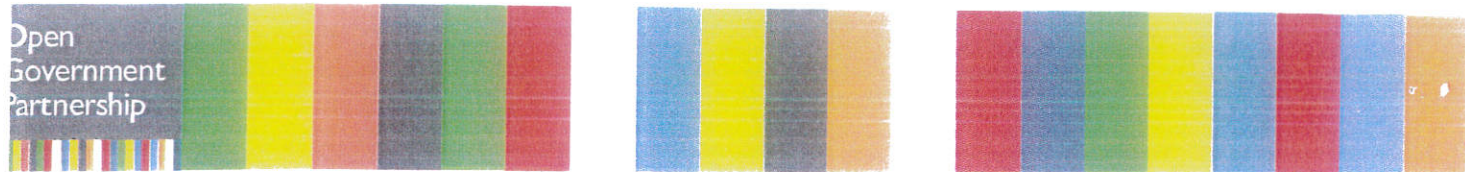
1. Lawrence Duguman, First Assistant Secretary – Policy & Budgets Division (DNPM)
2. Langa Kopio, Assistant Secretary – Economic Policy Branch (DNPM)
3. Debbie Kamaso, Policy Officer – Health/Education (DNPM)
4. Niandruan Kilepak, Policy Officer – Economic (DNPM)
5. Flierl Shongoz, Deputy Secretary (DCI),
6. Marrian Rema, Officer (DCIT)
7. Vincent Romba, Senior Legal Officer (CLRC)
8. Stella Brere, Manager- SP Branch (MRA)
9. Robert Yalip, Director – Library Services (OLA)
10. Patrick Painap, Director – NEFC (NEFC)
11. Simon Bole, A/Chief Executive Officer (NPC)
12. Flierl Shongoz, Deputy Secretary (DCI)
13. Dujon Kera-Aisa, Graduate Economist (DoT)
14. Enoch Savaro, Graduate Economist (DoT)
15. Peter Mondoro, Assistant Secretary (DoT)

Civil Society Representatives in Attendance

1. Arianne Kassman, *Executive Director* (TIPNG)
2. Yuambari Haihuie, *Deputy Director* (TIPNG)
3. Barbra Ruin, *Advocacy Liaison Officer* (TIPNG)
4. Busa Jeremiah Wenogo, *Senior Project Officer* (CIMC)
5. Wallis Yakam, *Executive Officer* (CIMC)

Development Partners

1. Carlos Perez Padilla, *Officer/Programme Manager* (EU)



Research Institute

1. Paul Barker, *Executive Director* (INA)

ABSENT

1. Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council (PM&NEC)
2. Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
3. Department of Finance (DoF)
4. Extractive Industries & Transparency Initiatives (EITI)
5. Department of Provincial & Local Government Affairs (DPLGA)
6. Department for Community Development & Religion (DfCDR)
7. Department of Commerce & Industry (DCI)
8. Department of Petroleum & Energy (DPE)
9. Office of the Auditor General
10. National Statistical Office
11. National Identification and Civil Registry Office
12. PNG Customs
13. Internal Revenue Commission
14. Bank of Papua New Guinea
15. Department of Implementation and Rural Development (DIRD)

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

- Item 1.0 Registration
- Item 2.0 Opening Prayer
- Item 3.0 Opening Remarks
- Item 4.0 Introductions
- Item 5.0 Minutes of the previous Meeting–Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
- Item 6.0 PNG OGP Status Update
- Item 7.0 Report on the Independent Review Mechanism
- Item 8.0 Presentations
 - Item 8.1 *Ward Record Book*
 - Item 8.2 Rollout of IFMS
- Item 9.0 Update from Cluster Commitments
 - Item 9.1 Public Participation
 - Item 9.2 Fiscal Transparency
 - Item 9.3 Freedom of Information
 - Item 9.4 Extractive Resource Transparency
- Item 10.0 Way Forward & Wrap up

1. Registration

All members present had registered on the registration list.

2. Opening Prayer

The Opening Prayer was done by Mr. Lawrence Duguman.

3. Opening Remarks

Opening remarks by the co-chairs.

4. Introductions

All present members introduced themselves.

5. Minutes of the last meeting (2nd OGP National Steering Committee Meeting)

Despite minor corrections, the minute was endorsed and accepted by the Committee as the true record of the 3rd Quarter National Steering Meeting of 2019.

6. PNG OGP Status Update

6.1 PNG OGP GoPNG Co-Chair Update - The Government side of the OGP update was provided by Mr. Langa Kopio, PNG OGP Secretariat who gave a brief overview of how OGP has come about. He further informed the meeting that a draft reporting template was developed and will be circulated for comments. This will enable all Clusters of Committee to report using the standard reporting template for Cluster of Commitments.

He left respective Cluster Commitment updates to the Cluster leaders to report. The meeting was informed that the Secretariat will request the EU to facilitate the Good Governance Workshop in 2020.

6.2 PNG OGP Civil Society Co-Chair Update

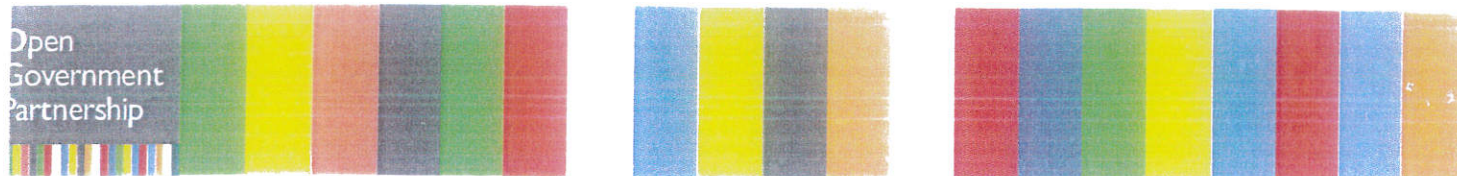
Mr. Haihuie Yuambari of Transparency International (TIPNG) informed the meeting that there weren't many activities to report from the civil society side. He further clarified the role of Civil Society Organizations in the OGP Process and that is to coordinate the implementation of the National Action Plan for the civil societies and monitor the progress of the Government OGP process. Hence, it is up to the Government Agencies to implement and the Civil Society to monitor the implementation. Overall, it is the Government Agenda to implement and the Civil Society to carry out the review and co-create the next agenda going forward.

In the next meeting, the updates will be provided for the OGP Tracker which is currently on the TIPNG website, and the status of Independent Review Mechanism Review Report.

6.3 Since the Last Meeting Minute

There was a meeting held in Philippines and the Youths from the OGP Member Countries all over the world attended. Mr. Jim Hercules of CIMC and Haihuie Yuambari of TIPNG attended that meeting as well as other workshops with Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and then a meeting with the Asian Development Bank in PNG. The meeting and workshops have demonstrated strong commitments to support the Youth organized activities.

There will be a CSO update meeting following this, to update CSOs on the progress of OGP since the last National Steering Committee Meeting. The representative of the Secretariat is required to update on what the Government has done between the interval of 2nd and 3rd NSC Meetings.



7. Report on the Independent Review Mechanism

7.1 Ms. Maureen Thomas of NRI who was engaged by Independent Review Mechanism Head Office in Singapore to review the progress of OGP in PNG. She was not available to update the meeting on the status of the report.

7.2 However, Mr. Langa Kopio gave a brief overview on the Independent Review Mechanism. The Review was conducted in August and the draft was submitted to Head Office for their inputs in October. He said the IRM Head Office will send back the draft report with their comments for finalization.

7.3 Mr. Yuambari Haihuie, clarified that the aim of the Independent Review Mechanism is to look at the steps or procedures taken to formulate the National Action Plan (NAP 2018-2020), but not on the progress of the implementation. This is to look at whether a consultation process was effectively engaged and the civil societies involved, and also find out how the Culture Commitments were selected. He further mentioned that another report, hence the progressive report will be made to the OGP Regional Office in Singapore.

7.4 Discussions were made surrounding on the issues in regards to the approach taken by the interviewer for the Independent Review Mechanism. Key Issues raised were in relation to:

- Mr. Paul Barker of INA informed the meeting that it would be much better if the Draft IRM Report is made available for comments before it is finalized. The reporting was based on the questions asked and the interviewer had been seen to be ad hoc and the consultations were not done with the clear understanding of the objective of the Independent Review Mechanism.
- After Mr. Yuambari had clarified the objective and focus of the Independent Review Mechanism, Mrs. Wallis Yakam informed the meeting that the interviewer did not ask similar questions in regards to the focus of the Review as mentioned. The questions asked were not framed in the way mentioned. She further stated that if that was the case, the answers provided would have been different. Mrs. Wallis Yakam mentioned that the interviewer was all over and the questions asked were not appropriate.
- The Secretariat will take these points and look at its process in terms of the framing of the questions, methodologies used and overall the issues and at least be able to obtain a draft to be circulated to the NSC Members.

8. Presentations

One of the Action items from the 2nd Quarter NSC Meeting was for specific agencies to make presentations.

8.1 Ward Record Book

No representative from the Department of Provincial & Local Government Affairs (DPLGA) was available to do a presentation on the Ward Record Book. The meeting resolved for DPLGA to again make the same presentation in the first quarter NSC Meeting of 2020.

8.2 Roll out of IFMS

No Representative from the Department of Finance (DoF) was present to make a presentation on the Roll Out of the IFMS.

9. Cluster Commitment Updates

9.1 Public Participation

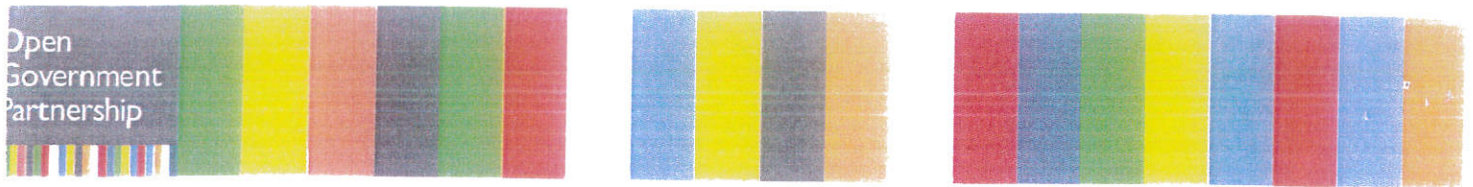
The Public Participation Cluster Commitment is co-chaired by DNPM and CIMC. CIMC was invited by Ms. Arianne to provide the Cluster Updates. The two (2) Key Cluster Commitments with their updates are:

9.1.1 Giving Voice to the Informal Economy (Voice Strategy):

- The partner in working with CIMC under this Cluster Commitment is Department of Community Development.
- This is initiated by the CIMC Informal Economy Sectoral Committee. The idea is for the day to day issues encountered by the Informal Economy, when carrying out their activities, their issues to be heard by the Government. Thus, CIMC through the Sectoral Committee saw the need, hence they put together a strategy for developing a mechanism to address the issues. This initiative is taken so that through the Voice Mechanism the Informal Economy participants will be empowered to improve and progress their activities overtime.
- The mechanism to promote this Strategy is to set up an Informal Economy Association which will be registered with the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA). The Strategy has been developed through the Informal Economy Sectoral Committee, specifically through a Sub-Committee of that Committee. The Sub-committee is chaired by NCDC along with other agencies like DJAG, NRI, SME Corporation, and IPA. An external validation workshop will be held to gauge views before the Strategy is submitted for NEC endorsement.

9.1.2 Citizen Budgeting.

- The partners working with CIMC under this Cluster Commitment are Department of National Planning & Monitoring and Institute of National Affairs (INA).
- In summary, they have been facilitating some dialogue at both the National and Subnational level.
- **Dialogue and Participation Update** – CIMC had established a State-Civil Society Annual Round Table which was established since 2016. Through this, the State Economic Agencies and the CSOs will be gathered to make deliberations on the outlook of the 2021 National Budget. It will be an ongoing event for the Civil Societies to comment on the outlook of the succeeding budget and it will be an annual event.



- **Budget Tracking Activity** – CIMC has carried out the budget tracking activity at the Subnational levels. CIMC will continue with this activity through an co-share funding arrangements.

9.2 Fiscal Transparency (FT)

The FT Cluster is co-chaired by the DoT and the INA. The Fiscal Transparency Cluster Commitment updates was provided by Mr. Paul Barker (INA) and Mr. Peter Mondoro (DoT). To date, two meetings have been held.

9.2.1 Provision of Accurate, Timely and Accessible Fiscal Data

- **Open Budget Survey (OBS)** – OBS has been occurring since 2005 and has been a driving force for the FT, as it highlights the openness, timeliness, comprehensiveness of data provided to the Public and feedback received, inclusive of oversight provided to the budget process. Areas of weakness under the OBS includes; lack of annual reporting, which is constrained due to the roll out of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). The FT Cluster emphasized on the importance of rolling out the IFMS, which also ride on improved telecommunication service around the country.
- **Improved Communications between Government Agencies** – In terms of Fiscal Data Management particularly amongst, DoT, DNPM, NEFC, DIRD and other relevant agencies to bring different mechanism that are already established, such as ASYCUDA with PNG Custom, and Integrated Government Information System (IGIS) etc. Bringing the different Mechanisms together will enable timely release of financial statements, audit reports and being able to share the information with a wider public. It is also crucial to get the Fiscal Budget Transparency Process and get material out in a form that the general public can understand it better. To get the public to have access to the local budgets from the Provincial Budgets right down to the Districts and Local Level Governments (LLGs) is important.

9.2.2 Challenges faced by the Fiscal Transparency Cluster:

- Fiscal Challenges
- Meetings had been continuously deferred a couple of times due to the officer's commitment on MYEFO, Supplementary Budget etc. However, at the end of this month (November 2019), the Fiscal Transparency Cluster will convene its 3rd meeting.

9.3 Freedom of Information

- Mr. Flierl Shongoz, Deputy Secretary DCI, provided the update on the Freedom of Information. Under this Commitment, there were three (3) Sub-committees created to look at each of the outcomes. There are three commitments under this cluster:

9.3.1 Legislation on Access to Information

- The Legal Drafting Team (LDT) was formed and initial meetings have been conducted. LDT is co-chaired by the DJAG and DCI. The drafting team consist of TIPNG, DJAG, DCI, NICTA, CLRC, and FLC.
- A detailed work plan was drafted and endorsed by the LDT.
- LDT later felt that an Access to Information Policy has to be developed covering a wider spectrum which will become the bases for the formulation of Access to Information. The formulation of the policy has to be led by the DCI.
- A resolution from the FOI Cluster, was to invite the National Library to join the FOI Cluster Group.

9.3.2 Integrated Government Information System – IGIS

- IGIS is one of the major policy projective of the Government to interconnect all government agencies. IT Managers of the Government Departments and Agencies are part of the IGIS Program implementation.

9.3.3 Mechanism for Storage of Information – Government Open Data Portal.

- **National Government Porthole** – In regards to this, DNPM will provide an update in the FOI TWC.

9.3.4 Challenges faced by the FOI Cluster.

- Connectivity Issues
- Lack of coordination and linkage between and amongst government agencies appear to be an issue.

9.4 Extractive Resource Transparency

EITI Secretariat members were not present at the meeting and on their behalf, other Cluster Commitment Members provided a few insights.

9.4.1 Development of EITI Policy

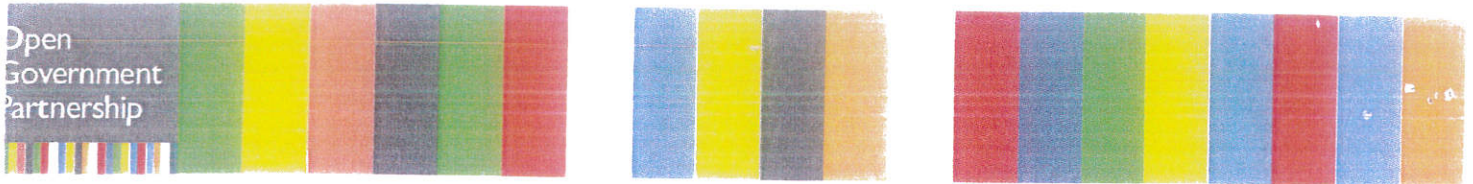
- The EITI Policy was developed and endorsed by the Cabinet.

9.4.2 Development of EITI Legislation

- The EITI Bill has been draft and its at the final stage to be taken to NEC and thereafter Parliament for endorsement.

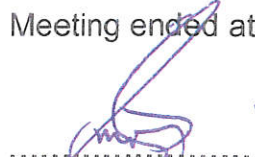
10. WAY FORWARD

- a) OGP Secretariat to edit the previous Meeting Minutes with minor corrections to be taken into consideration before being circulated to all NSC Members.



- b) OGP Secretariat to email the Reporting Template to all the members for them to provide their comments by Monday 11th November 2019. Amendments will be made based on the comments from the members. On Wednesday 13th November, 2019, the final draft of the Reporting Template will be distributed to Cluster Commitment Committees to ensure that the reports are provided through the standard reporting template and encourage consistency.
- c) Secretariat to invite and inform DfCDR to attend the next NSC Meeting and update the members on the progress in regards to the **Public Participation Cluster: Commitment 1 – Giving Voice to the Informal Economy** and the National Informal Economy Audit Report that was brought to NEC and its outcome.
- d) The OGP Secretariat to get in touch with NRI to provide a presentation on the Independent Review Mechanism that was done and to further raise the issues and concerns brought up by the PNG OGP NSC on the way the review was conducted. Generally, the timeliness and the value of the report.
- e) For the Extractive Resources Transparency Cluster Commitment, await the update to be provided by Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (EITI) Secretariat during the next meeting.
- f) Each Cluster Commitment to look into area's in which support can be provided through.
- g) Secretariat to decide on the next meeting date and inform all the members of the OGP National Steering Committee.
- h) In the next Meeting, the A/CEO for the National Procurement Commission, Mr. Simon Bole, will do a presentation to the OGP National Steering Committee Members.
- i) Secretariat to organize and set a date for the OGP Workshop, which shall fall in the First (1st) Quarter of 2020.

Meeting ended at 4:00pm


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Lawrence Duguman
Chairman


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Ms. Niandra Kilipak
Minute Taker