



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING

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1st September, 2020

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Government of Argentina

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Minister of the Interior and Safety
Government of South Korea

Robin Hodess
Director, Governance and Transparency
The B Team

Maria Baron
Global Executive Director
Director Legislativo

Dear OGP Steering Committee,

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I would like to express our interest in becoming the In-coming Government Co-chair of the International Steering Committee.

2. Nigeria joined the partnership in 2016 and is implementing her Second National Action Plan (NAP) which seeks to consolidate the progress made in the first NAP. Nigeria has also taken up leadership of the OGP process by joining the International Steering Committee, serving in the Criteria and Standards Sub-committee.
3. Nigeria continues to pursue a string of reforms aimed at improving public participation in governance, rebuilding citizens' trust in government, tackling corruption through open contracting and beneficial ownership transparency and ensuring that civic space remains free and safe for citizens.
4. Please find Nigeria's answers to the guiding questions for the In-coming Government Co-chair candidacy for the consideration of the Steering Committee.

Prince Clem Ikanade Agba
Honourable Minister of State

Budget and National Planning and Government Co-chair
Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Steering Committee Nigeria

Abuja, September 1, 2020.

OGP Steering Committee Chairmanship Government of Nigeria Response to Guiding Questions

1. What priorities will your government drive during its OGP chairmanship to advance OGP goals?

The government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as co-chair of the OGP will drive the expansion of the OGP Local Program as approved by the International Steering Committee - to ensure that the benefits accrued to the membership at the federal level are cascaded to the subnational level. Nigeria runs a federal system of government of three tiers - federal, state and local governments. In 2016, Nigeria joined the Open Government Partnership at the federal level and through the concerted efforts of key stakeholders in the process, had developed a framework for sub-national engagement which led to the onboarding of Kaduna State as a pilot of the OGP Local Program by 2018. In the following year, Nigeria had recorded 12 States indicating interest in joining the subnational program, largely due to the efforts of the stakeholders in driving sensitisation programs on the need for and benefits of signing on to the partnership. This was an effort that was recognised, so much that the support unit sought the advice of Nigeria in the redesigning of its local program strategy. Given our experience on the strategies employed to ensure increased subnational engagement in/with the OGP at the federal level, the government will work with other member-countries to ensure increased participation in the local program, thereby ensuring that democracy indeed goes beyond the ballot box and the benefits accrued to democracy are enjoyed by citizens at all levels - in both rural and urban areas.

Nigeria signed on to the OGP at the London Anti-Corruption Summit where President Muhammadu Buhari made bold statements/commitments on fighting corruption and improving transparency and accountability in governance. These statements have been followed by commensurate actions largely driven by Nigeria's membership of the OGP. As co-chair of the steering committee, the government will strive to ensure that these long-standing commitments are implemented and institutionalised over time. Like the recently assented Companies and Allied Matters Act which gives a legal framework for the implementation of beneficial ownership transparency and furthermore, the development of a beneficial ownership register, the government will continue to work with its non-government counterparts in-country to ensure that legal frameworks for the implementation of anti-corruption and transformative commitments are put in place, as well as ensuring that other enabling factors for the smooth and seamless implementation of these commitments. Government like never before, through its membership of the OGP, has begun to listen to citizens' voices and allow participation in the government process and this will furthermore improve should the government co-chair the steering committee. Non-government stakeholders in Nigeria will be sure to hold the government accountable as well as demand

better governance, to not only its commitment as a member-country but as a leader in the steering committee.

Struck by an unparalleled pandemic with multiple effects on the nation, Nigeria has had the advantage of building trust by engaging citizens in revisionary processes of key government instruments, which only came to the fore as a result of Nigeria's membership of the global partnership. As co-chair of the steering committee, the government will continue to ensure effective citizens' participation in government but also ensure the institutionalisation and sustainability of these processes, to transcend the tenure of the present government.

2. How will your government demonstrate leadership of OGP at the international level during your chairmanship, and what actions can it take to foster a more cohesive leadership body within the Steering Committee?

Given the platform of the leadership of the International Steering Committee, the government of Nigeria will continue to share best practices of implementation of OGP Principle with its peer member-countries. The government will also utilise other international fora and platforms to advocate for the growth of the partnership as well as providing support to countries whose interest have been aroused to join the partnership. Starting from Africa, Nigeria will champion the OGP Cause using its leadership and influential position at the 15 Country-member Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and the 54 country-member African Union (AU) to advocate for the 43 African Countries yet to sign up to OGP, to join the partnership.

Nigeria will pursue work with other members of the International Steering Committee to carry forward discussion started at the Berlin Steering Committee Meeting around setting up regional networks that support peer-learning and expansion of OGP to more countries. We will work with the Support Unit to convene an Africa OGP Network as well as with other members of the partnership in other regions of the world.

The President and Vice President will also be championing the OGP principles through bilateral meetings and speeches at international fora such as the UN General Assembly, World Economic Forum

3. How do you plan to further advance your domestic open government agenda and lead by example during your chairmanship role?

As Nigeria aims to improve the implementation of the National Action Plan, following recommendations from non-state actors after an in depth review of the first implementation cycle of Nigeria's first National Action Plan (NAP), the multi-stakeholder forum - National Steering Committee - has been restructured to improve its oversight functions. Representation from state actors has been further elevated to cabinet-level representation - meaning that

Ministers and Heads of Government Departments and Agencies will be meeting with their non-state counterparts. The 20-member National Steering Committee is made up of 10 government and 10 non-state actors (from Civil Society Organisations, Organised Private Sector and Professional Bodies). This is a significant reduction from the previous 42-man committee with mid-level administrators representing Government.

This will help improve decision making of the forum and implementation of Nigeria's Second National Action Plan. Regularly, the decisions of the MSF and report on the implementation of the National Action Plan will be presented to FEC in the form of a Government memo for deliberation and decision. The Federal Executive Council, a weekly meeting of all cabinet level officials of government, is chaired by the President. Steps have already been taken to entrench the tenets of OGP in governance in Nigeria as the Federal Executive Council recently approved a memo from the Honorable Attorney General of the Federation mandating all government institutions to implement OGP principles and the commitments contained in the National Action, as well as mandating all public institutions to hold consultations with citizens on all government decisions.

Nigeria's Open Government Partnership process includes a plan that encourages the 36 subnational governments in Nigeria to adopt the principles of Open Government with 15 states signing up and implementing Open Government principles. The Nigerian government will continue to support the expansion of these principles through the implementation of a \$750 million World Bank facility for States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability, and Sustainability (SFTAS) Program for Result. This program aims to provide incentives to states that adopt open government principles of transparency, accountability and public participation in budget and procurement, adoption of technology in the management of government of payroll systems and tax collection, passage access to information, fiscal responsibility and open procurement laws.

4. Which Ministry will lead your OGP chairmanship (if different from current OGP Ministry)? How do you envision the role and involvement of other government bodies, including your head of state/government, foreign ministry and diplomatic networks, and other ministries to advance your OGP priorities and promote OGP globally.

The Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning will lead the OGP Chairmanship. This Ministry holds convening power over other government institutions through her control of government budget and purse. All government institutions maintain an ongoing working relationship with this ministry as all other agencies rely on it to facilitate the implementation of government's decisions. The Ministry of Budget and National Planning will employ its convening power at the Federal Executive Council to ensure the buy-in of other members of the council, as well as ensure the sustained interest of the highest level of decision making in Nigeria - the Presidency. The Ministry led by the The Minister of State for Budget and National

Planning will continue to make presentations of progress made with the implementation of commitments as well as challenges at the weekly FEC Meetings as issues arise.