



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



# Open Government Round Table

4<sup>th</sup> meeting, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022



# Round Table preparation



Round Table members are asked to review and consider the following in advance:

1. KEY [To agree] Proposed agenda (slide 3-5).
2. KEY [To agree] Round Table Meeting 3 outcomes (slides 6-7).
3. KEY [To consider] Draft commitment on civic participation (attached).
4. KEY [To note] Monitoring update: March 2022 (slide 11) and (FYI - 3 attachments)
5. FYI [To note]
  - i. Further milestones achieved since February 2022 is noted (slide 8).
  - ii. Post 3rd Round Table meeting: Vote outcome is that the draft commitment circulated in relation to the Public Participation Network will be included in the next National Action Plan (slide 9).
  - iii. Secretariat admin update (slide 10).
  - iv. Letter from the Joint Committee on Disability Matters (attached), shared with Donal O'Shea as part of the Round Table reasoned decision on his submission.
  - v. Ireland's commitments - Summit for Democracy 2021 (attached).

# Proposed/Agreed Agenda (1/3)



- 10:00 Public Sector Co-Chair (Philip) to welcome Round Table members.
- 10:05 The Secretariat will request Round Table members' agreement that the minutes reflect that below have been agreed/noted as appropriate:
- i. [KEY - To agree] Proposed agenda (slide 3-5).
  - ii. [KEY - To agree] Round Table Meeting 3 outcomes (slides 6-7).
  - iii. [KEY - To consider] Draft commitment on civic participation (attached).
  - iv. [To note] Further milestones achieved since February 2022 is noted (slide 8).
  - v. [To note] Post 3rd Round Table meeting: Vote outcome is that the draft commitment circulated in relation to the Public Participation Network will be included in the next National Action Plan (slide 9).
  - vi. [To note] Secretariat admin update (slide 10)
  - vii. [To note] Monitoring update: March 2022 (slide 11) and (FYI - 3 attachments)
  - viii. [To note] Letter from the Joint Committee on Disability Matters (attached), shared with Donal O'Shea as part of the Round Table reasoned response to his submission.
  - ix. [To note] Ireland's commitments - Summit for Democracy 2021 (attached).
  - x. [To note] No suggestions received to date on how to increase the inclusiveness and diversity of the OGP engagement (Meeting 1) and how to enhance the submission evaluation process (meeting 2).

# Proposed/Agreed Agenda (2/3)



## **Focus: Civic Participation update to Round Table:**

- 10:10 Subgroup on Civic Participation Lead update (Johnny)
- 10:15 Secretariat overview of the draft commitment circulated (Criona)
- 10:20 Breakout groups to discuss the draft commitment.
- 10:30 Lead for each breakout groups to report back to Round Table plenary and present any track change suggestions for the draft commitment onscreen.
- 10:50 Round Table members vote to include/ or not include the draft commitment in 3<sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan (with any additional agreed track changes).

# Proposed/Agreed Agenda (3/3)



11:10

Any other business.

[Added] What further public engagement would arise on the 3<sup>rd</sup> national action plan and what will be the process?

[Added] Round Table discussion on the current process to inform the next national action plan process.

11:20

Secretariat asks the Round Table:

- i. To agree a procedural matter: To ensure effective, efficient and transparent decision making, and reduce burden on Round Table members between meetings, that the Round Table will reach decision(s) by majority vote in plenary session, using the chat function (show of hands at in-person meeting). As required, the Co-Chairs and Secretariat will seek a break in order to formulate question(s) to vote upon.
- ii. To agree the next meeting date: **27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10:00 – 12:00** (*after Easter break*)

# Agreed Round Table Meeting 3 outcomes (1/2)



(1) The Round Table agreed that below had been noted in advance of the meeting.

- i. Round Table subgroup updates (email attachments).
- ii. Proposed agenda (slide 3).
- iii. Further milestones achieved since January 2022 (slides 4).
- iv. Draft Round Table 'ways of working' (slides 5 – 11).

## The Round Table decided:

(2) To accept the 'ways of working' as presented.

(3) To agree with the recommendation of the Subgroup on Section 22 of Electoral Act that a commitment is not possible for the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan and that as further clarity will emerge (both the civil society campaign and the legislative process) that this matter be considered again for the 4<sup>th</sup> National Action Plan.

(4) To agree the recommendation of **Subgroup on Civil Participation that it progress its work** to draft a first commitment (template format) for the consideration of the Round Table at its next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

(5) As the Round Table was unable to reach a decision at the plenary meeting, that the **Secretariat would arrange that a vote for Round Table members to reach a decision** in relation to the deliberations of the PPN subgroup and to capture any additional guidance to bridge the gap which would be put to the subgroup members to vote upon as to whether this guidance would result in subgroup agreement being reached in a final meeting.

(6) For the purpose of the OGP review that members' contact details etc. could be shared by the Secretariat.

# Agreed Round Table Meeting 3 outcomes (2/2)



## The Co-Chairs agreed:

(7) To discuss the Civil Society Round Table members views on the process to date (circulated 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022). The Public Sector Co-Chair to seek Public Sector members perspective in advance, to share at the meeting.

## The Secretariat advised that:

- (i) Ireland had emerged from the Open Government Partnership procedural process (as circulated 10 Feb 2022)
- (ii) The Open Government Partnership Independent Review team had commenced their review, earlier than the understood Q3 timeline. The Secretariat is in ongoing contact to determine what is involved in the process.
- (iii) The **next meeting Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 10:00** (as circulated).
- (iv) Secretariat was hoping to bring a proposal on how Round Table members might integrate consideration of wider OGP themes into the meetings.
- (v) The Round Table members share their suggestions on how to increase the inclusiveness and diversity of the OGP engagement (Meeting 1) and how to enhance the submission evaluation process (meeting 2), to enable progress to be made.

# Further milestones achieved since February 2022...



- ✓ The Secretariat has updated the [Open Government website](#), with further to details of Round Table plenary and subgroup meetings to follow [here](#).
- ✓ The Secretariat has almost completed the circulation the comprehensive 'reasoned responses' to those who made submissions.
- ✓ Civic Participation subgroup has met and progressed its work. The Secretariat has drafted a commitment for the Round Table's consideration with milestone dates; e.g. Civic Forum Q3 2022.
- ✓ The Secretariat has had ongoing engagement with the OGP Independent Reviewer re the Action Plan Review: Drafted and circulated guidance for Co-Chairs & Commitment Leads; Commitment updates to Feb 2022 in progress and interview scheduling. Both Co-Chairs have had discussion with Reviewer and Commitment Policy Lead calls are in progress.





# Post 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Table meeting: Vote outcome



The outcome of the Round Table:

- The majority of the votes cast were to include the commitment as currently drafted (55% of the votes cast - one abstention). For noting: Half of the Civil Society members and half of the Public Sector members voted for the inclusion of this draft commitment in the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan (attached).
- Decision to be by majority vote (100% of the votes).
- Round Table vote to open, which was defined as Round Table members votes being available to Secretariat; Co-Chairs and on request to Round Table members only (91% of the votes).

[Noted] The guidance shared, including the opportunities to input into the Structural Review of PPNs, did not form a basis for a further update of the commitment, hence the Round Table vote to include the commitment stands.

# Secretariat admin update



- [3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2022] The Cathaoirleach of the Joint Committee on Disability Matters, Mr Michael Moynihan, T.D. acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 11 January 2022 forwarding a submission received by the Open Government Round Table as part of its public consultation. The Committee welcome the Open Government initiative; thank you for sharing this individual's submission and look forward to examining the topics and issues raised as part of the development of the Committees Work Programme. Ask to ensure further engagement with people with disabilities, across all groups, considering Article 4 (3) of the UNCRPD has mandated Governments to actively collaborate with civil society on the production of social policy.
- [t/f 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022] Further to Secretariat's assistance to KPMG re Consultation and Engagement Guidelines, KPMG have arranged a call so that insights on their work for the Land Development Agency can be shared.
- [7<sup>th</sup> March 2022] Engagement with Donal O'Shea: Correspondence received - discussed with Co-Chairs, call from Donal and written response provided.
- Ongoing administrative support for OGP Action Plan Review.
- Ongoing engagement with Central Statistics Office and National Standards Board to secure observations for proposal shared.
- For noting: The draft OGP Action Plan Review draft review is expected to be received for observations (in a prescribed format) on xxx with xxx days [OGP Support Unit asked to clarify the exact number of days further to Round Table member query] to respond prior to publication.

# Monitoring: Update March 2022



There is a very high volume of work ongoing on the Legislation Reform team. The work is progressing in line with Commitment Leads' expectations and in line with the commitment milestones.

Commitment 1: Review of Ireland's Statutory Framework for Ethics in Public Life

Commitment 2\*: Review of Ireland's Freedom of Information (FOI) regime

Commitment 3: Review of the operation of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

Refer to attached for the detailed updates.

Note: \* new update pending, attached is as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021



# Draft Round Table meeting outcomes (1/3)



(1) The Round Table agreed that below had been agreed/noted:

- i. Agreed - Proposed agenda (slide 3-5).
- ii. Agreed - Round Table Meeting 3 outcomes (slides 6-7).
- iii. Considered - Draft commitment on civic participation (circulated).
- iv. Noted - Further milestones achieved since February 2022 is noted (slide 8).
- v. Noted - Post 3rd Round Table meeting: Vote outcome is that the draft commitment circulated in relation to the Public Participation Network will be included in the next National Action Plan (slide 9).
- vi. Noted - Secretariat admin update (slide 10)
- vii. Noted - Monitoring update: March 2022 (slide 11) and (FYI - 3 attachments circulated)
- viii. Noted - Letter from the Joint Committee on Disability Matters (circulated), shared with Donal O'Shea as part of the Round Table reasoned response to his submission.
- ix. Noted - Ireland's commitments - Summit for Democracy 2021 (circulated).
- x. Noted - No suggestions received to date on how to increase the inclusiveness and diversity of the OGP engagement (Meeting 1) and how to enhance the submission evaluation process (meeting 2).

# Draft Round Table meeting outcomes (2/3)



The Round Table decided:

- (1) To agree that the Round Table members will reach decision(s) by majority vote in plenary session, as outlined in the agenda.
- (2) To include the draft commitment circulated on civic participation, but to also record that the commitment did not match the proposal and to explain the process in reaching this destination in the main text.

Overview: Round Table members, having reviewed the draft in advance, received an overview of the process from the subgroup lead and Secretariat before deliberating in breakout groups with the resulting insights shared with the plenary group. Key points included that there was a lack of shared understanding of the 'what' of a the proposed governance framework; that the commitment was the minimum threshold with no ceiling on what can be undertaken/delivered by the Round Table which can be captured during monitoring process; there is potential for a subgroup to form and clarify the 'what' / 'what good looks like' for the next plan to address the dilution of proposal's deliberative engagement; without further clarity on the 'what', monitoring and accountability for future SMART commitment will be a challenge. While a vote was not called for, it was offered but not taken up.

- (3) Further to AOB discussion, to include on the agenda of the Round Table meeting 6, that Round Table members would share their insights of the current process with concrete suggestions on how to address for the next national action plan process.
- (4) To agree the next meeting date: **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10:00 – 12:00 (after Easter break).**

# Draft Round Table meeting outcomes (3/3)



Actions arising from the meeting:

- (i) All Round Table members are reminded to share their actionable suggestions on how to increase the inclusiveness and diversity of the OGP engagement (c/f Meeting 1) and how to enhance the submission evaluation process (c/f meeting 2) and insights on the current process with concrete suggestions on how to address for the next national action plan process (meeting 4).
- (ii) The four Round Table members who expressed an interest in forming a subgroup in relation to civic participation to determine whether they will progress and to draft terms of reference for consideration by the Round Table at the next meeting.
- (iii) Further to a Round Table member request under AOB, Round Table members (particularly Civil Society members) are actively encouraged to share their suggestions with the Secretariat on guiding the public's consideration of the draft national action plan. The Secretariat has received clarification from the OGP Support Unit that the requirement is that the national action plan is available to the public for a minimum of 2 weeks, under the co-creation standards.
- (iv) The Secretariat to follow up with all the subgroup leads to capture the evidence of the process undertaken (e.g. number of meetings; iterative engagement via email etc) for the text of the national action plan.
- (v) The Secretariat to progress the drafting of the national action plan for consideration at the next meeting.

# Secretariat contact details



## Críona Brassill

Ireland's Open Government lead <https://bit.ly/OpenGovIE> - *Open Government Partnership Point of Contact; Secretariat of the Open Government Round Table and Ireland's delegate to the OECD Working Party on Open Government (with other policy responsibilities).*

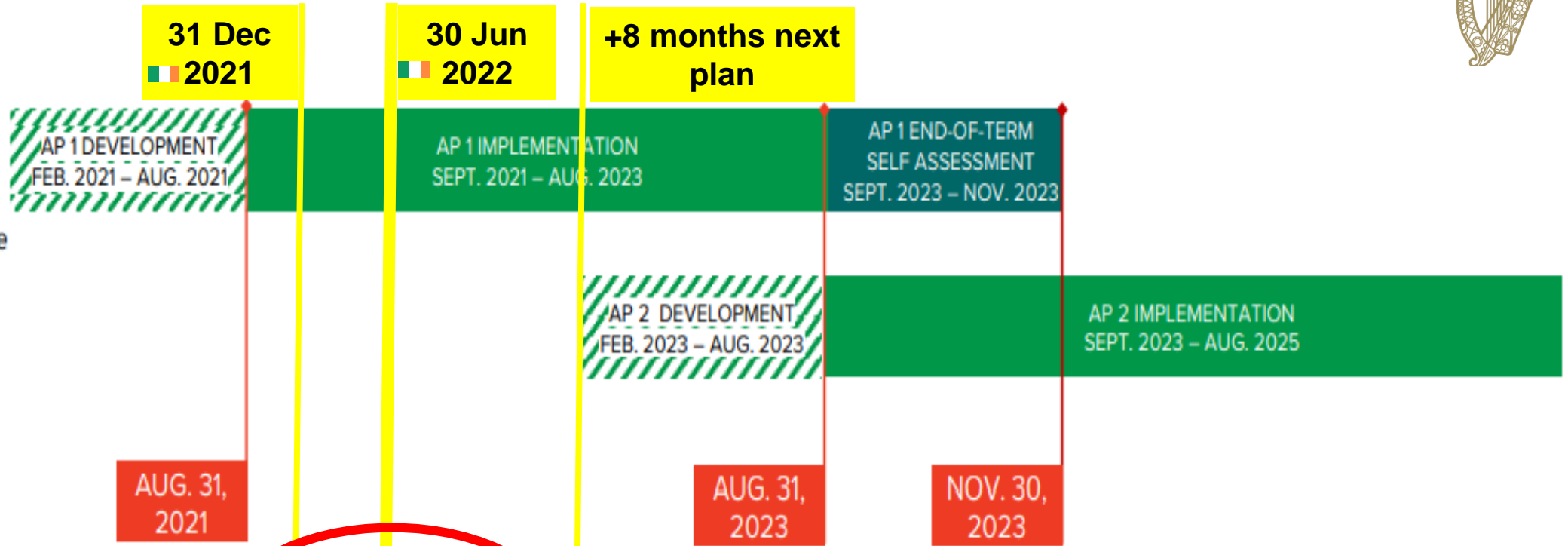
Email: [Criona.Brassill@per.gov.ie](mailto:Criona.Brassill@per.gov.ie)



# 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.




**CHANGE:** The Action Plan Review commencing in Feb, not Q3 when finalised plan submitted as previously understood.





# Further milestones achieved since January 2022...



-  Ireland has officially emerged from the Open Government Partnership procedural review process – a key milestone in progressing the Programme for Government commitment to reinvigorate the process.
- ✓ Round Table subgroups have actively deliberated and co-developed an update for Round Table consideration.
- ✓ The Secretariat has finalised the ‘reasoned responses’ for the Co-Chairs approval.
- ✓ The Secretariat has now received clarification of the upcoming Open Government Partnership Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) process and what are the requirements to support the Action Plan Review process (ongoing correspondence and two meetings).

**WIP** Open Government website update.



# Further milestones achieved since November 2021...



-  **EMBARGOED** Good news – Ireland won an Open Government impact award - joint 3rd in the highly competitive European region from among x entries!
- ✓ Ireland's draft 3<sup>rd</sup> National Action Plan (3 draft commitments) submitted to the OGP on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2021 – which has been well received.
  - ✓ Round Table members have individually reviewed the 18 submissions/24 proposals in preparation for today's discussion.
  - ✓ The Co-Chairs have sought facilitation support to set up the co-creation process, especially the 'what' and 'how' to finalise the action plan and to produce a draft report. Welcome Helen Newman.

Hoping that Round Table members enjoyed Christmas and are up to a challenges of a new year!




# 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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