

## **Indonesia's Open Government Partnership Chairmanship 2014: Unleashing Public Participation – Nourishing the Essence of Openness**

*"We must complete the management of government by the expansion of public participation, starting from the participation of development until opening up public access in order to participate in the control of government management. This is the essence of open government."*

– President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012

### **I. Strategic Context**

1. The rise and spread of democracy has made public participation in government decision-making and policy-making processes not only possible, but also absolutely necessary. Through civic engagement, citizens help societies and economies grow; they hold their governments to standards of accountability, transparency, and responsiveness. Public participation is essentially enabling an effective democratic decision-making that is needed for a healthy, inclusive, and a more sustainable economic, social, and political development.
2. From the three pillars of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), Indonesia believes that public participation is the core essence of openness. Expanding citizen engagement goes beyond upholding transparency and accountability principles. It requires government to act sincerely to serve and meet people's needs. It requires government to make necessary adjustments so that there are open channels for citizens to voice their concerns. Subsequently it requires a mechanism where information is being timely funneled and concerns are being appropriately addressed. It requires a change in mindset among government members that public is the beneficiary and also the strategic partner in decision-making process.
3. Through information, consultation, and active participation, government actually strengthens relations with its citizens. Strengthened relations between government and citizens may lead to effective public policy, greater trust in government, and stronger democracy. Moreover, such relations foster a public ownership to the success of national development agenda. Increased public ownership will make any government initiatives become more sustainable.
4. Ideas and innovations can come from anywhere. As the Lead Chair of OGP in 2014, Indonesia believes that the OGP helps countries to be more innovative and resilient by embracing transparency and empowering citizens to become agents of openness. Open government also allows the public to become the judge to the success of the development agenda.
5. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is an era where government cannot work on its own to reach success. It has to work in collaboration with citizens, civil society organizations, small and large businesses, non-governmental organizations, trade associations, academics, and others outside the government to bring better quality of life for all.

6. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is also an era where new information and communication technologies (ICT), particularly the Internet and mobile phones, have become a major platform for governments to strengthen and reinvent their relations with their citizens. ICTs can be utilized as a means to strengthen good and open governance; it can serve as a platform to harness greater public participation. However, governments need to be sensible with ICT policies. While ICTs may provide powerful tools to strengthen inclusive governance, they should not become the ends in themselves so not to exclude the marginalized communities.

## **II. Indonesia's Plan on Strengthening Domestic Public Participation**

### **A. Deepening**

Indonesia seeks to deepen the delivery of its Open Government commitments to sub-national level, where the heaviest concentration of citizens are located and the real development is happening, through the following strategies:

- Introducing existing open government solutions that emphasize on active public participation (such as LAPOR! – a national aspiration and complaint handling online mechanism, Open Budget, Open Data, and One Map) to region, city, or district level governments.
- Strengthening the implementation of infrastructure for public information request services at the local governments level.
- Involving relevant local Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the socialization and implementation of the open government solutions and infrastructure.

### **B. Broadening**

Indonesia seeks to broaden the scope of its Open Government engagements with greater stakeholders, in particular youth and the private sector, through the following strategies:

- *Meaningful Youth Engagement:*  
The Indonesian Young Ambassadors for Open Government (YAOG) will do several activities throughout the year to reach out and engage with youth around Indonesia by involving communities, initiating projects, and campaigning openness narrative.
- *Private Public Engagement:*  
The Open Government Indonesia movement will invite the private sector to go beyond their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs to enable and support governments to become more transparent, participatory, and innovative. Private sectors are active participants in private-public partnerships to advocate for better governance practices, both in the governments and the private sectors themselves.

### **C. Measuring success at the local level**

Indonesia's efforts to strengthen public participation across the archipelago will be successful if buttressed with at least several measure indicators such as:

- Number of local governments adopting LAPOR! ([www.lapor.ukp.go.id](http://www.lapor.ukp.go.id))
- Number of local governments adopting open budget practices as per global standards guidelines
- Number of local governments setting up or improving information delivery service infrastructure, ranging from policies to information unit to standard operating procedures
- Number of student councils, college student governments, or youth communities getting involved in or forming a partnership with the YAOG programs
- Number of private entities forming partnerships with the Open Government Indonesia

### **III. Indonesia's Plan on Reinvigorating Global Public Participation**

The evolving world is in need of different mindset and method of governance. It needs governments that believe that genuine development can only be reached through an inclusive and progressive collaboration with the public as a fundamental component of the ecosystem. Governance indeed has been central in the success of development in our modern world. Optimizing public participation through the OGP is thus one way to strengthen good and open governance at the global level, which will transform the old-age method of non-participatory governance. However, there is no one good practice that would fit all countries and communities. The needs and ways to promote public participation thus vary from one government to another. Nevertheless, it is still certain that results and outcomes of development will not be sustainable if the government works on its own.

#### **A. Indonesia's OGP programs on public participation**

Therefore, Indonesia seeks to enable OGP to reinvigorate effective public participation at the global level through the following ways:

- Work towards the compilation of 'best of fit' practices and methodology on effective public participation in policy and decision making around the globe
- Deepen the link between OGP and the Post-2015 Development Agenda through various global strategic advocacy avenues by emphasizing the crucially constructive roles of openness and public participation in achieving inclusive development for all
- Find ways how government and civil society can better collaborate to develop, monitor, and evaluate OGP commitments across participating countries
- Request each participating country to announce at least one new commitment to strengthen or promote public participation in their respective country
- Set up the 6<sup>th</sup> OGP working groups on "Open Cities" which could set a network that will help local governments to learn from each other to bring open governments to sub national level, and the 7<sup>th</sup> OGP working group on "Private Public Engagement" which could help catalyze meaningful private sector engagement comprising of various private sector entities globally with the OGP
- Institutionalize the "OGP Civic Engagement Award" as an incentive for countries and communities around the world to herald public participation as the essence of openness.

## D. Measuring success at the global level

There are various ways to measure success against the above objectives:

- There is an open platform where public can access to sorts of information and lessons learnt on various cases on how to promote public participation across sectors around the globe.
- There is a better management and oversight of the OGP commitments in OGP participating countries through equal participation of government and civil society from planning to delivery of commitments.
- There are more countries announcing new commitments in public participation sphere after having been inspired and motivated by other existing countries that have made relevant and reasonable progress.
- The “Open Cities” and “Private Public Engagement” Working Groups are launched latest by September 2014
- The OGP Awarding Ceremony with civic engagement category is held annually or biannually either at an OGP Summit or at an OGP high-level event at the sidelines of UN General Assembly.

## Closing

1. Strengthening public participation is never a one-year journey. It has been an idea many seek to propel, recognizing the importance it brings to one nation’s success. Unleashing more opportunities for citizen to participate helps to nourish the values of openness. It is the core essence of the Open Government Partnership and Indonesia hopes it would continue to progress beyond its Lead Chairmanship period.
2. Mexico and Indonesia have shared common practices in a co-governance partnership mechanism in managing OGP commitments at national level, in which the government and CSOs collectively manage our respective National Open Government Core Teams. Therefore, Indonesia seeks to witness this kind of co-governance model transpires throughout the OGP participating countries.
3. Public participation is a recipe for success in the development agenda for emerging countries. OGP should aspire to encourage, replicate, and disseminate more success stories on how governments strategically embrace their citizens as a means to their own success. And priority should be given to the emerging and developing countries where the bulk of world’s population is heavily concentrated (5.9 out of 7.2 billion, UNFPA 2013).