MEDIA STATEMENT

RESPONSIVE CITIES CHALLENGE SEEKS SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN DATA INNOVATIONS

South Africa, September 2016: The Open Government Partnership South Africa (OGP SA) and Open Data Institute (ODI) have launched a Responsive Cities Challenge seeking innovative uses of open data to solve urban social and economic development issues.

Participating cities for 2016 include Ekurhuleni, Ethekwini, Tshwane, Cape Town, Kimberley and Upington. Local civil society and municipal government implementation partners have identified a unique question for each city which they would like local developers, entrepreneurs and designers to solve. The deadline for initial proposals is 21 October 2016, to be submitted via challenge.responsivecities.org.za.

South Africa was one of the founding members of the OGP when it was formally launched in September 2011, and has made a number of commitments that seek to build on existing government and citizen-led initiatives related to open government in the country. The Responsive Cities Challenge is implemented through OGP SA and the South African Government, by a network of local partners including The Innovation Hub's OpenIX, Code for South Africa, Open Data Durban, Geekulcha, and open data champions in each of the municipalities.

The ODI was co-founded in 2012 by the inventor of the web Sir Tim Berners-Lee and AI expert Sir Nigel Shadbolt to equip, connect, and inspire people around the world to innovate with data. ODI's involvement in the Responsive Cities Challenge is enabled by Open Data for Development (OD4D), a global programme harnessing open data initiatives to enhance transparency and accountability, and to facilitate public service delivery and citizen participation.

Interested designers, entrepreneurs, developers, researchers and residents of the cities can join one of the meetups being held throughout the country. Finalists will be selected from the initial proposals to participate in workshops co-hosted by ODI, and will be eligible for various cash awards, incubation and seed funding to develop their solutions further.

For further information on OGP SA and the implementation of the Responsive Cities Challenge please contact:

OGP SA/ DPSA: Ms. Lebohang Mafokosi | Tel: +27 (0)12 336 1017 | Cell: +27 (0)82 312 4641 | Email: lebohangm@dpsa.gov.za | Web: www.ogp.gov.za | Twitter: @OGPSA | Facebook: OGPZA

ODI: Email: info@theodi.org | Web: www.theodi.org | Twitter: @ODIHQ | Facebook: MyODIHQ

Geekulcha: Tiyani Nghonyama | Tel: +27 (0)12 844 0240 | Cell: +27 (0)79 068 9022 | Email: tiyani@geekulcha.com | Web: www.geekulcha.com | Twitter: @Geekulcha | Facebook: Geekulcha

Open Data Durban: Richard Gevers | Cell: +27 (0)83 722 8227 | Email: info@opendata.durban |
Web: www.opendata.durban | Twitter: @opendatadurban | Facebook: opendatadurban

The Innovation Hub: Linah Nematandani | Tel: +27 (0)12 844 0030 | Cell: +27 (0)71 673 9964 |
Email: lnematandani@theinnovationhub.com | Web: www.theinnovationhub.com &
openix.theinnovationhub.com | Twitter: @InnovHub & @theOpenIX | Facebook: InnovhubZA

Code for South Africa: Jennifer Walker | Tel: +27 (0)21 671 6306 | Cell: +27 (0)83 390 7575 | Email:
community@code4sa.org | Web: www.codebridge.co.za & www.code4sa.org | Twitter: @codebridge
& @code4sa | Facebook: codebridge & code4sa