

Co-chair vision

UK priorities for the Open Government Partnership September 2012 to September 2013

This Co-chair vision has been developed by the UK Government, in partnership with a number of national civil society organizations, and it is the first product of the “open policy making” process we intend to use to produce the new UK OGP National Action Plan.

It is an honour for the UK to become lead co-chair of the OGP. The original co-chairs, the US and Brazil, have steered us to become the vibrant partnership of 57 countries that exists today. We thank them wholeheartedly for providing the vision and energy to drive the OGP to achieve so much so fast - and for doing so much to build the commitment to the partnership and its ideals. We look forward to working with Indonesia and the International Budget Partnership as co-chairs as we move on from commitment to action.

As lead co-chair of the OGP, we recognise the opportunities as well as the responsibilities of this role to drive forward the open government agenda, building on the principles and commitments of the Open Government Declaration. In particular to:

- *“promote transparency, fight corruption, empower citizens, and harness the power of new technologies to make government more effective and accountable.”*
- *“uphold the value of openness in our engagement with citizens to improve services, manage public resources, promote innovation, and create safer communities”*
- *“embrace principles of transparency and open government with a view toward achieving greater prosperity, well-being, and human dignity in our own countries and in an increasingly interconnected world.”*

We have set out below our aspirations and commitments for our tenure as lead co-chair – so we can be challenged on whether this is the best set of priorities, and supported to fulfil our aspirations for the OGP by the experience, vision and expertise of our partners.

Our priorities are:

1

Show that transparency and participation drive economic growth, well-being and prosperity through efficient use of resources, citizen engagement and inclusive development

We'd like to work with our partners in the OGP to do this by:

- Promoting best practice through the **exciting examples of the benefits of open government in promoting growth and well-being** in different countries - and enabling participants to replicate that activity at home;
- Promoting comprehensive arrangements for open data as a key element of open government: combining policy commitment and capacity building with the uptake of media and technological solutions for publishing and using open data; and
- Identifying **opportunities for commerce and civil society** across participating countries to develop relationships with different OGP participants in the field of open government.
- Applying the principles of openness and transparency to ensure accountability across the public, private and voluntary sectors
- Support an open discussion of barriers to achieving the benefits of open government, and the actions that government and civil society can take to overcome these.

2

Secure the foundations of the OGP as a globally recognised and respected international initiative that non-participating countries will aspire to join, and with participating countries that seek to uphold the values OGP promotes. Working with our colleagues we'll do this by:

- Establishing an excellent **Independent Review Mechanism** that encourages continuous year on year improvement by all OGP members;
- Appointing an **International Expert Panel** to oversee the IRM;
- Ensuring the right mechanisms are embedded to ensure full **clarity and transparency around the objectives and workings of the OGP**; and,
- Ensuring the **Central Support Unit** meets the needs of the OGP as it expands in size and scale as a unique multi-stakeholder forum.
- Establish, with the support of our civil society partners, the OGP networking mechanisms into the foremost knowledge exchange on open government.

3

Explore new effective mechanisms to communicate the opportunities that open government provides. We'd like to work with our partners in OGP to do this by:

- **Ensure the OGP actively supports and engages with existing international transparency and anti-corruption initiatives;**
- **Highlighting the progress and achievements set out in country plans;**
- Stimulate the development of relevant links and new international and domestic partnerships, on cross-cutting themes, such as data standards, smart cities, data portals and community budget pilots.
- Engaging with participants, observers and other multilateral fora to **show how open government can improve public services and governance, promote innovation, reduce corruption and drive sustainable economic growth** – as well as provide valuable input to debates on future global development goals, post-2015; and

4

Build on the unique working relationship between participating governments and CSOs that is a fundamental facet of the OGP - improving further on the ways that CSOs work with the OGP Steering Committee and participating governments, working to equalise power imbalances. We want to work with our partners to do this by:

- Drawing on the experience of participants at local, national and global levels to generate even more **effective working models and networks**; and,
- Encouraging pilots for more innovative **and open ways for governments of working in multi-stakeholder partnership** frameworks
- Promoting **engagement by a more diverse group of civil society organisations** at both international and national levels in order to both expand ownership by citizens and promote greater accountability, and working with civil society to achieve this.
- Working with the UK and global civil society partners, to organise the 2013 OGP plenary meeting in London.

We believe that, together with our co-chairs and the participants in the OGP, we can deliver this set of priorities, and move the OGP from commitment to action – and that in a year's time the OGP will be globally renowned as an efficient, effective and visionary partnership, and one that is proven in transforming societies around the world.