

SPEAKERS' BRIEF | SUPPORTING NEW BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP TRANSPARENCY CHAMPIONS

A regional workshop to help progress the realization of commitments made by Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria at the Anti-Corruption Summit in London 2017 takes place on February 2-3 in Accra, Ghana. The regional meeting will bring together approximately ten participants from each of the three countries including representatives from civil society, the private sector, government bodies, law enforcement, journalists and investigative journalists. They will be joined by international experts who will share their expertise on relevant issues such as beneficial ownership registers, extractives, open data, open contracting and procurement, tax and illicit financial flows.

OBJECTIVES

1. Participants will **increase their understanding** of why beneficial ownership information is useful for tackling corruption, including in different sectors (eg health, public contracting, extractives)
2. Participants will **understand the needs and perspectives of other groups** (eg govt, private sector, procurement officers, law, extractives, civil society)
3. Participants will **learn from experience of people from other countries and in other sectors** who have made progress towards beneficial ownership transparency
4. Participants will **learn of methods, tools and approaches** that can help them make progress towards enhanced beneficial ownership transparency and the fight against corruption.
5. Participants will start **country level discussions** but with input from independent international experts
6. Participants will **generate contacts** with people who can support them in the future

APPROACH

We hope to encourage a relaxed and open environment where participants can openly ask questions about the topics and speak freely about the challenges they face in implementing their commitments. We would like to encourage speakers to inspire and enthuse, use relevant stories to illustrate points, especially stories from the continent.

The workshop will be a mix of plenary sessions with panels and country specific break out groups. The panels are more “chat show” style and intended to generate discussion – not be formulaic.

On the first day there will be four large boards placed around the room. The first will be labelled “tricky questions” – and participants can add questions that are not fully or adequately answered in any of the sessions to that board. These will be collected, categorized and will inform Session 10 where experts will be invited to answer and explain to the best of their knowledge.

The other three boards will be labelled by country and will be the place to pose questions, raise opportunities or challenges related to the three countries – so that they are not forgotten about and instead picked up in the country specific discussions.

This workshop is funded with UK aid from the UK government

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day One February 2 2017	
8.30 – 9.30	Registration of participants
Session 1	Opening
9.30 - 10.30	Welcome Address Linda Ofori-Kwafo, Ghana Integrity Initiative Keynote address H.E. DR. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of Ghana. Group Photo
Session 2	Introduction to the Workshop
10.30 – 11.00	Maggie Murphy, Transparency International
Session 3	The Challenge: What role does beneficial ownership secrecy play in facilitating corruption?
11.00 – 11.45	Andrew Sekandi, KPMG
11.45 – 12.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Session 4	User Perspectives Why Beneficial Ownership information is important and what can it help us achieve?
12.15 – 13.30	Extractives sector perspective Samuel Bekoe, Natural Resource Governance Institute Civil Society actor perspective Seember Nyager, Public and Private Development Centre Investigative Journalist perspective Musikilu Mojeed, Premium Times Newspaper Bank perspective Pattison B. Boleigha, Access Bank Nigeria
13.30-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
Session 5	Capturing current momentum: What's the global state of play, the state of play across Africa, and in each of the three countries?
14.30-16.00	Chair: Crystal Simeoni, TJN Africa What's the global state of play? Heather Lowe Global Financial Integrity What's the state of play across Africa? Mr. Ali-Nakyea Abdullah, Ali-Nakyea and Associate What's the state of play in Ghana? Bernard Anaba, ISODEC Ghana What's the state of play in Kenya? TBC What's the state of play in Nigeria? Mr. Chinedu Bassey is: Tax Justice and Governance Network-Nigeria
Session 6	Breakout session: Country groupings
16.00-17.00	Country discussions to discuss state of play, brainstorm challenges opportunities and tricky questions
17.00-17.15	Wrap-up
	Dinner

Day 2 : February 3 2017

Session 8	Recap on day 1	
9.00 – 9.30	Maggie Murphy, Transparency International	
Session 9	From problems to solutions: Looking at methods, tools and approaches to improve access to beneficial ownership information	
9.30 - 11.00	<p>Chair: TBC, Open Government Partnership steering committee, Nigeria</p> <p>Public Beneficial Ownership registers Murray Worthy, Global Witness</p> <p>Open Ownership: The Global Beneficial Ownership Register Zosia Szykowski, Open Ownership Register</p> <p>The Beneficial Ownership data standard Tim Davies, Open Data Services</p> <p>Open Contracting Casey Klutz, Open Contracting Partnership</p> <p>EITI Action Plans Eddie Rich, Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative</p>	
11.00- 11.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
Session 10	Ask the experts: Tricky questions and challenges	
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Chair: Heather Lowe, Global Financial Integrity</p> <p>Murray Worthy, Global Witness</p> <p>Tim Davies, Open Data Services</p> <p>Andrew Sekandi, KPMG</p> <p>Laure Brillaud, Transparency International EU</p> <p>Crystal Simeoni, Tax Justice Network Africa</p> <p>TBC, Kenya</p>	
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch	
Session 11	Country break-out discussions: Opportunities, challenges, linking to other agendas, building coalitions and action plans	
14.00 - 15.30		
Session 12	Presenting next steps back to plenary	
15.30 – 16.00		
Session 13	Workshop Close	
16.00 - 16.30	<p>Workshop Statement Maggie Murphy, Transparency International</p> <p>Next steps in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya</p> <p>Rafsanjani, CISLAC Nigeria</p> <p>Benjamin Maina, Transparency International Kenya</p> <p>Linda, Ofori-Kwafo, Ghana Integrity Initiative</p>	

SPEAKER BRIEF | AGENDA SESSIONS

DAY 1 FEBRUARY 2017

Session 1 Opening

One hour

Linda Ofori-Kwafo will welcome participants and give a broad outline of why we are convening the workshop based on the commitments on beneficial ownership transparency that all three governments made at the Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016. Linda Ofori-Kwafo will then welcome our keynote speaker, **H.E Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia**, the Vice President of Ghana. The Vice-President's remarks will be followed by a group photograph.

Session 2 Introduction to the Workshop

30 mins

Maggie Murphy will provide a light-touch introduction to participants. She will explain the workshop agenda, the objectives and the approach. Finally she will introduce the boards around the room so that participants are aware they can contribute right from the start.

Session 3 The Challenge: What role does beneficial ownership secrecy play in facilitating corruption?

45 mins

Andrew Sekandi, KPMG will provide a 20 minute presentation. Powerpoint is available. to the problem posed by beneficial ownership secrecy, using real-life stories, including from the region. He will describe the scale of the problem, how illicitly gained money can be hidden by company structures and transferred across-borders. His presentation will be followed by a Q&A.

Session 4 User Perspectives | Why Beneficial Ownership information is important and what can it help us achieve?

75 mins

A wide variety of stakeholders from different backgrounds advocate for establishing public registers containing beneficial ownership information in line with the commitments made by all three countries. Here we will hear from people from different backgrounds who will use that information when it becomes available. All speakers should consider the following questions from their perspective:

- What is possible to do with better access to accurate, current and timely beneficial ownership information in your sector?
- How would it help reduce corruption?
- Are there other benefits?
- How would the data be released in the most effective way possible?
- What can the data not do?

Speakers are asked to answer these questions in **ten minute "flash talks"** with no powerpoint presentation required. The talks should **inspire, use stories and enthuse**. The idea is to keep momentum and energy high so that people are enthused about the possibilities that public beneficial ownership information could do. The flash talks will be followed by a Q&A which can continue through lunch.

Chair:

February 2-3 2017 | Supporting new beneficial ownership transparency champions

Samuel Bekoe, Natural Resource Governance Institute will provide a perspective looking at the extractives sector.
Seember Nyager, Public and Private Development Centre will look at how access to beneficial ownership information could reduce corruption in public contracting and procurement.
Musikilu Mojeed, Premium Times Newspaper will talk about how journalists could use the information released.
Pattison B. Boleigha, Access Bank Nigeria will talk about how banks would use the information to conduct due diligence obligations.

Session 5 Capturing current momentum: What's the global state of play, the state of play across Africa, and in each of the three countries? 90 mins

Following on from understanding user needs and perspectives, this panel's presenters will have ten minutes each to provide an overview of the global, regional and country level state of play. Powerpoint is possible. Since this is a 90-minute discussion with five presenters, followed by a Q&A, it is crucial to keep the energy as high as possible here.

Crystal Simeoni, TJN Africa will chair the discussion, and facilitate the Q&A.

Heather Lowe, Global Financial Integrity will present on "What's the global state of play?", providing an introduction in plain English to developments that have taken place in the last few years, referencing FATF, developments at the EU level, the UK initiative and the Anti-Corruption Summit as well as touching briefly on some sectoral initiatives such as the EITI commitments.

Mr. Ali-Nakyea Abdullah, Ali-Nakyea and Associate will present on "What's the state of play across Africa?" providing an understanding of where African countries are moving on this agenda, and link it to the Illicit Financial Flows agenda, referencing the Mbeki panel report.

The following speakers will present on country state of plays. Please note that the session is directly followed by country break-out groups, so please only give the highlights that will be of interest to all participants. Country situations will be examined in more depth in the break-out groups right after this session.

Bernard Anaba, ISODEC Ghana will speak on "What's the state of play in Ghana?" providing an introduction to relevant legislative movements as well as the state of play on EITI Action Plans and other relevant initiatives.

TBC will speak on "What's the state of play in Kenya?" providing an introduction to relevant legislative movements as well as the state of play of other relevant initiatives.

Mr. Chinedu Bassey, Tax Justice and Governance Network-Nigeria will present on "what's the state of play in Nigeria?" providing an introduction to relevant legislative movements as well as the state of play on EITI Action Plans and other relevant initiatives.

Session 6 Breakout session: Country groupings 60 mins

All participants will join a country group. International experts with no country affiliation can choose a country to be part of ensuring balance. Country groups will be asked to brainstorm the following:

- Confirm state of play in-country with added detail if necessary
- Brief discussion of challenges and opportunities in-country in 2017
- Tricky questions to pose to the experts tomorrow – these can be added to the board

Session 7 Wrap-up 15 mins

Maggie Murphy will bring the day to a close, provide logistical details and briefly provide an overview for the next day.

DAY 2: FEBRUARY 3 2017

Session 8 Recap

30 mins

Maggie will refocus minds, recap yesterday's programme and give an overview of today's programme.

Session 9 From problems to solutions: Looking at methods, tools and approaches to improve access to beneficial ownership information

90 mins

This session will allow presenters to pitch in a "flash talk" of ten minutes a solution, method or tool that has been adopted to try to improve access to beneficial ownership information. The lightning talk should keep energy high and will be followed by Q&A.

XX Open Government Partnership Steering Committee, Nigeria will Chair the session and begin with 3 minute introduction on the opportunities to progress the beneficial ownership agenda through the OGP national action plans.

Murray Worthy, Global Witness will speak about Public Beneficial Ownership registers

Zosia Szykowski, Open Ownership Register will speak about the new project - Open Ownership: The Global Beneficial Ownership Register

Tim Davies, Open Data Services will speak about the Beneficial Ownership data standard

Casey Klutz, Open Contracting Partnership will speak about Open Contracting and the open Contracting data standard.

Eddie Rich, Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative will speak about the role of EITI Action Plans.

Session 10 Ask the experts: Tricky questions and challenges

90 mins

Over the two days, participants will have an opportunity to post their tricky questions. These will be collected and organised and shared with the experts - to discuss and present their analysis and responses in discussion format. Additional questions can be posed from the audience.

Likely questions include the following:

- *Are there legitimate reasons for wanting beneficial ownership information to be kept secret?*
- *How costly will be collecting and sharing this information for businesses?*
- *How do you define the beneficial owner?*
- *How would you verify the information is correct?*
- *What thresholds might be used, or what other criteria could be used to decide?*
- *How do you build a register? Can you use existing platforms?*
- *What about people's right to privacy?*
- *What data is important to capture?*
- *How should the register disclose the information?*

Heather Lowe, Global Financial Integrity will chair, and experts include **Murray Worthy**, Global Witness; **Tim Davies**, Open Data Services; **Andrew Sekandi**, KPMG; **Laure Brillaud**, Transparency International EU, **Crystal Simeoni**, Tax Justice Network Africa and **TBC**, Kenya

Session 11 Country break-out discussions: Opportunities, challenges, linking to other agendas, building coalitions and action plans 90 mins

Country break-outs will discuss the information, tools, methods and approaches discussed earlier in the day. Groups will be asked to discuss and plan the following:

- Opportunities posed by what we have heard today. Could the work in the country?
- Opportunities to link to other agendas (eg Open Contracting, EITI)
- Key people – how to build strong coalitions for progress
- Next steps, action plans for 2017.

Experts will join a group of choice. At the half way point, experts move on to another group and the group test their ideas/challenges with those experts, refine, discuss and continue, presenting back to all at the end.

Session 12 Presenting next steps to plenary 30 mins

Each group will have 5-7 minutes to present their ideas on next steps and have 3-5 minutes to receive immediate feedback.

Session 13 Close 30 mins

The workshop will be closed with the presentation of a workshop statement, including a line on efforts planned in each country.

Rafsanjani, CISLAC Nigeria will close with some inspirational words and a brief statement of what will happen next in Nigeria

Benjamin Maina, TI Kenya will close with some inspirational words and a brief statement of what will happen next in Kenya

Linda, Ofori-Kwafo, Ghana Integrity Initiative will close the overall workshop with some inspirational words and a brief statement of what will happen next in Ghana