

## Meeting Overview

### Agenda:

The agenda for the session is as follows:

2:00 PM - 2:05 PM	Welcome and General Logistics
2:05 PM - 2:10 PM	Welcome Remarks
2:10 PM - 2:20 PM	Overview of Open Government Partnership (OGP) and NAP 6
2:20 PM - 3:55 PM	Listening Session
3:55 PM - 4:00 PM	Closing Remarks

### Welcome and General Logistics:

**Alexis Masterson**, U.S. Open Government Secretariat, welcomed attendees to the Listening Session for the 6th U.S. Open Government National Action Plan (NAP 6) and explained the meeting's objectives to gather public input and ideas on improving transparency, accountability, and public participation within the government. She provided general logistics information, including:

- The session is being recorded and will be publicly available on the U.S. Open Government Secretariat's website.
- Ideas shared will be compiled as part of the response to a National Action Plan request for information (RFI), though chat box discussions won't be included in this official record.
- Participants were encouraged to enable closed captioning for accessibility and to indicate their affiliations in their Zoom names.

### Welcoming Remarks

#### **Daniel Schuman, Executive Director of the American Governance Institute**

In his remarks, Mr. Schuman emphasized the importance of open and accountable government for democracy. He encouraged participants to share ideas on policies to enhance government transparency and highlighted the need for collaboration among government, civil society, and the public. Schuman mentioned his role as chair of the new Open Government Federal Advisory Committee, which will also provide independent recommendations. He underscored the significance of active participation and urged attendees to involve others in the process.

**NAP 6 Listening Session**  
**Wed, October 9, 2024 - Virtual Only - 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST**

**Denise Ross, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)**

In her remarks, Ms. Ross, highlighted OSTP's commitment to leveraging science and technology for public benefit and emphasized the importance of open government principles. Ross expresses gratitude for participants' involvement in developing the 6th Open Government Partnership National Action Plan and recognizes the ongoing impact of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) globally. She reiterated the need for diverse public input to create a plan that reflects American priorities and encouraged continued engagement through the request for information process.

**Daniel Pomeroy, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Technology Policy, General Services Administration**

In his remarks, Mr. Pomeroy emphasized the importance of open government for a resilient democracy and the necessity of diverse public input to shape the NAP effectively. Pomeroy highlighted that the session aims to gather feedback, ideas, and experiences from attendees, which will inform new commitments and enhance government engagement. He also noted that participants' comments will be shared with the newly established Open Government Federal Advisory Committee. Pomeroy encouraged open sharing and collaboration to create a dynamic roadmap for a more inclusive and transparent government.

**Overview of Open Government Partnership (OGP) and NAP 6**

**Alexis Masterson** shared an overview of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and its significance in promoting transparency, citizen empowerment, and good governance. The U.S. is preparing for its sixth National Action Plan (NAP), set to conclude the current one in December. The process involves gathering stakeholder input, defining key issues, and developing specific commitments.

The timeline for NAP 6 includes initial preparation from September to December 2024, drafting from January to May 2025, and public feedback from June to September 2025. The final plan is expected to be submitted by December 2025.

Participants were encouraged to submit ideas through a Request for Information (RFI), with a deadline of November 12, 2024. They were also advised to consider OGP's ten challenge themes and guidelines for effective commitments—emphasizing ambition, relevance, and SMART criteria (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound). The meeting transitioned to focus on collecting participants' thoughts and ideas.

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## Listening Session

**Arthur Brunson**, U.S. Open Government Secretariat, started the listening session and encouraged all participants to share their ideas, especially those who may not typically speak up. Participants were asked to keep comments concise, focused on NAP 6 and open government themes, and to submit lengthy feedback via the RFI process. Each speaker had three minutes to share.

**Yvette Gibson**, U.S. Open Government Secretariat moderated the Listening Session. She encouraged participants to focus on problem identification, existing work, innovative approaches and resources and recommendations for open government, inviting participants to discuss issues related to transparency, accountability, and participation.

The participants shared on the following topics:

- **Public Engagement and Trust Issues:** Several speakers raised concerns about public trust in government institutions. They emphasized the importance of addressing historical failures in public participation and transparency initiatives that began during previous administrations but lost momentum. A suggestion was made to reassess why initial open government efforts had weakened, with a focus on rebuilding trust and improving government accountability.
- **Challenges Identified:** Participants discussed ongoing issues like public distrust, misinformation, and disinformation, particularly during crises like the pandemic. A lack of sufficient public engagement was identified, especially among marginalized communities and non-English speakers. Speakers called for more inclusive engagement strategies to address the barriers these communities face.
- **Data and Information Access:** The importance of the collection and accessibility of government data. The Evidence Act and SPD-15, which mandate the collection of ethnicity data, were highlighted as key tools in improving transparency, especially for underserved communities. Several participants stressed the need for improved proactive disclosure of frequently requested records (e.g., visitor logs, travel records) to ease the burden on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) system.
- **Potential Solutions:** Ideas included the use of technology to provide direct public access to critical information, like shelter locations during disasters. Creating a task force focused on proactive disclosure was suggested, along with improving the infrastructure for managing records to reduce FOIA requests backlog.
- **Civil Society Involvement:** Civil society representatives emphasized the importance of co-creating the NAP with public input, criticizing the previous lack of involvement in the process. Several participants advocated for adding new challenge commitments immediately and improving collaboration between government and civil society moving forward.

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The session concluded with calls for continued public involvement throughout the NAP 6 development process and an emphasis on the importance of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability.

**Closing Remarks**

**Alexis Masterson**, U.S. Open Government Secretariat, U.S. General Services Administration, thanked all the participants and briefly mentioned the U.S. Open Government Secretariat LinkedIn site to follow for updates. She shared that event materials will be found here: <https://www.gsa.gov/governmentwide-initiatives/us-open-government/public-engagement>

**Full Attendee List:**

<b>First and Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Pamela Wright	U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
Michelle Savage	XBRL US
Beth Cron	U.S. General Services Administration
Stephen Buckley	International Association for Public Participation
Jadie Oldfield	Cook County IL Gov
David Tokarz	U.S. Small Business Administration
Ron Keefover	N/A
Gabriella Cantor	Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
Fritz Mulhauser	DC Open Government Coalition
Katie Steen-James	SPARC
Alexander Howard	N/A
Alice Siempelkamp	Pandemic Response Accountability Committee
Bobby Talebian	U.S. Dept of Justice
Armando Garcia	Puerto Rico Gov
Courtney Anderson	U.S. General Services Administration
Yvette Gibson	U.S. General Services Administration
Alissa Schaub-Rimel	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Kimberlee Ried	U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
Antoine McGrath	Internet Archive

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First and Last Name	Organization
Jennifer Lewis	EoP - Office of Science and Technology Policy
Vanessa Sloane	EoP - Office of Management and Budget
Charles Cutshall	U.S. Department of Commerce
Jason Baron	University of Maryland
Georg Neumann	Open Contracting Partnership
Adrienne Ruth	U.S. General Services Administration
Daniel Schuman	American Governance Institute
Kristen Honey	U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
Rosario Pavese	Open Government Partnership
John Dierking	Los Angeles City Gov
Joyce Ajayi	City of Little Rock, AR
Joseph Foti	Open Government Partnership
Daniel Pomeroy	U.S. General Services Administration
Julia Cardis	U.S. General Services Administration
Emily Lordahl	U.S. General Services Administration
Madhavan Pallan	N/A
Colleen York	N/A
Meghan Chilappa	Access Partnership
Susan Harley	Public Citizen
Akil Vohra	AAPI Data
Heather Watkins	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission