



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED)
No. 21 Steward Street Freetown

**MINUTES OF OGP STEERING COMMITTEE
25TH OF FEBRUARY 2025 – 2PM
PARLIAMENTARY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING HALL, TOWER HILL.**

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer
2. Individual introductions
3. Welcome and Chairman's opening remarks
4. Correction and adopting of minutes
5. Matters arising from the minutes
6. Updates on NAP 5 implementation – IRM Report and others
7. Africa and Middle East Regional meeting update
8. Open Gov Challenge Commitment – Review/Amendment of Ombudsman Act 1997 and the Youths empowerment
9. AOB
10. Closing and Adjournment.

1.2 The OGP Coordinator called the meeting to order. The meeting started with individual silent prayers and self-introductions.

3.0 Mr Joseph Bindi OGP Point of Contact and Chairman National Council for Civic Education and Democracy welcomed SC members to the second meeting that he is chairing. He acknowledged and thanked Westminster Foundation for Democracy for supporting the meeting and thanked Parliament for hosting. He reiterated his commitment and support to the OGP process and recognized the fact that the timely attendance of SC members also indicates commitment from them. He then asked for reports on action points and updates from the past minutes.

3.1 The OGP Coordinator Mrs. Hannah Jimmy said that she had received feedback on the minutes and that some implementing agencies had sent in their progress on the commitment implementation report via email.

4./ 5 The Chairman then asked that the minutes be adopted and moved on to the next item on the agenda. And again, because there was no submission of feedback with regards the 4th agenda, matters arising was not addressed, so the meeting moved on to updates on NAP5 implementation.

6. Updates on NAP 5 Implementation



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6.1 Mr Mohamed Jalloh, representing Parliament in his update said that Parliament is in discussions with management of Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM) to conduct trainings for staff and Members of Parliament on diverse accountability and transparency sessions. In addition, Parliament is planning to celebrate Parliamentary Open Day sometime in May, 2025 with support from IIDEA. The last Open Day was celebrated in 2021, to make this year's celebration more inclusive, they intend to leverage on Staff of Parliament, Hon Members of Parliament, ParlCSONet and OGP to be part of the of the planning process. The last Open Day celebration was done simultaneously across the regional district headquarter towns to ensure citizens have access and understand how Parliament works. Another significant progress on the implementation process is the live streaming of the Public Accounts Committee sittings. This has made one of the greatest impacts as citizens are now part of parliamentary processes and get information first hand. Madam Cecilia Mattia, National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives expressed her concern that Open Day should be citizens owned thus Parliament should ensure that the planning represents all works of life.

Just after Mr Jalloh's update the Chairman NaCCED, requested and apologized for his early departure from the meeting due to pressing matters to attend with the Political Parties Regulation Commission. He encouraged SC members on the need for the appointment of the vacant CSO Co-Chair position. He explained that this was the responsibility of the CSOs but appealed for acceptance of his recommendation of Mr. Abdul Fatoma, Executive Director of CHRDI, to act as Chair person for the purpose of this second meeting.

6.2 Dr Sahr Karku, representing Sierra Leone Extractives Industries Transparency Initiatives, in his updates on the Beneficial Ownership (BO) said that the steering committee for the BO will have to be reconstituted which will include SLEITI, NIB, NRA, NMA, MMMR, BSL and the CSOs. Meanwhile the mandate for their operations has to be developed first. As such, a meeting on the development of the mandate will be held either in March or April with the Minister of State to look into the matter. After that the steering committee will now work on putting together the Beneficial Ownership Register (BOR) and also work towards the establishment of the Beneficial Ownership Regulation (BOR).

On the update of the SLEITI Bill, Dr. Karku informed members that a draft copy of the SLEITI Bill has been completed however, it should have been preceded by the establishment of a SLEITI Policy. He let members of the SC know that the SLEITI Policy is currently being worked on by a consultant. He concluded that upon the completion of the SLEITI Policy then it will be taken to the quarter one MSG meeting which will be held in March 2025 for approval before it is escalated to Cabinet for final confirmation.



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6.3 In his updates, Mr Wilfred Bangura representing the Anti-Corruption Commission said that the Commission has set up Integrity Management Committees structure for Ministries, Departments and Agencies, he further went on to say that the Commission have also completed 2019 and 2023 national anti-corruption strategy on internal auditing.

6.4 Mr Alhassan Sesay, representing the Right to Access Information Commission, said that there has not been much progress since the last meeting but rather informed SC members that the Commission sent letters to all MDAs requesting the annual compliance report and the date has been extended for the submission of the report.

6.5 Mr Luseni Fofana, from the Justice Sector Coordinating Office, in his attempt to report on the general progress on access to justice, it was noticed that the update had nothing to do with the milestones as indicated. He was advised to come prepared during the next meeting.

6.6 Mrs Hannah Jimmy, reiterated the need for SC members to come prepared for SC meetings, that the minutes are always shared for their feedback and input, sometimes only few people read the minutes. Based on these inadequacies Mr Abdul admonished them for coming to the meeting unprepared, he urged SC members that when the OGP Unit sends in the meeting notice, it states that partners should come or share the written progress report on the NAP 5 implementation. He urged all to be more committed to the process and ensure they fulfil their obligations when they signed up to be SC members.

7.0 In her updates on the Africa and Middle East Regional Meeting in Kenya, due to the unforeseen circumstances and the current financial challenge across the OGP community especially with the withdrawal of USAID funds, it would be challenging to solicit support for the initial 5 CSOs that had been recommended. The OGP Coordinator is in negotiations and so far, OGP Global is looking at supporting the Chief Executive - Campaign for Human Rights and Development International and the Ombudsman and may consider the Country Representative Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The Delegation still remain the same and she will provide more update as the time draws near.

Mr Charles Kamara and Ms Cecilia Mattia said they both had received a letter of invitation from the Kenyan Government and asked whether they needed travel support respectively. Mrs Jimmy said she will follow up and that the OGP Secretariat is also trying to solicit funding support from other revenue generating MDAs.



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8.0 For the Open Gov Challenge, the OGP Coordinator said that the Office of the Ombudsman will take the lead in implementing that commitment along with Campaign for Human Rights and Development International as the lead CSO.

9.0 AOB

The OGP Coordinator said that the unit has developed a calendar for SC meetings for the year which they will share via email to all. Madam Cecillia Mattia said they won't have time to go through the calendar and that the unit should always inform SC members ahead of the scheduled dates. Mrs Jimmy said the Unit will continue to send notice for meetings and reminders.

9.1 Mrs Jimmy also shared with SC members from Paul Maassen on Sustaining Open Government through uncertain times. Mr Paul Maassen is the interim CEO of OGP and Chief of Global Programs. He reiterated the OGP Support Unit commitment to support OGP participating countries to navigate the changing and evolving realities. This letter came in light of the recent US withdrawal of funding support to countries.

9.2 Mrs Jimmy also asked SC members to discuss the review of commitments 5 and 6 – Inclusion of Youths in Public Works and Infrastructure and Access to Information to have an open government lens. Expert meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Action Points

- NaCCED to train Steering Committee members on updates report. – OGP Coordinator
- Visual progress maker to be projected so that members can quantified and ask questions. – WFD and Parliament
- OGP Coordinator should push Steering Committee members to do due diligence with regards their commitments.
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In the absence of any other business, Ms Nancy Koroma moved the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ms Grace Suna

Names of attendees:

- Dr. Sahr D. Karku – SLEITI
- Josephn Munda Bindi - NaCCED
- Memunatu F. Seiwoh -Parliament
- Memuna Mory - TISL



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- Sahr S. Davowah - CHRDI
- Wurie Bah WFD
- Ibrahim S. Jabati - NaCCED
- Dzuliatu A.E. Hamid – NaCCED
- Gracia Suna George – CCYA
- Abdul M. Fatoma – CHRDI
- Hannah H. Jimmy – OGP Coordinator NaCCED
- Mohamed Alpha Jalloh – Parliament
- Luseni Fofana – JSCO
- Charles Kamara – EFA
- Jeremy B. Simbo – CARL -SL
- Wilfred S. Bangura – ACC
- Nancy Koroma – MOICE
- Ishmail Saidu Kanu – IGR
- Tejan A.I Jah – Office of the Ombudsman
- Alhassan Sesay- RAIC
- Cecilia C. Mattia – NACE/ CSO