

Open Government Partnership
State Services Commission
ogpnz@ssc.govt.nz
WELLINGTON

Submissions and Publications
RE: David Dunsheath

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OGP NAP-4 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS: TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL NEW ZEALAND SUBMISSION

Introduction

Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) is the recognised New Zealand representative of Transparency International, the global civil society organisation against corruption. We are a not-for-profit incorporated society with charitable status. We are non-political and non-partisan.

TINZ's Vision: A world with trusted integrity systems in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption.

We are

- A caretaker of New Zealand's high trust, high integrity society
- Author of the [2013 New Zealand Integrity Plus National Integrity System Assessment](#) and the [Building Accountability: National Integrity System Assessment 2018 Update](#).
- The local chapter of Transparency International, the world leading anti-corruption agency and publisher of the [Corruption Perceptions Index](#)

Submission overview comment

TINZ welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *'Help shape the public engagement process for NZ's 2020-2022 National Action Plan'* in email received from OGP NZ on 2 December 2019.

It is encouraging to view the content of the engagement process comprising the two landscaped graphics:

- 'How we involve New Zealanders in the development of the plan'
- 'Developing New Zealand's fourth National Action Plan: Key phases and activities'

We note that feedback is currently sought on the public engagement process for both plan development and plan implementation as distinct from the plan commitments that eventuate from public engagement.

Extent of civil society engagement

TINZ applauds the overall intentions for development of NAP-4, comprising engagement of civil society, with reference to the IAP2 guidelines. However, it is unclear how far along the IAP2 spectrum of civil participation SSC is striving to achieve.

A much broader and deeper engagement of civil society in the development of NAP-4 is critical to forward progress, than was attempted with development of previous NAPs.

Recommendation: That a development target for NAP-4 be set at the IAP2 'Involve' level of civil participation plus a trial of 'Empower' civil participation.

Timeline for plan development

It is of concern to TINZ that the timeline as advertised in the graphic, appears very tight for phases 2 and 3 if not also for phase 4.

Given the lack of detail provided on each of the key phase activities, TINZ is concerned about the feasibility of the timeline for effective breadth and depth of public engagement to achieve an improved IAP2 performance.

This concern is amplified by the holiday disruptions in January to significantly impact activities in Phase 2, without known evidence of prior publicity in December.

Recommendation: That the NAP-4 development timeline be refined to provide greater time for effective marketing and networking to civil society organisations and groups. This longer duration would seem essential to prepare for numerous civil society hosted events, ready for Phase 2 and Phase 3 activities.

It is essential that processes and network connections be developed and implemented to engrain OGP ideals into the way NZ does OGP work.

Project management approach

Recommendation: that a transparent project management approach be instigated spanning plan development phases and plan implementation, with particular focus on IAP2 Involve (and Empower on a trial basis) levels of participation.

Venue hosting and facilitation

Recommendation: that a broad diversity of local community organisations and groups, be urgently invited to host OGP events, for participation by their members/community.

To encourage wider/broader civil society participation in OGP will typically require guiding endorsement from a locally trusted organisation rather than the remote strangeness of central or local government organisers of events

OGP resourcing

TINZ is not aware of the OGP budget that will fund the development and implementation of OGP NAP-4.

Recommendation: that high priority be given to securing adequate budget from within the SSC vote, to employ suitable facilitators to broadly engage at civil

society events, particularly during developmental Phases 2 and 3. and again during implementation of planned Commitments.

OGP communications

Extensive communications by diverse channels would seem essential early in Phase 2 (January) to raise awareness of OGP and to 'sell' the opportunities and benefits for individuals/groups to participate in NAP-4 development and implementation.

Recommendation: that the OGP NZ website, a key information source and repository, be assessed by a target sample of civil society for its appeal and ease of navigation, and appropriately adjusted.

Plan implementation

It is essential to ensure an effective culture of transparency and openness of government agencies is maintained during plan implementation to avoid any sense of government captured and/or opaque agendas.

Recommendation: As a natural part of IAP2 participation, it is essential for government agencies to maintain transparent, meaningful engagement with civil society representatives (NGOs, NFPs) during the plan implementation of the commitments they are responsible for.

Conclusion

The two-page document provided for comment is applauded for providing a convenient, well-designed overview that will inform the public of the proposed NAP-4 process.

However, the effectiveness of this process lies within the underlying planning detail, the current extent of which is unknown to TINZ. From above, TINZ urges much greater engagement of civil society that has been achieved with NAP-3, during all stages of plan development and implementation.

We wish the OGP Team well in its endeavours to refine the process of NAP-4 development and implementation.

Please contact us if you have any questions or queries regarding this submission.

Yours faithfully

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL NEW ZEALAND

David Dunsheath
Member with Delegated Authority

Email: david.dunsheath@tinz.org.nz
DDI: +64 27 248 9488