

Note: This is a draft document that has no status. It has been developed to stimulate discussion within SAG on options for an enhanced engagement model on OGP matters.

OGP Engagement

Purpose

- 1 To promote discussion on an enhanced engagement process for the development of the OGP National Action Plan 2016-18 (NAP2).

Background

- 2 OGP countries commit to developing their Action Plans through a multi-stakeholder process, with the active engagement of citizens and civil society.
- 3 The development of the NAP1 involved: four public consultation meetings with civil society in Wellington, feedback via Loomio (an online consultation and engagement tool), and by email to NZOGP_ActionPlan@ssc.govt.nz.
- 4 The need for an enhanced and more robust engagement process for the next round of action planning has been acknowledged.
- 5 The objectives for engagement are:
 - 5.1 To promote a shared understanding between government and New Zealanders on open government that:
 - a. enables government to have a clear understanding about what a cross-section of New Zealanders value most in terms of open government
 - b. enables a cross-section of New Zealanders to have a clear understanding of why government is promoting open government and what it is doing to achieve it
 - 5.2 To develop high quality and cost effective tools for engagement with New Zealanders on open government that:
 - a. enable government to use its resources effectively in promoting open government, e.g. utilise and leverage off existing platforms
 - b. enable government to make decisions on open government that are informed and understood by New Zealanders.
- 6 To the greatest extent possible the engagement process should be built on and leverage existing examples of good practice. This should also be seen as part of the process of building improved engagement processes generally.
- 7 The OGP 'Guidelines for Public Consultation on Country Commitments', include:
 - making the details of public consultation processes and the timeline available (at least online) prior to the consultation
 - ensuring accessibility of opportunities for citizens to engage by consulting:
 - with sufficient forewarning
 - through a variety of mechanisms – including online and in-person meetings
 - consulting widely with the community, including civil society and the private sector, and seeking out a diverse range of views
 - summarising the results of public consultation and making written submissions available on-line
 - convening a forum to enable regular multi-stakeholder consultation on OGP implementation.

Scope

- 8 Engagement in the course of developing NAP2 could:

- include consultation on the process of engagement itself - before making decisions on the engagement process(es)
 - inform the development of criteria to be used to decide on the final mix of commitments
 - involve generic processes and targeted engagement with specific segments of the population.
- 9 The engagement process should be supported by, and be part of, awareness raising about OGP and its significance for New Zealand.

Discussion

- 10 The New Zealand OGP engagement process is about government and a diverse range of citizens (including interest groups) sharing their views on priorities and where the greatest value lies in terms of the pursuit of OGP principles in the New Zealand context. The desire to capture a broad range of views underlines the need for a diversity of channels.
- 11 Other like countries have generally engaged in some form of public consultation on the process for development of the report and on the content. A mixture of on-line and hard-copy submission processes have been used together with public fora. The use of a blog or wiki has enabled on-line conversations between citizens, civil society and the government. This is something that we could consider for the future in light of the Australian experience.
- 12 There are broadly speaking three approaches to consultation with the public generally:
- surveys – which require careful design (questions and catchment) to ensure they are representative and not biased
 - town hall style meetings – which are not likely to be representative because the audience self-selects and because the outcomes will reflect the demographics of the location
 - invitations to make individual submissions/responses.
- 13 Organisations can also be invited to participate in the same way as the public generally. In addition face to face meetings can be undertaken with organisations and, if they are willing, their networks can be used to raise awareness and to augment general public participation processes.

Options/Possible Options

- 14 Options will be constrained by the (government and civil society) resources available.

Awareness

- 15 An engagement process should be preceded by or at least accompanied by an awareness raising process relating to:
- the OGP and the purpose of NAPs
 - the Government's objectives in participating in the OGP and in the development of a NAP.

Scope

- 16 Engagement should cover:
- the process for engagement and engagement timetable
 - possible prioritisation criteria
 - possible/proposed commitments.

General

- 17 Submissions (hard copy and/or on-line) would be sought on proposals. To assist the analysis of submissions a template should be offered.

Face to face engagement

18 Engagement with the public and a range of organisations (Māori, interest groups, professional organisations, business, labour etc.) identified and targeted with the advice and assistance of the SAG and departments, by:

- symposia, supported by academia
- targeted requests for submissions, and/or
- face to face meetings and hui (either interview or meeting style).

Meetings/hui could involve a number of such organisations with similar interests. 'Peak' bodies could be approached to facilitate engagement with their members (e.g. Unions).

Survey

19 A survey of individuals designed to identify:

- state of public awareness of OGP
- areas of concern and relative priority with respect to OGP – what people would value about the next OGP plan
- specific potential commitments.

20 A robust and credible survey would require professional advice on the construction of the survey and selection of statistically significant and representative sample of respondents. It is possible that we could utilise the DIA's GOES capability to support such a survey. An example of what an initial survey could look like is attached. Please note this is indicative only.

Phasing

21 Indicative phasing is set out below:

Phase	Activities
1 May/June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication of awareness material• Notification of the engagement timeline• Seeking input on the design of the proposed process• Design of the engagement process.
2 June - July	Awareness raising and engagement (including a survey) about both: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the criteria (how to prioritise) for deciding on commitments (asking what New Zealanders value about open government)• what those commitments could be.
3 July - August	Release draft NAP2 for submissions. This will require compilation and analysis of submissions, engagement with internal and external advisory groups.
4 September - October	Consideration of submissions Preparation of Cabinet Paper and submission of the NAP2 to the OGP.