

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE OGP

Date: 14 June 2016

Venue: Miatta Conference Centre

Time: 1400 hours

Chairing: Abu Bakarr Kamara; Coordinator for Budget Advocacy Network

Present

1. Presentation on the OGP by the Budget Advocacy Network Coordinator, Mr Abu Bakarr Kamara

Participants were informed that the OGP is an international initiative that was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. The vision of OGP is that more governments become more transparent, more accountable and more responsive to their own citizens with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of governance, as well as the quality of services that citizens receive. The aims and objective of OGP were also highlighted.

Mr Abu Bakarr Kamara indicated that a criteria was set for qualification of countries into OGP and these include

- Fiscal transparency
- Access to information
- Income and Assets Disclosure
- Citizens' Engagement

The guiding principles for the development and implementation of the National Action Plan were noted as follows;

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Civic Education

- Innovation/ Technology

In addition, the grand challenges which the OGP seeks to address are;

- Improving public services
- Increasing public integrity
- More effective management of public resources
- Creating safer communities
- Improving corporate accountability

2. OGP Commitments under NAP 1 Presented by Abu Bakarr Kamara, BAN

Mr Abu Bakarr Kamara also described the OGP commitments under the First NAP and provided the progress so far as follows;

No	Commitment	Number of milestones	Number of milestones not started	Number of milestones limited completed	Number of milestones Substantial completed	Number of milestones completed	Number of milestone not applicable
1	<i>Develop and implement a Public Integrity Pact with 5 pilot MDAs that identifies key commitments in line with Section 8 -- Public Integrity -- of the ACC Act, 2008 to improve public trust in public service delivery and to ensure effective accountability of public officials.</i>	4	1	0	1	2	
2	<i>Archives and Records Management Act</i>	5	1	0	1	3	
3	<i>Scale up and deepen the activities of the Performance Management and Service Delivery Directorate to improve accountability and increase civic participation in governance.</i>	4	1		1	2	
4	<i>Increase compliance with audit measures to improve transparency and accountability in public resource spending</i>	3	1	0	1	1	
5	<i>Establish a Single Treasury Account to improve financial accountability</i>	2	0	0	1	1	
6	<i>Enact the Revenue Management Bill (RMB)</i>	4	4	0	0	0	
7	<i>Scaling up extractive industry transparency initiatives</i>	5	3	0	0	2	
8	<i>Improve monitoring of the Local Content Policy especially around monitoring the implementation of activities and improving linkages with MDAs in order to improve</i>	5		0	0	5	

	<i>local participation and accountability in the process</i>						
9	<i>70% of all Mining and Agricultural lease agreements and contracts revised and made public with a view to improve transparency, accountability and public participation</i>	5	1	1	0	2	1
10	<i>Implementation of the Right to Access Information Law</i>	4	0	1	2	1	
11	<i>Establish an open data portal to improve transparency in fiscal and extractive transactions.</i>	4	0	0	1	3	
	Totals	45	12	2	8	22	1

3. OGP Proposed Commitments for NAP 2

The OGP proposed commitment under the second NAP were presented as follows

Commitment	Milestones	New/Ongoing
<p>Fiscal Transparency and Open Budget</p> <p>Commitment: To make budget data (Pre budget statement and Midyear report), parliament audit committee reports and tax exemptions publicly available and increase citizen participation in the budget process.</p>	<p>In line with internationally accepted good practices for open budgets, this includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish, in a timely manner, the budget reports each budget year: a pre-budget statement and a mid-year review as these two reports are still not yet been published by the government of Sierra Leone. 2. Publish all tax exemptions, on a half yearly basis starting 2016. <i>This should include an estimate of the total amount of revenue losses attributable to all tax expenditures, the amount of revenue losses attributable to tax expenditures divided by the various revenue streams, the amount of revenue losses attributable to tax expenditures from various sectors, both public and private, the amount of revenue losses attributable to the tax expenditures from 20 of the largest investors, divided by company</i> 	New

<p>Fiscal Transparency and Open Budget (This will increase Sierra Leone score in the Open Budget Survey. In 2012 Sierra Leone score 39 and in 2015 we score 59 out of 100%.)</p> <p>Commitment: To make budget data (Pre budget statement and Midyear report), parliament audit committee reports and tax exemptions publicly available and increase citizen participation in the budget process.</p>	<p>3. Publish Budget data (a pre-budget statement; the executive’s budget proposal; the enacted budget; a citizens budget; in-year reports on revenues collected, expenditures made and debt incurred; a mid-year review; year-end report; and audit reports) online, in machine-readable formats.</p> <p>4. Provide and publish the detailed feedback on how public perceptives have been captured and taken into account on the budget discussion process during the formation stage</p>	<p>New</p>
<p>Record Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Drafting of the Record Management Act ❖ Publishing of the Bill online in government website ❖ Hold public consultation on the bill ❖ Tabling of the Record Management Act in Parliament ❖ Parliament debate and pass the Record Management bill into law 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Aid Transparency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Donors, INGOs and NGOs publish details fund meant for the post Ebola recovery online and the on the open data portal including activity level budget (need to agree on the donors, INGOs and NGO) ❖ Donor, INGOs and NGOs hold annual district public meetings to disclose fund meant that particular district and for what purpose and detail activity-level budget shared. (need to agree on the donors, INGOs and NGO) 	<p>NEW</p>

Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of the EITI policy 2. Public discussions on the EITI policy 3. Cabinet approve the EITI Policy 4. Cabinet approve the EITI bill 5. Tabling of the EITI bill in Parliament 6. Parliament debate and pass the EITI bill 	Ongoing
Implementing the recommendation of the Auditor General reports for the 2014 and 2015 audit report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attorney-General's Department to initiate action to prosecute officials indicted in the PAC's report for the 2014 and 2015 Auditor General report 2. 10 MDAs implement procurement related recommendation of the Auditor General report 3. The Publish the reports of the Parliamentary Audit Committees online 	Ongoing
Open Contracting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Public Procurement Authority will publish quarterly all contracts entered into by Government from July, 2016 to June, 2018. This information should have the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the contractor Location of the contract Start and end date of the contract Value of the contract Detail description of the contract 2. Public Procurement Authority will initiate action to quarterly monitor contract executions together with CSOs and the Media to ensure effective 	New

	<p>service delivery from July 2016 to June 2018</p> <p>3.Publish the report of the monitoring online</p>	
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>More transparent and participatory development of climate polices at the local, national and international level (using proxies measures on both mitigation and action)</p>	<p>i. Creating timely, robust and transparent public participation processes for the design of local and national climate strategies and plans, including nationally determined contributions; long-term, midcentury low emissions strategies; and other national submissions (including National Communications, Biannual Reports and Biannual Update Reports, National Adaptation Plans, etc.).</p> <p>ii. Ensuring a breadth of consultation with relevant ministries, including civil society, scientists, trade unions, marginalized groups, local authorities and the private sector, to seek a diverse range of views and inputs. Also providing adequate notice to ensure accessibility and opportunity to engage in the preparation and submissions of national and local climate submissions to international bodies (National Communications, Biannual Reports and Biannual Update Reports, National Adaptation Plans, etc.)</p> <p>iii. Documenting the outcome of public consultation and government responses and all individual written comment submissions that were made available (e.g. online, through dashboards).</p>	New
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>Providing user friendly data and information regarding climate related</p>	<p>i. Creating a user friendly public tool to track policy implementation with critical milestones in specific sectors. Countries and subnational actors could commit to track policies though a central database that showcases progress on commitments, including toward specific greenhouse gas targets,</p>	New

action	<p>renewable energy, forest restoration, clean mobility, green buildings, and other policy goals and targets.</p> <p>ii. Providing adequate and relevant climate information to the public at the policy and project level (reactively and proactively) with a focus on usability, accessibility and publicity.</p> <p>iii. Releasing information or datasets in open data formats to meet the requirements of the Doha Plan of Action that would help educate, empower and engage all stakeholders.</p>	
<p>Climate Change Measures to ensure the creation of accountable and inclusive institutions for national climate action .</p>	<p>i. Establish national legislative frameworks for open and inclusive climate change institutions, policy making and reporting processes;</p> <p>ii. Build the awareness and understanding of diverse country level stakeholders concerning national commitments and needs for climate change policies through multiple communication channels, including for ministries (e.g., environment, energy, planning, finance, agriculture), local authorities, civil society, private sector, parliamentarians, and academia; and</p> <p>iii. Establish an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the collection and supply of climate change relevant data, including from the private sector, and build partnerships with national statistics bodies, climate research institutions, and regional centers of excellence to enhance understanding of climate change impacts.</p>	New
Commitment	Milestones	

Gender (Sexual Violence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Publish data on gender violence issue on a quarterly bases ❖ Set up a forensic lab to fast track sexual violence case ❖ Free access to health services for sexual violence cases 	
Elections Promote transparency and accountability in the management of elections	<p>Promote transparency and accountability in the management of election by making available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) voter register, constituency and boundary information in electronic format online, (ii) improving the transmission of election results through technology and making them available online in open data format. 	
Local Council (Waste management)		
Access to justice		

It was highlighted that currently the OGP team is looking at the possibilities of including milestones related to Waste Management by Local Councils and Access to Justices, for which consultations are already underway.

Participants were encouraged to look closely at the commitments and milestones for their comments and suggestions which they can send via email, website or WhatsApp and should get to OGP by the 30th June 2016.

4. Discussions

CSO members expressed their appreciation for the role that OGP was playing in promoting accountability and transparency in Sierra Leone. They also underscored the need to continuously strengthen the partnership between government and civil society to promote good governance.

The questions that CSOs asked largely hinged on the criteria for membership and how assessments are done before countries qualify. In that regard Abu Bakarr Kamara briefly explained how the OGP was formed and how Sierra Leone qualified to be a member.

Some members also wanted to understand how country assessments were done under the OGP. Concerning this, members were informed that OGP is an international initiative which promotes collaboration by OGP and Civil Society. Thus, to measure the achievement of its commitments, a country is given the opportunity for self-assessment after which a consultant is hired by the OGP secretariat in Washington DC to also conduct a verification assessment.

Members were given the opportunity to make inputs into the OGP process and development of NAP 2 by filling up questionnaires to provide their suggestions. They were informed that the output of this process would guide the country in terms of which areas to prioritize.

In general, the meeting endorsed the OGP NAP II Commitments and considered them to appropriately address the challenges that Sierra Leone is facing. They applauded the OGP for putting the commitments together.

The meeting ended at 1630 hours.

ATTENDANCE LIST

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Abigal A.R Tholley	Fhada
Hajie Bah	NMYCW
Christina Y. Khanu	Self Help and Development Everywhere
Brima Kamara	OGI
Rev. F.O.R Collier	Christian Focus 1000
Haja S.A Kassim	Inter-Religious Council; Sierra Leone
Abdul Karim Kamara	Civil Society Platform, Western Rural
Hon. Sadie M. Tunis	Parliament
Sheikh M.A Barrie	ISLAG

Foday Sajuma	Moa Radio
Issmile Sesay	Eastern Radio
Abubakarr Mustapha	Radio Wanjei
Mohamed K Tejan Rahman	Society for Peace and Development
Osman Kamara	Hosting Youth Empowerment Organisation
Daphne Arnolda Macfoy	CHRISTAG
Vincent Ndoinjeh	Health Poverty Action
Aminata Conteh	Girl Empowerment Movement
Rosaline MCarthy	Mano River Women Peace Network
Samba M.K Koroma	Radio Bontico Bonthe
Abu Bakarr Kanu	OGP
Fredline M'Cormack Hale	Institute for Governance Reform
Mbaimba Turay Yawri	Bay Watch Tombo
Abdul Sankralla	Tamarereh Makeni
Ahmed G. Kallen	Federation Link- Eastern Radio Kenema
Sahr S. Ambumama	AYCAH-SL
Rev Robert M. Kallon	CHRISTAG
Marcella Samba Sesay	CGG
Alhaji Saidu Sesay	Sierra Leone Amalgamated Artisanal Fisher
Cecilia A. Bangura	Women Forum
Bernadette French	Campaign for Good Governance
Abdul Karima Habib	NMDHR
Rev. Conon S.B.K Johnson	Christian in Action Group Focus 1000
Abdul S. Sesay	SLAAFU
Chernor O.T Bah	Society for Youth Initiative
Rev Daniel G. Sesay	CHRISTAG
Edmond Abu	Native Consortium and Research Centre
Albert A. Lebbie	CSO
Mohammed Sillah	KSAC
Sulamman B. Conteh	NMYCW-SL

Issa Mansarey	Sierra Leone Police Force
Justice Abubakarr King	Forum for Islamic Organisations in Sierra Leone
Mohamed Sallieu Theimuya	ISLAG
Rev S.G Koroma	Inter-Religious Council
Mayemie Bangura	Tamareneh Savings Group
Rev David B. Kallon	Inter-Religious National Pentecost Commission
Davidson D. Gray	Community Diversity Action Network
Sheik Alhassan Kargbo	Inter-Religious Council; Sierra Leone
Mohamed G. Kalokoh	Trade Union Confederation Sierra Leone
Mustapha Sellu	FORUT
Augustine J.P Conteh	Association of Proactive Youths for Civic Education
Amara Sesay	Movement for Peace and Democracy
Senesie D. Amara	Initiatives for Community Development - SL
Sonie Kamara	DRWB
Abdul Augustine Peen-Sie	District Youth Council, Western Region
Emmanuel E. Sesay	Government of Sierra Leone
Mary Kargbo	IRC-SL
Donald F.A Ngombu	Movement for Public Accountability and Development
Amadu S. Bal	NM-SLATE
Rev. S.S Bander	CHRISTAG
Peter John Amara	Economic Justice Network
Aminata Koroma	Girl 2 Girl Empowerment Movement
Adu Jusu	Anti Violence Movement Sierra Leone
Steven K. Lahni	AASL
Reginald Ronald Olantunde Domingo	Fourah Bay College
Alpha Lalugba	Modcar Radio
Theresa Pobee	Coin a Child Campaign

Ibrahim Mausarey	Initiative for Children and Youth Empowerment
Sheik Ibrahim Sesay	Islamic Action Group
Rev Christiana Sutoon Koroma	CHRISTAG