



## Discussion notes:

### Open Government Partnership Stakeholder Advisory Group Member Teleconference

This was a preparatory phone teleconference called by the Chair of the SAG to present feedback on the Mexico Open Government Partnership Summit and to consider OGP themes that may be put forward onto the next SAG meeting agenda.

**Date / time:** 18 November 2015, 12:00 noon 1:30 pm.

**Teleconference participants:** Fuimaono, Dave Henderson, Michael Macaulay, Colin James, Miriam Lips, Karaitiana Taiuru (apologies), Tim Blackmore (SSC).

---

### Teleconference discussion items / notes

#### *Item1: Overview of OGP Summit proceedings and outcomes*

##### **Notes:**

A short verbal briefing of Summit outcomes was provided by SCC officials. Key Summit outcomes outlined were as follows:

- There is growing Multilateral agency interest in OGP as means for good governance reform and support internationally with the Asia Development Bank, the World Bank the OECD, and the UN taking a wider view of OGP membership and the tools and approaches used.
- The cross endorsement by OGP member countries of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda occurred at the Summit. This implication is a desired alignment of OGP reporting and practices with the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda obligations.
- The theme of participatory government policy and consultation processes was re-emphasised as a key development obligation for OGP country members, going forward.
- Sub-national approaches to open government partnership work have emerged as a new obligation for member countries.

Michael Macaulay discussed his observations on the Summit and his participation at the Civil Society group meetings. Key themes mentioned, were as follows:

- There are opportunities to engage with local authorities in New Zealand to awareness raise and support understanding of open government and open data tools and techniques.
- There were improving tools and approaches for measuring implementation of OGP commitments, and better case studies emerging. However, impact assessment is proving difficult in the OGP domain, and there remain significant questions in terms feasibility of OGP impact measurement, including:
  - Difficulty of providing causal links
  - Problems of distinguishing responsibility for outcomes
  - Lack of transferability of many case studies
  - Reliability of respondents.

- OGP developments in dealing with lobbying and transparency remain an important theme. New Zealand forward commitments could include lobbying, improved codes of conduct supported by wider research.
- OGP alignment with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda goals provides important opportunities. In particular, future commitments may be possible specifically related to elements of NZ inclusivity, that are aligned, for example, with policy and service development in areas such as housing; education; disability; community development; and, age.
- There was a discussion around the emergence of a New Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, which New Zealand could consider.
- With respect to the open government reform agenda, New Zealand could play an important role in providing leadership in the Asia Pacific Region, supporting existing members and capacity building for new members.

### ***Item 2: OGP programme governance***

#### **Notes:**

OGP reporting obligations and programme governance were discussed. Key obligations were completion of New Zealand's mid-term self-assessment, and development of a new National Action Plan for 2016-18. This is to be supported by the SAG, the SAG secretariat, and senior agencies officials for those agencies contributing to government OGP commitments.

### ***Item 3: New Action Plan development – canvassing and scoping new initiatives for programme development***

#### **Notes:**

A number of broad themes for possible inclusion were raised following from Summit discussions.

- *Inclusiveness*  
New Zealand Treasury's sponsored Social Inclusiveness outreach programme was considered as a good example of early stage engagement with the New Zealand community.
- *Peer to peer engagement*  
Post the Open Government Summit, there appears to be possible interest in collaboration with multilateral agencies (ADB, OECD, and New Zealand and Australian Aid agencies) in supporting Asia Pacific country capacity building and use of OGP to support better governance. Further examination of the concept was required.
- *Subnational and local government initiatives*  
There was a growing focus at the Summit in sub-national arrangements for open government (city, regional, provincial, and state approaches). New Zealand could examine an Auckland focus, or another sub national areas as part of the next action plan. LGNZ SAG member views should be sought.
- *The UN 2030 sustainable development agenda*  
The UN 2030 sustainable development goals were cross- endorsed at the Summit. New Zealand's response to the new UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is still emerging, flowing adoption in September 2015. However, there may be opportunities to pilot specific initiatives in New Zealand's OGP commitments that provide an early

response to New Zealand's future reporting on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

- *Awareness raising and engagement*

A key Summit theme was material public and community participation and outreach as a key requirement of Open Government participation. Engagement with community networks is required, aligned with targeted awareness raising for New Zealanders when developing New Zealand's open government strategies and activities.

- *Citizens centred state services*

The State Services Commission is considering a forward work programme that may be focussed on using wider citizen and customer engagement to inform agency delivery, policy and regulatory design, service provision and stakeholder consultation processes.

The preliminary set of themes emerging were noted. It was suggested that further input would be sought to feed into future SAG meetings.

***Item 4: OGP Initiative development - responsibilities and next steps.***

**Notes:** The next formal SAG meeting would provide the opportunity to review and develop possible themes, initiatives and future commitments, as a basis for wider feedback.

***Item 5: Confirmation of next formal SAG meeting***

**Notes:**

A SAG meeting date of 15 December 2015 was proposed.