**OGP Joint Working Group**

**Summary Meeting Notes**

**13/2/14**

**Civil Society Members present:** Andrew Jackson, Denis Parfenov, Nuala Haughey, Antoin Ó Lachtnain, Anne Colgan.

**Civil Service Members Present:** William Beausang (PER)**,** Evelyn O’Connor (PER)**,** Claire Martinez (PER)**,** Conor McCann (PER)**,** Donal Enright (D/Environment, Community & Local Government).

**The draft Work Plan:** DPER circulated a draft Work Plan with a schedule of tasks/meetings aimed at having a good draft plan for April 3rd. The plan factors in some wider consultation on the draft, but leaves open the option of public consultation following the launch. The CS had also done work on possible scheduling of tasks. Both plans are broadly similar, with some differences in emphasis as to where most time investment will be needed. The two schedules will be merged by DPER, and serve as a guide/check as we go rather than a rigid timetable.

**Conference planning**: The intended attendance will be 300 people. The key planning matters include themes, topics, speakers from Europe and elsewhere, Chairs, rapporteurs, plenaries and break-out sessions, logistics and event management. The planning timeframe is tight. DPER requested 2/3 volunteers from CS to join the planning team. Denis offered to be involved. CS will source another person/s for the team as quickly as possible. CS volunteers will also be sought to assist at the conference.

**Themes:** CS gave feedback on the three themes put forward by DPER (link) – Open Data, Political Reform, Improving Public Services and strengthening citizen participation. The main CS view was that the themes should link more explicitly to the OGP agenda. There was a lengthy discussion about the link between improved customer service and citizen engagement. The CS view favoured separating these and keeping the focus on citizen engagement with a core purpose of strengthening democratic participation. The CS ideas about themes focused on accountability/ transparency, strengthening democracy and areas such as innovation and growth; political reform and Open data would be key enablers for these. DPER referred to the need for a plan that will be an integrated whole. They will recast the themes in advance of next CS Forum meeting (Tuesday 18th), and provide a draft narrative that aims to set a context.

**DPER Document on CS Submission:** CS gave feedback on the DPER document (link). The DPER document was very helpful in providing background and context to the CS Propositions. One CS concern was that the DPER document does not explicitly state where the scope for change lies, though there are some pointers, and does not appear to leave scope for new initiatives to emerge. CS made a case for explicit feedback on each proposal; while DPER felt that this might risk getting the process bogged down in detail and reducing the room for convergence, they will undertake to do that since it will help CS in its task of finalising its proposals.

**Action Plan template**: CS proposed that there would be joint/separate Government/CS introduction rather than a merged introduction and that CS 62 proposed would be ‘memorialised’ in some way; DPER will prepare a first working draft of the Introduction, but this will be open to revision and this will be finalised when the Action plan is agreed.

**Administrative support**: The governance arrangements for the administrative support were reviewed, and CS gave an update on the progress in hiring the administrator (interviews 13/2/14).  DPER requested that the OGP website would be moderated, as previously, to have oversight of content. It was agreed that the OGP Logo will be retained exclusively for the OGP website.

**Next meeting**: Thursday February 20th at 11.30am, DPER offices.