

Open Government Partnership
Openness in the Extractives Working Group - Work Plan 2014
February 2014

Aim

The Openness in the Extractives Working Group will:

- Support OGP participating governments to design and implement commitments that concrete, impactful, ambitious and targeted to the specific context.
- Provide a forum for peer to peer sharing and learning on good practices and innovative approaches.
- Offer participants access to technical expertise, diagnostic tools such as the Resource Governance Index and the Natural Resource Charter, and expertise on key standards such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.
- Inspire additional governments to take up commitments in this critical sector, contributing to a global norm on openness in natural resource management.

Governance

The working group is chaired by Revenue Watch Institute and the Government of Ghana. In addition, a small Steering Group is responsible for helping to promote and advance the objectives of the working group, which includes the US and the UK Governments, Oxfam America and PWYP International (participation pending confirmation).

Immediate Term Priorities

Activating the Working Group (Early February 2014)

- **Outcome:** Increased and diversified participation in the working group.
- **Outputs:**
 - Review and finalize TOR for the working group.
 - Contact WBI to schedule a webinar on the Index as a diagnostic tool, highlight opening government guide.
 - Draft and send letters to OGP focal points and extractive focal points where known to invite to join the working group.

Support National Action Plan Development (February/March 2014)

- **Outcome:** Increased number of extractive related commitments.
- Forty-six countries are currently developing action plans that are due at the end of April 2014 to the OGP Secretariat. They will be published in June and implementation starts in July. Countries particularly relevant for extractives transparency are suggested in bold:

- Cohort 2 (developing second action plan): Albania, Armenia, **Azerbaijan**, Bulgaria, **Canada**, Chile, **Colombia**, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Israel, Jordan, **Kenya**, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, **Peru**, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, **Tanzania**, Turkey, **Ukraine**, and Uruguay.
- Cohort 4 (developing first action plan): **Australia**, Ireland, Malawi, **Mongolia**, New Zealand, Serbia, **Sierra Leone**, **Trinidad and Tobago**
- **Outputs:** For these countries, RWI will work with Oxfam, EITI and national partners to conduct analysis and produce short policy notes on recommendations for country commitments.
 - RWI will produce these based on the Index, and will conduct outreach through our regional offices and governance team to link up to local civil society partners.
 - The working group will also be available to serve as a resource on a demand basis to review draft action plans and provide feedback on relevant commitments.

Conduct Analysis and Mapping (February/March)

- **Outcome:** Increased understanding of existing commitments and targeted outreach and support.
- **Outputs:** Working group members will conduct an analysis of all national action plans to identify gaps in terms of commitments and key countries to enable targeted outreach. This will include mapping the engagement of civil society organizations in relevant countries and conducting outreach and mapping the extractives focal points for relevant countries.

Convening a first Working Group Meeting (March 13-14)

- **Outcome:** Increased uptake of the working group and agree opportunities for advancing extractives transparency.
- **Outputs:**
 - The EITI Secretariat has offered to host a first Working Group Meeting in the sidelines of the next EITI Board meeting March 13-14 in Oslo.

Taking advantage of regional platforms (April/May/July)

- **Outcome:** Deeper awareness of the importance of extractive transparency and shared lessons and strategies.
- Regional events are planned in Indonesia in late April/Early May, in Ireland in early May and likely in Costa Rica in July. Africa meeting is still TBC.
- **Outputs:**

- The working group should reach out to the organizers to propose extractive related events as appropriate, or informal working group meetings/representation by extractives focused civil society.
- Work is already underway to have an extractives panel at the Asia Pacific regional meeting.

Medium Term Priorities

- **Creating resources for OGP countries: (Ongoing)**
 - **Outcome:** Regular, timely and relevant information shared on tools, resources and strategies for advancing transparency in the sector.
 - **Outputs:**
 - Regular updating the Opening Government Guide on extractives, building on initial content.
 - Webinars on key issues such as contract transparency, mandatory disclosure requirements, EITI, etc. These can showcase the expertise of different members of the working group.
- **Supporting government and civil society monitoring: (Ongoing, linked to monitoring timelines)**
 - **Outcome:** Strengthened accountability with regard to OGP implementation.
 - Noting the important role that civil society can play in monitoring the implementation, producing shadow reports and contributing to the IRM, effort will be made to link to existing monitoring efforts globally and to share the experience of monitoring OGP.
 - **Outputs:**
 - Compilation of best practices related to extractives monitoring including case studies.
 - Identifying support (financial and technical) for civil society and government to monitor the impact of commitments.
- **Supporting civic engagement: (March/July – input to Steering Committee meeting discussions)**
 - **Outcome:** Strengthen mechanisms for response on closing civic space.
 - Aligned with discussions that are underway in EITI, the working group can contribute to dialogue around creating an enabling environment and civic space and ensure coordination between EITI and OGP on this front.
 - **Outputs:**
 - Contributing EITI information to OGP discussions.
 - Activating the PWYP network and encouraging engagement of national level coalitions in OGP processes.
- **Exchange visits: (post July)**
 - **Outcome:** Build government and civil society knowledge and networks on extractives.

- **Outputs:**
 - Once target countries are identified, the working group can facilitate an exchange visit between countries to learn about openness in the extractives along targeted areas such as EITI, contract transparency, etc.
- **Capturing good practice: (Ongoing)**
 - **Outcome:** Increased understanding of how to improve transparency in the extractives.
 - **Outputs:**
 - Through interviews and local networks capture examples of good practices and innovative approaches that can be shared through regional meetings, online resources, webinars, etc.
- **Linking with other working groups: (Ongoing)**
 - **Outcome:** Increase impact of working groups and opportunities for engagement on extractives.
 - **Outputs:**
 - Participation in regular coordinating calls with the working group chairs.
 - Possible linkage between panels and events at regional for a, with particular emphasis on partnerships with parliament, open data or fiscal transparency.

Proposed Budget

The Secretariat has limited funds to support working group engagement. Below are suggestions for how this funding might be used.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Oslo Meeting – travel covered by EITI and existing participants. Will seek to have conference room costs donated by EITI.	\$1,500
Regional Meetings – travel costs for Asia Pacific will be covered by RWI. Working group will seek sponsorship as needed for other regional events, but some funds may be required for additional participants.	\$5,000
Peer Exchange – anticipating travel costs for bilateral exchange on a demand driven basis	\$5,000
Publications – costs associated to translation and creation	\$2,000
