**OGP Civil Society Forum Meeting**

**Summary Meeting Notes**

**11/03/14**

**Civil Society Members Present:** Anne Colgan (chair), Nat O’Connor (TASC) Nuala Haughey (TASC, Transparency Ireland International), , Antoin Ò Lachtnain (Digital Rights Ireland), Denis Parfenov (Active Citizen/OKF Ireland), Angela Long , Donal O’Brolchain, Edward Stevenson, Flora Fleischer (OKF Ireland), John Devitt (TI Ireland), Deirdre Lee (Insight NUIG), Ingo Keck

**In attendance:** Claire O’Keeffe (CSF Administrator)

**Apologies:** Ivan Cooper (The Wheel)

**Visit to Dublin by Joe Powell – Support Unit, Open Government Partnership**

An update was given on a March 10th CSF meeting in the Guinness Enterprise Centre with Joe Powell from the OGP Support Unit. Joe reiterated the importance of identifying the ‘vital few’ commitments to push for in the National Action Plan (NAP). It was noted that 8-15 points should be included in the NAP and there should be a mix of new and pre-existing initiatives as well as new ones which would require stretch from government. All action points should be delivered in a format and language that is in line with international NAP best practice.

**Civil Society’s vital few points for NAP**

The group discussed the updated document distributed by DPER on 11th March 2014 - Draft OGP Civil Society Consultation Proposal Table – For Discussion. This document colour coded Civil Society’s 62 Action Plan proposals as green, orange or red. The meeting agreed to compare the priority action points from the civil society consultation with this DPER document in an effort to produce this vital few shortlist. To assist with this, Nuala Haughey distributed a document outlining the five top action points from each of the four working groups set up during the civil society consultations (see attached). The group then went through these proposals to identify priorities under the working group themes of Accountability, Citizen Participation, Technology & Innovation and Transparency.

**Accountability**

* It was noted that as action point 1.01.1 was coded green by DPER, many other points coded red must be actionable by association.
* CSF agreed to support the inclusion of (green) 1.01.1 (Set high standards of accountability), (amber) 102.2 (Enhance powers and remit of Comptroller and Auditor General) in NAP.
* For both 1.01.1 and 1.02.2, it was agreed that CSF would work on the NAP wording.
* In relation to (red) 1.07 (publish UNCAC implementation), it was pointed out that TI Ireland is already doing some work which could feed into CSF’s deliberations on this.
* The IMF’s recent Fiscal Transparency Report and a Council of Europe Report on local government last October were cited and it was agreed that public service at local government level needs increased financial management.

**Citizen Participation**

* CSF agreed that point (green) 2.16 (citizen participation in legislation and engagement) should be supported for NAP.
* CSF agreed that point (green) 2.09 (Develop best practice initiatives for local government consultation and engagement online and offline) should be supported for NAP. CSF noted the opportunity is there with current local government reforms to build a generic NAP commitment around this with strong language around local government.
* CSF agreed that there may be scope to turn (red) 2.11 (Introduction of Participatory Budgeting) into green and build (red) 2.19 (raise public awareness of the [Aarhus Convention](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aarhus_Convention) in local authorities) into that.

**Technology**

* CSF agreed to support the inclusion of all top five proposals in NAP and to work to fold some of the existing technology proposals into each other to ensure that as many of the ten technology proposals marked green by DPER are included:
* The top 5 technology proposals are: (Green) 3.01(Release Reference spatial data for free under open licences); 3.02(identify data sets for release); 3.03 (standardise data formats); 3.04 (Adopt open data charter); 3.05 (ensure timely, predictable release of data).
* CSF agreed that the technology top five should be compressed and unclear wording should be changed to reflect solid government commitments.

**Transparency**

* CSF agreed to support (amber) 4.06 (Abolish FOI fees) for inclusion in NAP.
* CSF agreed to ‘push’ for (red) 4.11 (Increase legislative transparency) – every Bill submission should be published, free access to submissions throughout legislative process.
* CSF agreed to support (green) 4.05 (Review FOI Bill), and that when the wording is formulated it could accommodate including the ‘footprint’ into the publication scheme, and could address the issue of consolidated policy.

**General proposals**

* List of 14 CSF proposals that will be brought to JWG on March 13th.
* As a group, CSF should decide on eight priority action points for NAP
* The NAP should underscore the point that all of its measures are based on the highest Open Data principles.
* The NAP should include a general commitment on overarching capacity building.
* A proposal made to send CSF’s vital few in a letter to the minister requesting a CSF/Minister meeting in the event. It was agreed that it would be better to honour the JWG process but that such an approach could be considered if there if progress at the conclusion of the JWG process is not considered satisfactory.

**Administrator’s work plan**

* A high level work plan for Claire O’Keeffe for the coming week was outlined and agreed. It was agreed that this work plan would be added to the online Trello resource and when tasks would be checked off when completed or carried through to the next work plan. It was agreed that a verbal progress report on this work at the weekly CS Forum was not required. It was agreed that Claire would invite all CS Forum members to the Trello platform (except Edward Stevenson who asked not to be invited).
* It was agreed that the administrator will tweet event announcements and CSF activities and CSF members undertook to will retweet these.

**Other Business**

* Minutes: The previous week’s (04/03/14) CSF forum draft minutes were approved.
* Deirdre Lee from Insight NUIG outlined the work they are carrying out on open data to produce recommendations to government. It was agreed that the administrator will circulate an email drafted by Deirdre, to wider CSF members to inform this work.
* It was proposed that the question of inviting journalists to attend CSF meetings should be considered. It was agreed that it be added to the agenda for next week’s CSF meeting.