



Republic of South Africa



## **Consolidating the Revival of the OGP Process in South Africa**

### **OGP 5<sup>th</sup> National Action Plan 2023-2026**

**30 December 2023**

#### **Department of Public Service and Administration**

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Department:  
Public Service and Administration  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**"Growing South Africa together for a  
capable and ethical Public Service"**



## 1. Foreword



### **Ms Noxolo Kiviet, MP**

In September 2011, South Africa endorsed the *Open Government Partnership* (OGP) Declaration of Principles, thereby committing itself to work with civil society towards enhancing transparency, public participation, accountability, and the fight against corruption in both the public and private spheres. This global partnership initiative on open government is in line with the African Union's *African Peer Review Mechanism* (APRM) which encourages African governments to improve good governance - including participation, openness and service delivery to their populations.

Following my predecessor's commitment to the revival of the OGP programme in South Africa, the OGP 4<sup>th</sup> National Action Plan 2020-2022 was submitted in December 2020, where my predecessor had, among others, indicated that: "As we commit to continue our support to the global OGP initiative, we will also continue to support and participate in continental initiatives that assess our performance in open governance. In partnership with the other countries and stakeholders, we'll continue to find synergies between the OGP and the APRM as these two initiatives are mutually affirming in strengthening good governance practices in Africa".

Following the finalisation of South Africa's APRM Second-Generation Country Review on 4 February 2022, the Cabinet approved the APRM National Plan of Action (NPoA) on 22 June 2022 which included the reinforcement of the principle of the APRM-OGP complementarity. The said approval of the APRM-OGP complementarity entailed, among others, that the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> National Action Plan 2023-2026 (5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026) will be used as the implementation tool of the APRM National Plan of Action.

As a result, when the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026 was submitted in December 2022, it served as **Part 1** of South Africa's commitments which was meant to demonstrate

the Cabinet commitment and confidence in the OGP programme, and also to formally introduce the Cabinet approved APRM-OGP principle of complementarity. The APRM NPoA (**Annexure E**) was put forward as representing South Africa's macro commitments, as part of the revival of the OGP programme.

Hence my predecessor advised that the initial OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026 submission in December 2022 represented South Africa's macro commitments, and that the detailed commitments will follow after due consultation with the stakeholders and in line with the prescribed OGP template.

Consequently, the due process prescribed in the OGP Handbook (2022) has taken place and the two detailed commitments are now being submitted as **Tag 1** and **Tag 2**. The details on the stakeholder consultation process, which includes the roadmap on the revival of the OGP programme, is also outlined in the synopsis provided below.

As I conclude, may I take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders who made it possible for the Focal Point to fulfil the requirements of the OGP process, which has manifested in the submission of the detailed commitments as **Part 2** of the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026; to be read in tandem with **Part 1** of the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026 which my predecessor duly submitted in December 2022.

I therefore look forward to the consolidation of the OGP revival process as per the roadmap which forms part of this submission.

**Ms Noxolo Kiviet**  
**Minister for the Public Service and Administration**  
**OGP Focal Point for South Africa**  
**Republic of South Africa**

## **A synopsis of the methodology and process followed in developing the two commitments of the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> National Action Plan 2023-2026**

### **1. A recap on the background**

**1.1** As part of the revival of the OGP process in South Africa, the Focal Point submitted **Part 1** of the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> National Action Plan 2023-2026 (OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026) in December 2022 [**Annexe A**], focusing on high-level African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) National Plan of Action (NPoA) approved at the Cabinet level, which serves as South Africa's macro OGP 5<sup>th</sup> National Action Plan (NAP) 2023-2026 commitments in line with the APRM-OGP complementarity principle.

**1.2** It was highlighted that the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023 - 2026 and the subsequent OGP NAPs will thus be firmly entrenched as the implementation platform of the APRM Peer Review recommendations under the five thematic areas of democracy and political governance, Corporate Governance, Economic Governance and Management, Socio-Economic Management and Development, as well as the newly introduced thematic area named State Resilience and Preparedness.

**1.3** It was also highlighted that the Focal Point would thereafter work with civil society to shape specific detailed commitments in liaison with the relevant departments who will drive those commitments.

**1.4** The submission of the detailed commitments, as **Part 2** of the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026, consequently signifies a supplementary submission to the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026 macro commitments that were submitted in December 2022.

### **2. Process for the co-creation of the two detailed commitments of the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026**

**2.1** Following an internal to government consultation process to identify feasible draft commitments for the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026, a meeting of the interim Steering Committee was convened by the OGP Point of Contact on 6 October 2023 [**Annexe B**] with a view to:

**(a)** Providing feedback to stakeholders on the internal to government process of identifying feasible draft commitments.

**(b)** Providing space for the presentation of the two draft commitments led by the National Treasury (NT) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

**(c)** Soliciting input on the two draft commitments namely, transformative fiscal transparency, led by the National Treasury, and open data transparency across the three spheres of government, led by the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research.

**2.2** The way forward from the presentation and discussion of the two draft commitments was that further consultation with the public had to take place, and that a roadmap should be developed to illustrate how the process will unfold.

**2.3** The road map was duly developed, and the two draft commitments were posted for public comment on the OGP webpage of the Department of Public Service and Administration, with a due date of 27 November 2023 [**Annexe C**].

**2.4** Following the closing of the window for public comments on 27 November 2023, a final consultation session was held on 30 November 2023 to consolidate all the input received and to further confer with the stakeholders on the way forward.

**2.5** The aforesaid final consultation session was held at the Stellenbosch University, School of Public Leadership, Bellville Park Campus to ensure, among others, a broader participation of stakeholders [**Annexe D**].

### **3. Way forward on the two commitments presented on 30 November 2023**

**3.1** There was consensus that the two commitments constitute what South Africa can present at this stage of the OGP revival process, with the understanding that the process outlined in the roadmap will enable the consolidation of the OGP revival process and provide more space for civil society participation in the implementation of the two commitments.

**3.2** Considering the APRM-OGP complementarity, the two commitments have been crafted in a manner that aligns them with the relevant APRM thematic area of “Democracy and Political Governance”, to illustrate the complementarity principle.

**3.3** The two commitments are thus duly put forward as per the explanation provided above as attached at **Tag 1** and **Tag 2**, to constitute **Part 2** of the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026, to be read as supplementing **Part 1** of the OGP 5<sup>th</sup> NAP 2023-2026 which was submitted in December 2022.

**End**