

# **CONSULTATION FEEDBACK MEETING ON THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

**DATE:** 21 June 2016

**TIME:** 1500 hours

**CHAIRING:** Mr. Abu Bakarr Kamara, Coordinator of Budget Advocacy Network

## **1. OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting commenced with silent prayers.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

As noted by the Chairperson, the objectives of the meeting were;

- i. To discuss progress with regards to the setting up of commitments and milestones under NAP 2;
- ii. Feedback from the teams that conducted consultations on NAP 2 in the Districts

## **3. REPORTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS IN THE DISTRICTS**

### **3.1 Western Rural District**

It was reported that the meeting with stakeholders in the Western Rural District was fruitful. The meeting was attended by government officials, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), local council, media, community leaders and villagers. The stakeholders were particularly grateful and welcomed OGP's principles towards "creating safer communities" and "improving corporate responsibility". They endorsed the commitments and milestones that were proposed under NAP 2 especially; the commitment on Local Councils with the milestones to improve waste collection. In addition, they also commended the OGP for the commitment on gender and sexual violence.

The community members emphasized that the challenges that they were facing included child pregnancy, poor waste management, land grabbing and deforestation, lawlessness, and lack of corporate social responsibility from companies operating in their community.

In light of the challenges that the Western Rural District was facing, stakeholders proposed the following:

- Commitment mandating the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure compliance with environmental issues;
- Commitment to enable authorities to deal with land grabbers;
- Commitment to ensure that Members of Parliament (MPs) visit their constituencies every month;
- Commitment to promote cabinet meetings in the Provinces.

### **3.2 Makeni District**

The meeting was informed that there were fruitful deliberations in Makeni. The meeting in Makeni was attended by at least one hundred participants including government officials, CSOs, media, local council, community leadership and community members.

The key issues that the District raised were associated with the deteriorating quality of education and unemployment. The community was especially concerned that job opportunities were mostly provided by foreign and not Sierra Leonean Companies. In addition, they requested that databases be established on all government recruitments disaggregated by sex.

The District stakeholders recommended the following commitments:

- Commitment on Local Councils with milestones on waste management. The community members recommended that the mandatory public Saturday Cleaning be reactivated;
- Commitment promoting access to justice for victims of sexual violence. The community participants reported that currently there was a lot of interference in sexual violence by higher authorities that deterred perpetrators from facing justice.

### **3.3 Kenema District**

It was reported that the deliberations in Kenema were successful, with participatory discussions around critical challenges. The meeting made the following recommendations:

- The justice system should improve its capacity to deal with matters of Sexual and Gender Based Violence and marital conflicts. In addition, all people should have access to justice including people residing in remote areas. Juvenile criminals should be separated and brought to justice. Community members also noted that the Presidential Pardon should have limitations and should not be extended to grievous crimes such as murder.
- In terms of Accountability, it was recommended that performance audits be conducted for Local Councils. In addition, Members of Parliament should engage their constituencies and brief them on Parliamentary issues. The community highlighted that they wanted to hear reports by the Anti-Corruption Commission, especially on issues pertaining to their District.
- A commitment on value addition was also recommended, given that the nation produces raw materials that are sold at cheaper prices.

### **3.4 Bo District**

The meeting in Bo was successful and was attended by over 100 people. The major concerns that the people raised included:

- Continuity in the engagement of CSOs by government.
- OGI offices should be functional in the Southern Region.
- OGI should promote honesty and effectiveness to ensure good governance.
- Community members noted that after the Audit Service Report on Ebola Funds was conducted, nothing was done to ensure indictment of the people whose actions were questioned. They recommended that the issue be followed up.
- Community members also recommended that Asset Declarations by public officials be made public.

- In terms of the Right to Information Act, the community were of the view that the law is not yet operational since MDAs have not opened up to give them information. In addition, the issuance of contracts is shrouded in secrecy.
- Bo stakeholders also recommended the relocation of OGP from the Office of the President to make it neutral and less political.
- A commitment on dealing with corruption was proposed.
- A commitment on employment creation was also proposed. Community members argued that government can embark on huge projects especially in the agricultural sector to deal with unemployment.
- In terms of retirees, Bo stakeholders argued that they should be rewarded well and their payments should be consistent.

The meeting resolved that meetings be set with MDAs implementing the proposed commitments under NAP 2 for their input and confirmations. In that regard therefore, it was also resolved that OGP sends all commitments to responsible MDAs in the OGP format. In consideration of the fact that waste management issues were presented as burning issue across all the Districts, OGP was mandated to liaise with the Freetown City Council to come up with a commitment and milestones.

#### **4 PROGRESS ON NAP 2 BY MR. ABU BAKARR KAMARA, COORDINATOR OF BUDGET ADVOCACY NETWORK**

Participants were informed that the NAP 2 had been put into the OGP format and members were free to view the proposed commitments and milestones recommended under NAP 2. Mr Abu Bakarr Kamara presented the proposed commitments and milestones. He assured the meeting that OGP was going to send the commitments to the various MDAs for their input.

In terms of the commitment on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, members were concerned about the milestone on setting up a forensic lab. While other members maintained that this was over ambitious given the time frame and resources available, others were of the opinion that it was achievable with collaborations from various stakeholders like universities and the Rainbow Centre. Others suggested that the milestone can be changed to focus on setting up an

environment for the establishment of a forensic lab rather than the lab itself. It was agreed that the milestones be reviewed in consultation with the various implementing partners including the Family Support Unit/ Sierra Leone Police, Universities and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs.

Concerning the commitment on Records Management, it was also agreed that further consultations be made and that the Ministry of Information should be called on board to endorse the commitment.

After some deliberations, members agreed that meetings be set with the various MDAs that are responsible for implementing the commitments under NAP 2 for their inputs and comments. In that regard therefore, it was also resolved that OGP send all commitments to responsible MDA in the OGP format and schedule meetings with them to come up with a final position on all the commitments.

The meeting ended at 1705 hours.

## **5 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 27 June 2016.

### **ATTENDANCE LIST**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Lamin S. Kandia	Diaspora Affairs
Ahmed Dankeh	Kogbangbay
Edita Fofanah	Anti Corruption Commission
Augstine Mansaray	Public Service Commission
Aiah Winnie Kenbay	EPA-SL

Albert Moore	National Archives
A.K Sheik Kamara	Sierra Leone Police
Mohamed Massaquoi	SRU
Hajre Bah	NFCSSO
Charles Kamara	NCSF
Haroun Sheriff	Public Sector Reform Unit
Santigie O. Kamara	Cabinet Secretariat
John Konuwa	Cabinet Secretariat
Mohamed Yoki	Cabinet Secretariat
Francis M. Jabati	Cabinet Secretariat
Augustine N Monsarey	Policy Analyst
Saidu Bumbuya	Salone Champion
David J. Allieu	CCSHRA
Tamba Seen Kamara	NYC Federation
Hannah Garwick	Women's Forum Sierra Leone
Aminata Koroma	GZG Empowerment
Councilor John Kalawa	FCC
Prince Ball Lurani	CARL