

Open Government Partnership National Steering Committee Meeting No#01/2020  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Department of National Planning & Monitoring Conference Room

**PNG OGP NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTE NO. 01/2020**

Co-chair Michael Kumung, Acting Deputy Secretary, Policy called the meeting to order at 10:00am, with representatives from the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM), National Procurement Commission (NPC), Royal PNG Constabulary (RPNG), Constitutional Law Reform Commission (CLRC), Department of Petroleum & Energy, Department of Treasury (DOT), Department of Justice & Attorney General (DJAG), PNG Civil Identity Registry (CIR), University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), Auditor General's Office, Department of Communication & Information Technology (DCIT), Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG), Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT), Transparency International PNG (TIPNG), Consultative Implementation Monitoring Council (CIMC) and Institute of National Affairs (INA)

**1. ATTENDANCE**

**Government representatives in attendance:**

1. Michael Kumung, Acting Deputy Secretary, Policy and Planning Wing (DNPM)
2. Langa Kopio, Assistant Secretary and PNG OGP Secretariat, Economic Policy Branch (DNPM)
3. Johnson Hebe, Acting Executive Manager, Corporate Service (NPC),
4. Steven Francis, Policy Office (RPNGC),
5. Gregory Balavue, Acting Deputy Secretary (DPE),
6. Dorothy Kesenge, Deputy Secretary (CLRC),
7. Enoch Savaro, Assistant Economist (DOT),
8. Jonathan Wak, Economist (DOT),
9. Ruth Koddy, Principal legal Officer (DJAG),
10. Salome Bogosia, Acting Deputy Registrar (PNG CIR),
11. Jackson Taviri, Acting Planning Manager (PNG CIR),
12. Vincent Malaisa, Pro Vice-Chancellor (UPNG),
13. Albert Kimisi, Acting Deputy Auditor General (AGO),
14. Abdul Ulopo, Senior Analysis (BPNG),
15. Flierl Shongol, Deputy Secretary (DCIT)

**Civil Society representatives in attendance:**

1. Arianne Kassman, Executive Director (TIPNG),
2. Yvonne Ngutlick, Deputy Director (TIPNG),
3. Yuambari Haihue, Deputy Director (TIPNG),
4. Barbra Ruin, Advocacy Liaison Officer (TIPNG)
5. Chan Apakas, Senior Project Officer (CIMC),
6. Hercules Jim, Senior Project Officer (CIMC),

7. Henry Yamo, Deputy Executive Director (CIMC),  
**Research Institute**

1. Paul Barker, Executive Director (INA)

**Observers**

Nil

**Apologies received:**

Nil

**2. AGENDA FOR THE MEETING**

Welcome by Government Co-Chair  
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes & Status of Action Items  
OGP Status Update  
Updates from International Secretariat  
Cluster Commitment Update  
Review of Action Items  
Any Other Business

**3. WELCOME BY GOVERNMENT CO-CHAIR & OGP SECRETARIAT**

Co-Chair, Mr. Kumung, Acting Deputy Secretary opened the meeting with a Word of Prayer and welcomed the participants to the first OGP National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting for 2020. He presented the overview of PNG OGP and Government's commitments as per the NEC 323/2018. He stated that;

- More than 80 countries have signed-up to Global OGP Initiative and PNG is part of those that signed-up to adopt and implement Global Initiatives. There were three (3) NSC Meetings held last year (2019) but for this year, meetings have been delayed due to COVID-19 measures. However, Cluster Meetings have been progressing well with several meetings, video conference and workshops which indicates the unconditional commitments from both state agencies and CSOs.
- He further emphasized on the importance of public having access information and holding Government accountable for effective service delivery. This includes having access to vital information and involving citizens to be part of the decision-making process. OGP promotes the principles of democracy and sets the platform for transparent and accountable practices in government. He said that the OGP process further elevates the principles of partnership and inclusive participation in decision-making and effective service delivery processes.

- The Open Government Partnership enables openness, transparency, access to information, development planning, policy formulation and budgetary process with support and collaboration with the CSOs.

TIPNG CEO Arianne Kassman gave opening remarks;

- On behalf of the OGP Co-Chairs, Ms. Arianne Kassman, Executive Director, TIPNG welcomed everyone to the first PNG OGP National Steering Committee Meeting for 2020 calendar year. The meeting was co-chaired by the Government (DNPM) and Civil Society (TIPNG) because the primary aim of the OGP is to promote Civil Society and Government to work together in development planning, policy formulation, budgeting, M&E, and service delivery. Henceforth, it's about developing a joint agenda that can be worked on and implemented together.
- She further emphasized that the OGP is about civil society working in partnership with government to implement government commitments. This meeting will hear updates on these commitments from government and civil society.
- New participants have been invited and encouraged to share about their role in the OGP.
- OGP is a platform created to bring Government, Civil Society, and Private Sector together to prudently implement Government Commitments.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting Minute

- Henry Yamo, Deputy Executive Director from CIMC pointed that in 9.1.1 The word Informal Economy Association be changed to Informal Economy Peak Body.
- Yuambari Haihuie from TIPNG noted corrections that the name Flierl Shongoz be changed to Flierl Shongol and under 9.33, the word Porthole be change to Portol.
- The Secretariat was directed to correct the mistakes.  
**Resolution:** TIPNG- Yuambari Haihuie moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections and seconded by Langa Kopio of OGP Secretariat.

**Resolution 1:** *Yuambari Haihuie from TIPNG moved for minutes to be accepted with corrections*

##### Review of Action Items from last Meeting

- Langa Kopio, OGP Secretariat went through the status of the action items and advised the committee accordingly:
  - a) OGP Secretariat to edit Last Meeting Minutes – done
  - b) OGP Secretariat to email Reporting Template to all Cluster Members – done
  - c) OGP Secretariat to invite Department for Community Development and Religion to attend the NSC Meeting – the invitation letter was sent but did not attend. The OGP Secretariat was directed to send another invite for the next NSC Meeting.

d) NRI to make a presentation on Independent Review Mechanism -was informed but not attended. As such, OGP Secretariat to invite NRI to make a presentation in the next NSCM.

e) Extractive Resources Transparency Initiative Cluster to provide an update-presentation – which was updated.

f) OGP Cluster Committees to have meetings and report to the NSC Meeting via the reporting template to the OGP Co-Chairs.

g) Next OGP NSC Meeting date to be advised –done

h) National Procurement Commission, Mr. Bole to make a presentation – Mr. Bole responded that he was not prepared to make a presentation in this meeting but will present in the next NSC Meeting.

i) OGP Secretariat to organize an OGP Summit on Good Governance in the first Quarter,2020 – Workshop has been deferred. A 3 days OGP Good Governance Summit is planned for next year, 2021.

- Mr. Kumung pointed out that;
  - The outstanding action items will be carried forward in the next National Action Plan (NAP) 2021-2023.
- Mr. Kumung recommend that there will be a **Ministerial OGP Committee** which will be pursued through a NEC Decision in 2021. OGP Secretariat will do a NEC Policy Paper to seek NEC endorsement on the NAP 2021-2023 and the establishment of the Ministerial OGP Committee.

## 5. OGP STATUS UPATE

Langa Kopio advised the meeting that;

- Fiscal Transparency had only one meeting in 2020 and is yet to have another.
- There was a request for an extension of NAP due date and the request was granted.
- The NAP 2018-2020 has been extended to August, 2021
- An OGP Good Governance Summit will be held to coincide with the formation of the next NAP 2021-2023
- DNPM has paid US\$25,000 to the Global Secretariat showing PNG's commitment to be part of the Global movement on OGP.

Arianne Kassman advised the meeting that;

- OGP Secretariat informed the meeting that PNG OGP has not published its implementation report on website because PNG OGP has not Website of its own. Thus, PNG OGP lose scores for PNG's eligibility. Therefore, it is recommended that the OGP Secretariat and DIC can work on the PNG OGP Website.
- Recommended that audited reports be uploaded online to increase PNG's scores in the OGP once the Website is established.

## Civil Society Update

Yuambari Haihuie advised that;

- OGP is a co-creation process. Government implements while Civil Society monitor the implementations.

- TIPNG is the Civil Society Co-chair
- As Co-chair, TIPNG updates Civil Society Organizations (CSO) on the progress of the National Action Plan 2018-2020.
- The last CSO Meeting was on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 and representatives from various CSO's attended.
- No meetings have been had this year however TIPNG continued to update CSOs electronically through emails.
- The recent update was given this month (September)
- For Civil Society its mainly just looking at progress and looking at what can be done in terms of providing support in the implementation of the NAP.

Mr. Kumung added that there is a need for concerted effort towards the 7-commitments mentioned in the NAP 2018-2020.

## 6. CLUSTER COMMITMENT UPDATE

### 6.1 Public Participation

Mr. Henry Yamo, Deputy Executive Director -CIMC updated the meeting that;

- ✓ In NAP 2021-2020 the Public Participation Cluster has two commitments. CIMC worked in partnership with Department for Community Development and Religion (DfCDR) on the first commitment to develop an Informal Economy Voice Strategy.
- ✓ A draft strategy has been developed and is yet to be finalized pending external validation through provincial workshops before finalizing.
- ✓ Apart from the Informal Economy Voice Strategy the revised National Informal Economy Policy has been developed to zero draft in partnership with the Department for Community Development and Religion
- ✓ State Civil Society Roundtable Meetings have been conducted to bring CSO's around the country to gauge their views on Government's performances and also to channel their needs to Government through recommendations. The roundtable meetings commenced since 2014.
- ✓ The OGP Clusters Commitments of NAP 2018-2020 were discussed through the Civil Society Roundtable Meetings.
- ✓ The State-Civil Society Partnership Policy was formulated jointly by the Department of National Planning & Monitoring and the DfCDR and CIMC and is in final stage to go to CACC.

Mr Kumung (DNPM) stated that the CACC Submission was made in 2019, however, the CACC directed DNPM to further consult DfCDR which was done in the same year and the comments or views provided by DfCDR were inserted in the Policy. Updates will be given on this in the next OGP NSC Meeting.

### 6.2 Fiscal Transparency

Mr. Paul Barker, Executive Director (INA) updated the meeting that;

- ✓ It is an important year for the function of fiscal transparency in light of a substantial shortage of revenue.
- ✓ A workshop on fiscal transparency was supposed to be held in 2019 which was deferred to January 2020, however, the workshop has not eventuated due to COVID-19 measures.
- ✓ Fiscal Transparency meetings were cut back in 2020 due to COVID-19. Only one meeting was held however many key agencies were absent.
- ✓ Timely audit reports are important which needs to be produced annually.
- ✓ Accountability of public funds is critical.
  
- ✓ There is a need to revive the operation of the Parliamentary Audit Committee and the Fiscal Transparency Cluster Committee has decided that the Committee will have a meeting with the Parliament Clerk to discussion on how best to effectively operationalize the Parliamentary Audit Committee.
  
- ✓ IFMS is being rolled out but has had certain constraints due to internet accessibility and electricity connectivity problems.
- ✓ Minimum requirement for open contracting has not been met especially with CSO involvement.
- ✓ Budget process has been discussed with the Treasury Department to establish CSO as part of the process hopefully through CIMC.
- ✓ Budget Tracking has been undertaken at the sub-National level however District visits have been extremely limited.
- ✓ Budget needs to be monitored as a part of civil society engagement and accountability.
- ✓ The challenge now is the need for resourcing

#### **Comments from Auditor General's Office:**

- ✓ Primary role of AGO is to produce the financial audit to Parliament and copy is published on the Website
- ✓ Reports come from audits of individual entities conducted
- ✓ Complaints are received by the Office as well
- ✓ Any government expense should come under scrutiny
- ✓ The progress in fiscal transparency is in relation to audits of individual entities and opening the website to publishing reports that have been presented in Parliament
- ✓ Need to review the Parliamentary Audit Committee functioning
- ✓ All State Agencies receiving public funds to produce financial statement on an annual basis

#### **Comments from Department of Treasury:**

- ✓ Paul has mentioned most of what has to be said
- ✓ Reports for 2020 have been delayed however the commitment remains
- ✓ The source of Fiscal reports based on the effective rollout of the IFMS, hence its roll out is important
- ✓ Roll out of IFMS to Districts is lacking due to electricity connectivity and internet accessibility.
- ✓ Important to involve civil society and communities in the initial stages of budgeting

- ✓ Technical team is currently working on the OGP PNG Website and is expected to get done by early October.

#### Comments from TIPNG:

- ✓ Arianne Kassman mentioned that one of the challenges faced with the drafting of the legislation is the set-up of the legislation as a separate authority or an enabling legislation?
- ✓ A half day workshop was facilitated by TIPNG and DCIT with UN PRAC with speakers from around the Pacific Region to talk about their experiences with drafting and the implementation of the FOI Acts or Units and how it is set up. This workshop was conducted in July 2020.
- ✓ Drafting Team is working with UNPRAC to get the said legislation done
- ✓ Yuambari Haihuie mentioned that the drafting instructions shared were from prior work on the right to information Bill in early 2000 done in consultation with CLRC.

#### Comments from Civil Registry & NID:

- ✓ PNGCIR has been working closely with CLRC
- ✓ PNGCIR sees themselves as a tool for implementation and monitoring
- ✓ PNGCIR is willing to work with the progress of the Bill
- ✓ Access of Information is extremely important
- ✓ PNGCIR is looking forward to the ICT Strategy for the country
- ✓ NID Database is very important and will serve as great assistance to the Government

### 6.4 Extractive Transparency Initiative-

Mr. Christopher Tabel, Deputy Executive Director, (EITI Secretariat) advised that;

- ✓ Cluster commitment one has been fulfilled.
- ✓ EITI Policy was endorsed by Government
- ✓ EITI Bill is in consultation stage and comments from the State Solicitor were received and those comments are consolidated.
- ✓ A discussion was held on recruiting a legislation consultant however has not been feasible this year.
- ✓ The timeline has shifted to allow the technical working group to provide the consolidation and input into the Bill.
- ✓ The Bill merely sets out administrative matters  
Project moved to the first and second quarter of 2021

### 7. WAY FORWARD –Action Items

OGP Co-Chair (CSO) Arianne Kassman mentioned that the action items are;

- 1) Correction to be made to the last Meeting Minute
- 2) OGP Co-Chairs are to write to National Procurement Commission to provide an update in the next NSC Meeting
- 3) OGP Co-chairs to write to NRI and seek the status of the Independent Review Mechanism Report

- ✓ In relation to procurement there are concerns about the National Pandemic Act 2017 not being subject to or in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act.
- ✓ Access to information is important
- ✓ Quarterly reports are shared with the Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG)

#### Comments from BPNG:

- ✓ Fiscal reports under IFMS are used for setting interest rates
- ✓ IFMS reports are received from the Department of Treasury on a monthly basis
- ✓ Unable to comment on other matters

Mr. Kumung mentioned that;

- ✓ Department of Finance needs to present an update in the next meeting on the roll out of the IFMS to the provinces and districts
- ✓ National Economic and Fiscal Commission (NEFC) also needs to participate in the next meeting.

Arianne Kassman mentioned that it is important for the Cluster Committees to meet to discuss on their involvement in the implementation so that they are on the same page and that if any assistance is needed the co-chairs would be happy to assist.

### 6.3 Freedom of Information

Flierl Shongol, Deputy Secretary, (Department of Communication & Information Technology) updated the meeting that;

- ✓ This Cluster comprises of DCIT, TIPNG, PNGCIR, DJAG, CLRC, NICTA, CELCOR
- ✓ There are 3 Commitments; Access to Information Act, Integrated Government Information System (IGIS), Government Portal
- ✓ Some outcomes from the fiscal transparency is linked to freedom of information.
- ✓ There must be a focal point where all government information can be found. Currently there is no single window to manage government information dissemination.
- ✓ Government endorses Digital Transformation Policy which talks about data management. All data must be in a standard form in order to be disseminated. A holistic approach needs to be taken to ensure information provided by the government is accessible.
- ✓ Deployment of a system must be accompanied by rules, laws etc
- ✓ The Access to Information Legislation, there is some progress however not much has been done as per the work plan. The Cluster is working toward the target to have the legislation and the Bill will ready to be presented in Parliament by July 2021.
- ✓ Drafting instruction was assisted by TIPNG and is currently with DJAG
- ✓ DCIT has incorporated in its Department Budget for 2021 for the FOI expenses associated with the drafting of the FOI Bill.
- ✓ IGIS is a national asset which needs to be built to integrate all systems so information can be shared.



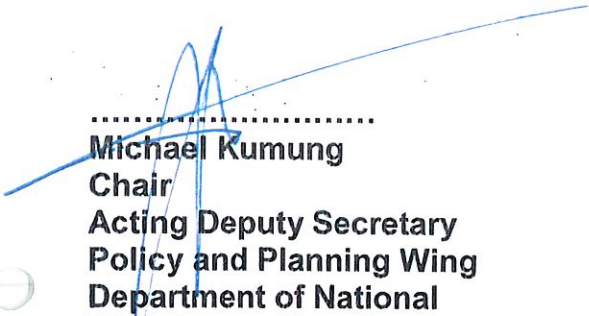
- 4) OGP Co-Chairs to meet with Auditor General's Office regarding publishing of audit reports
- 5) OGP Co-chairs are to set up Committee for OGP Good Governance Summit at the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 calendar year.
- 6) OGP Co-chairs to organize a meeting with Department for Community Development and Religion and the CIMC to discuss pending milestones under Public Participation.
- 7) Department of Treasury to invite Civil Society to be part of the Budget Strategic Committee in 2021 Budget calendar year.
- 8) Letter to Department of Finance to seek update on the roll out of the IFMS
- 9) Letter to NEFC to ensure participation in Fiscal Transparency
- 10) Letter to the Center for Economic and Fiscal Inclusion (CEFI) to attend the next National Steering Committee Meeting.
- 11) OGP Co-chairs and DCIT to meet next week to progress on OGP PNG website
- 12) Letter to PNGEC to attend next OGP Steering Committee Meeting

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


**Resolution 2: Motion moved to close the meeting by Paul Barker**

Meeting Ended: 12:10pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

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**Michael Kumung**  
**Chair**  
**Acting Deputy Secretary**  
**Policy and Planning Wing**  
**Department of National**  
**Planning and Monitoring**

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**Arianne Kassman**  
**Co-Chair**  
**Executive Director**  
**TIPNG**

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**Barbra Ruin**  
**Minute Taker**  
**Advocacy Officer**  
**TIPNG**

