



An Roinn Caiteachais
Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe
Department of Public
Expenditure and Reform



Open Government Round Table

Second meeting, 19th January 2022





Round Table preparation

Round Table member preparation



1. The Secretariat will request Round Table members agreement for the minutes that below have been noted by members:
 - i. The further milestones achieved since the previous meeting (slides 4-5).
 - ii. The status update on the previous meeting next steps (slides 6-8).



Round Table – Meeting 1 – Status of next steps 1/3



This week:

1. Civil Society and Secretariat to arrange the **publication of the Civil Society election outcome** and the declaration on their selection process on Gov.ie.

WIP 2. Civil Society nominee to co-create Round Table values and ways of working.
(Secretariat would like to propose that draft slides agreed by Civil Society members could be circulated for discussion at the next Round Table meeting, rather than a 2 hour discussion)

✓ **3. Secretariat to organise Minister of State global conference input.**

c/f 4. Secretariat to publish the agenda and meeting pack for the inaugural Round Table.

✓ **5. Secretariat to send 18 personalised acknowledgements for submissions** received outlining the immediate next step and when they can expect a Round Table decision (suggest mid Feb 2022).

c/f 6. Secretariat to publish the proposed actions submitted (mindful of any redaction requests).



Round Table – Meeting 1 – Status of next steps 2/3



Next week:

- ✓ 7. Secretariat to circulate a **shortlist of possible actions appropriate for Dec 2021**.

- ✓ 8. Secretariat to circulate **a long list of topics**, together with a summary of the public submissions received; relevant Programme for Government updates and previous commitments updates (mostly complete).

9. All Round Table members will then have one week to:
 - i. ✓ Vote for top 2 shortlist proposed actions to be submitted in draft to OGP (Dec 2021).
 - ii. ✓ To add to the long list of topics which will be considered by the Round Table at January 2022 meeting.
 - iii. ✓ To rank red / amber / green (initial) the public submissions with reason(s) which will enable Secretariat to distil decision parameters.

Round Table – Meeting 1 – Status of next steps 3/3



Before Christmas:

✓ **10.** Secretariat to engage with relevant colleagues; to draft ~~two~~ **THREE** proposed actions for Round Table consideration. and submit as draft to OGP with long list.

Meeting 2 11. Secretariat to circulate meeting dates for 2022.

WIP 12. ...if Ireland wins the international award, communication campaign needed!

Into New Year:

✓ **13.** Secretariat to continue to engage with colleagues to across the system to obtain reasoned responses on the public submissions.

14. Next meeting (19th Jan) Round Table to consider draft Round Table ‘reasoned decisions’ on the submissions.

15. Subject to Round Table decision, Secretariat to circulate the Round Table’s ‘reasoned decision’ on the public submissions by mid Feb 2022. (‘involve’ level)



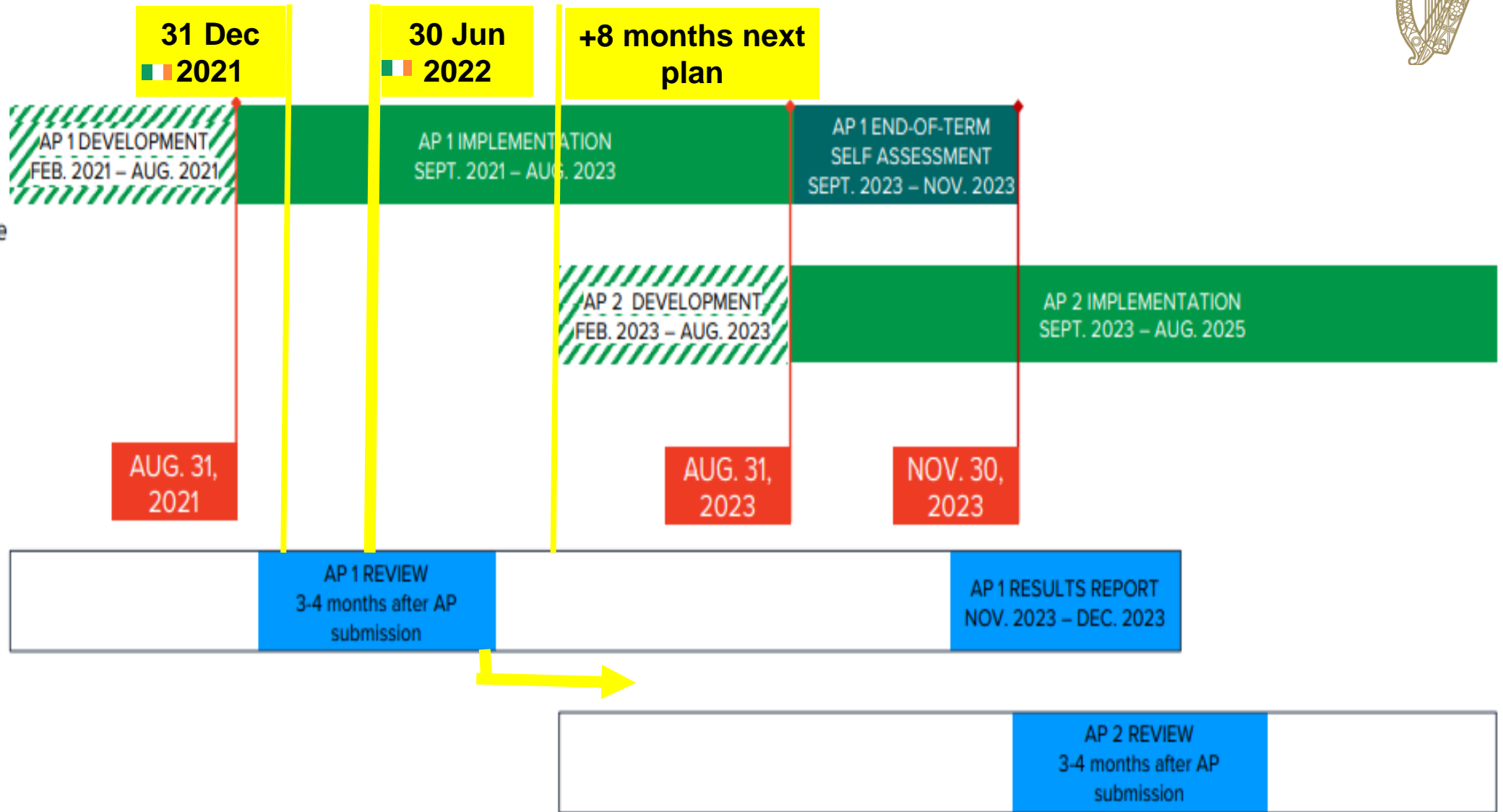


Setting the Scene

Open Government Partnership timelines



OGP Members will draft their action plan jointly with civil society and continuously implement commitments. They produce and update their online repository at least twice a year. An End of Term Self-Assessment report is submitted on conclusion of implementation.



IRM Products will monitor development and implementation. The distinct products contribute to the learning and accountability in OGP processes.

Relevant insights from 1st meeting...



- Differing valid stakeholders' perspective
- Participation beyond inform / consult – inclusive.
- **Complexity of decision making / prioritisation / trade-offs.**
- Evidence based approach – co design
- 'Stay true' to the values – strive to work together – co-create
- Ability to own and shape policy...ambitious / achievable actions
- National Action Plan be SMART and meaningful – improve the process – **decision making is complex so aim to get 'best possible' result** that gets the job done – meets needs and rights.
- **Round Table members are the 'deciders' on prioritisation – focus on those commitments that 'make a difference'.**
- **Challenge identified: How the group decides to prioritise and select**

Evidence from evaluation



- All Round Table members actively participated in the evaluation.
- Only 2 submissions (6 proposals) eliminated by Round Table members
 - **Clear focus: 3 further commitments to be agreed.**
- Ranking evidenced the breath of divergent views, failed to filter (Steps 3, 6 & 7)
- **‘Accept’**: Amend ‘political purpose’ definition in Section 22 of the Electoral Act (proposal 12)
- **‘Accept / Amend’**: Reported barriers in the Public Participation Network (PPN) structure (proposal 26).

(More details in ‘Evaluation of Proposals Received.xls’, ‘Insights’ and ‘Findings – June 2022’ tabs)

'Reasoned decision' for each proposal - Why?



The Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) will assess the standards of participation and co-creation during the development of the action plan, for the minimum threshold 'involve' must have:

- 1) **A forum exists [yes]:** there is a forum to oversee the OGP process.
- 2) **The forum is multi-stakeholder [yes]:** Government and civil society participate in it.
- 3) **Reasoned response:** The multi-stakeholder forum [Round Table] documents or is able to demonstrate how they provided feedback during the co-creation process. This may include a summary of major categories and/or themes proposed for inclusion, amendment or rejection; *e.g. The government published a summary of commitment suggestions that were not included in the action plan **with an explanation of the criteria applied to dismiss the commitment suggestion***).

How Round Table can reach a ‘reasoned decision’



1. Secretariat will guide the Round Table members through the intelligence gathered, to supplement the evaluation evidence on each proposal.
2. Each slide presents the Round Table members with the evidence to support
 - i. Operational decision
 - ii. OGP criteria decision
 - iii. ‘reasoned decision’; i.e. evidence to underpin the drafting of a response.
3. Suggest that Round Table members vote after each slide (method to be communicated at the meeting) to ensure that an open, transparent and accountable process to underpin the decision can be evidenced.
4. Secretariat seeks Round Table members agreement to finalise the drafting of the responses with the Co-Chairs to issue end January 2022/early February 2022 in advance of the next meeting.



Proposal 1: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposal	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
1	Process to consider the Irish statistical landscape from a policy perspective.	<p>[tbc] Not being progressed as a commitment</p> <p><i>There was insufficient interest to form a sub-group to progress</i></p>	<p>[tbc] Reject</p>	<p>That the proposal has been shared and considered by the Open Government Round Table members. As it doesn't fall within the themes for consideration in Ireland's 3rd National Action Plan, it will not be progressed on this occasion.</p> <p>The proposal has been shared with the Central Statistics Office (no response).</p> <p><i>Does the Round Table wish to share with the National Statistics Board?</i></p>

Proposals 2-6: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
2-6	Educate and support citizens on rights under the Aarhus Convention...	<p>[tbc] Not being progressed as a commitment</p> <p>60% - 90% of evaluations received indicated that this was not a proposal.</p>	<p>[tbc] Reject</p>	<p>That these insights have been shared and considered by the Open Government Round Table members.</p> <p>In particular, the Round Table Secretariat sought and obtained the 'best practice' communication highlighted, which together with the insights shared, will form part of ongoing consideration of citizen engagement and mechanisms.</p> <p>To share the Aarhus Convention status quo information.</p>

Proposal 7: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
7	Utilise the work done by various Public Participation Networks (PPNs) to expedite the work of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters.	<p>[tbc]</p> <p>Not being progressed as a commitment</p> <p>50% evaluations not a proposal.</p> <p>Secretariat has completed the request with evidence to accompany the response.</p>	<p>[tbc]</p> <p>Reject</p>	<p>That the proposal and the associated reports have been shared and considered by the Open Government Round Table members.</p> <p>That the Clerk of the Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters has confirmed that Donal O'Shea has had previous contact with the Committee.</p> <p>His proposal and reports will be considered at a private meeting on Thurs 20th Jan 2022. Round Table response will include a considered written response from the Committee.</p>

Proposal 8: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
8	A commitment to developing and implementing a comprehensive, long-term Open Government Strategy...	<p>[tbc] Other - Not being progressed at this time</p> <p>Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) senior management view is that the process is not yet ready to undertake work on this proposal.</p>	[tbc] Reject	<p>That the submission has been reviewed and considered by the Round Table members.</p> <p>This submission will be retained for consideration in future National Action Plans, but that the current focus is on embedding the Open Government Partnership process and it is too early in the maturity cycle for the development of a national strategy.</p> <p>Four Civil Society members have indicated their willingness to work on this proposal in future.</p>

Proposals 9-11: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
9	...Statutory duty to make and retain official records.	[tbc]	[tbc]	As per proposal 8.
10	...Proactive transparency	Other - Not being progressed without the strategy.	Reject	
11	... consider creating a web-based 'legislative footprint'...			

Proposal 12: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
12	<p>Section 22 of the Electoral Act should be amended to limit the scope of its definition of 'political purposes'...</p> <p><u>Milestone:</u> Electoral Reform Bill 2020 enacted</p>	<p>[tbc] June 2022 – sub group leader.</p> <p>100% evaluations received felt that this proposal was in-scope.</p> <p>Sub-group: DHLGH & Civil Society member.</p>	<p>[tbc]</p> <p>Accept</p>	<p>That the submission has been reviewed and considered by the Round Table members.</p> <p>With the support of colleagues in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), this submission will be developed into a commitment for Ireland's 3rd National Action Plan.</p>

Proposal 13: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
13	Data on all contract beneficiaries of contracts, loans and grants funded through the European Resilience and Recovery Fund, should be published on the Open Data Portal..	<p>[tbc] Other – Not for June 2022 - Office of Government Procurement policy area.</p> <p>100% of the evaluations received recognised this proposal as within scope and with potential to open government.</p>	[tbc] Reject	<p>That the submission has been reviewed and considered by the Round Table members.</p> <p>The Secretariat has established that the Office of Government Procurement currently has no plans to progress 'open contracting' (i.e. putting contract data on Open Data portal). Therefore it is not possible add an 'flag' to segregate from a dataset that does not exist.</p> <p>The Secretariat has confirmed that there is no change to the EU funding process for the Resilience and Recovery Fund.</p>

Proposal 14: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
14	Participatory Budgeting - Local Property Tax	[tbc] Not being progressed - Shared the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) response which raises significant implementation issues.	[tbc] Reject	<p>That the submission has been reviewed and considered by the Round Table members.</p> <p>The Round Table is sharing the observations provided by DHLGH and the published case study: '€300k have your say' South Dublin County Council Initiative (previous pilot).</p> <p>The proposer is asked to consider the DHLGH observations and to consider submitting a revised proposal for the 4th National Action Plan sometime in Q4 2022/Q1 2023.</p>

Proposal 15: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
15 (Link 20)	The advanced consultation and deliberative engagement policy and standards are developed...	[tbc] June 2022 commitment - sub group leader to be ?	[tbc] Amend	<p>Round Table members have decided to establish a sub-group. It will be lead by xxx. (Johnny; Fiona; Catherine...).</p> <p>For next Round Table meeting to obtain additional clarity on what is being sought; establish who is the policy owner is and explore the potential existing avenues for delivery. The output will be a revised version of the commitment template with SMART milestones for monitoring.</p> <p>The proposer is seeking a requirement, not legislation but a statutory instrument or circular. Hence, the relevant Minister or Department must be identified.</p>

Proposal 16: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
16	<p>...Citizen assemblies...no or little information on the progress or decisions on recommendations that have not progressed.</p>	<p>[tbc] Not being progressed as a commitment</p> <p>Recommendations are a matter for the Oireachtas and Government.</p> <p>Note: The Citizen's Assembly is not a public body for the purposes of FOI.</p>	<p>[tbc] Reject</p>	<p>That the submission has been reviewed and considered by the Round Table members.</p> <p>A Joint Oireachtas Committee chaired by Ivana Bacik has been established to consider the recommendations on Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality.</p> <p>it is not clear on how this proposal can be progressed as the recommendations are a matter for the Oireachtas and Government.</p> <p>Round Table wish to submit status of Citizens' Assemblies to FOI review?</p>

Proposal 17: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
17	The transparency, accountability as well as policy consultation processes themselves, could be improved by...[insights provided]	[tbc] Not being progressed - observations will be considered by the sub-group on civic participation proposal 15 & 20.	[tbc] Reject	<p>That the proposal has been shared with and considered by Round Table members.</p> <p>That the insights will inform the ongoing consideration of civic participation and public consultation in the work of the Round Table in co-developing future commitments.</p>

Proposal 18: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
18	Public Sector Standards Re-introduce The Public Sector Standards Bill (2015) (or equivalent legislation)...i.e. Ethics Legislation (PfG)	<p>June 2022 - Secretariat with Ciara Morgan & team (DPER Reform).</p> <p>Secretariat has completed the draft commitment with the support of Ciara Morgan and her team.</p>	[tbc] Accept	<p>That this proposal has been shared with and considered by the Round Table members.</p> <p>With the support of Department of Public Expenditure and Reform colleagues, this submission will be developed into a commitment for Ireland's 3rd Open Government National Action Plan.</p>

Proposal 19: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
19	Designated match funding facility for the Irish community and voluntary sector for European programmes.	<p>[tbc] Other - Not for June 2022 as it is not funded.</p> <p>OGP advises that prior to the launch of the action plan a funding plan has to be prepared. Source: OGP (2017), 'Why Commitments Fail', page 17, bullet point 2.</p> <p>Unless there are volunteers for a sub-group to progress, 'reject' for future also.</p>	<p>[tbc] Reject for 3rd National Action Plan</p>	<p>That this proposal has been shared with and considered by Round Table members.</p> <p>As timeline for Ireland's 3rd National Action Plan is mid 2022 (before the budget), it will not feature as a commitment in the next plan.</p> <p>There is a long term action in the DRCD's Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities - 5 year strategy 2019-2024' to scope and develop a sustainable funding model to support the sector (footnote: hyperlink to the source, action 4.1, page 27).</p>

Proposal 20: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
20	<p>The government adopt a participatory governance framework...a set of regulations to require all government departments and agencies to take a more equitable participatory approach to their dealings with civil society organisations...</p> <p>Health Dialogue Forum...as the model for the participatory governance framework.</p>	<p>[tbc] June 2022 commitment - sub group leader to be ?</p>	<p>[tbc] Amend</p>	<p>Round Table members have decided to establish a sub-group. It will be lead by xxx. (Johnny; Shana...).</p> <p>For next Round Table meeting to obtain additional clarity on what is being sought; establish who is the policy owner is and explore the potential existing avenues for delivery. The output will be a revised version of the commitment template with SMART milestones for monitoring.</p> <p>The proposer is seeking a requirement. Hence, the relevant Minister or Department must be identified.</p>

Proposal 21: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
21	<p>Introduce a plain language requirement on all public service communication...</p> <p>(PfG commitment)</p>	<p>[tbc] Other - To be considered in the next successor to Our Public Service (timeline yet to be determined).</p>	<p>[tbc] Accept – not 3rd National Action Plan</p>	<p>That the proposal was shared and considered by Round Table members. The proposal will be considered by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), Reform Delivery Office team when the successor to the Our Public Service strategy is being developed (date yet to be confirmed).</p> <p>As Ireland's 3rd Open Government National Action Plan is to be complete by mid 2022, this proposal will not feature as a commitment.</p> <p>It will be considered as part of co-developing the 4th National Action Plan in Nov/Dec 2022.</p>

Proposal 22: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
22	Strengthen data.gov.ie in terms of the openness standard of the PSI licence attached to the catalogue of the data available for those wishing to re-use spatial data.	<p>[tbc] Not being progressed.</p> <p>Based on evidence from the Open Data team evidence, this should not be progressed.</p> <p>A majority of the evaluations indicated 'minor' impact and long timeframe.</p>	<p>[tbc]</p> <p>Reject</p>	<p>That the proposal was shared and considered by Round Table members.</p> <p>DPER Open Data unit's response is in the notes section of this slide and the Secretariat proposes to circulate the full response to the proposer as evidence of a 'reasoned decision'.</p>

Proposal 23: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
23	<p>Implementation of the Open Data Directive in relation to environmental data.</p> <p><i>The subject matter of this proposal is already known. The implementation of the Open Data Directive is ongoing and over time will further increase the open data available.</i></p>	<p>[tbc] Not being progressed</p> <p>50% of the evaluations indicated a minor/did not change impact in unclear timeframe.</p>	[tbc] Reject	<p>That the proposal has been shared with and considered by the Round Table members.</p> <p>That the proposal was also shared with DPER Open Data Unit; D/Environment; D/Agriculture; D/Housing). Any data received by the Secretariat (DPER & DHLGH to date) will be shared.</p> <p>The Round Table members to engage with the DPER Open Data team to co-develop and open data commitment which will include the implementation of the Open Data Directive which is ongoing.</p>

Proposal 24: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
24	Legislation for a non-resident citizens group who could elect specific members of parliament to represent citizens abroad.	[tbc] Other – not a June 2022 commitment Owner not D/Justice but D/Foreign Affairs? Evaluation 'minor' impact and 2023/longer term timeframe.	[tbc] Reject – 3 rd National Action plan If no sub-group, then reject.	That this proposal was shared with and considered by the Round Table members. Secretariat is awaiting confirmation that this is within the remit of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), it is not Department of Justice. DHLGH and Attorney General are progressing legislation to establish a new Electoral Commission. While the specifics of this proposal do not feature, it may be a future pathway. Does Round Table wish to establish a sub-group (Fiona; Catherine; Andrew...) to gather info for 4 th National Action Plan?

Proposal 25: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
25	Establish the Smashing Times International Centre and Museum for the Arts and Equality as a unique space dedicated to the promotion, study and practice of the arts, human rights, climate justice, gender equality, diversity and peace.	[tbc] Not being progressed - refer to draft 'reasoned decision'.	[tbc] Reject	<p>That this proposal was shared with and considered by the Round Table members.</p> <p>Open Government Round Table doesn't award funding, so is not in a position to assist in progressing your proposal.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> Can Round Table offer any additional input on the 'normal' funding avenues in this sector?</p>

Proposal 26: Intelligence gathered by Secretariat



	Proposals	Operational decision	OGP criteria	'Reasoned decision'
26	To address the reported barriers in the Public Participation Network (PPN) structure by (NSPPNs and extensive stakeholder engagement).	[tbc] Other - Subject to the outcome of the Review of PPN.	[tbc] Amend	<p>Round Table members have decided to establish a sub-group. It will be lead by xxx, (Kieran, Kathryn, Johnny...).</p> <p>Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) have advised that the review of the PPN is being finalised.</p> <p>For next Round Table meeting to obtain additional clarity on what is being sought; engage with DRCD the policy holder and explore and agree the potential existing avenues for delivery. The output will be a revised version of the commitment template with SMART milestones for monitoring.</p>



Secretariat support to capture the Round Table votes via webex chat for each of the ‘reasoned decisions’ for all 26 proposals

Secretariat contact details



Críona Brassill

Department of Public Expenditure & Reform,
Reform Division,
Open Government lead

Open Government Partnership – National Point of Contact

OECD Working Party on Open Government delegate.

(in addition to other policy areas)




Milestones achieved since August 2021...



- ✓ Open Government repository - gov.ie webpages (*required*)
- ✓ Round Table multi-stakeholder forum, with co-created terms of reference – (*required*)

Public influence has reached consult level

- ✓ Public call for expressions of interest to join the Round Table...
(Reach approx. 30,000 via social media & email campaign - 317 clicks - 22 applications)
- ✓ Public call for submissions for the next and future national action plans...
(Reach approx. 30,000 via social media & email campaign - 202 clicks - 18 submissions – 41% unconnected & 59% connected, 41% from/linked to Round Table members)
- ✓ Public sector Round Table members nominated by Secretary Generals.
 ... maybe even an international impact award (✓ application; ✓ campaign).

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