WHAT’S IN THE NEW
OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

2016 EDITION
The Open Government Partnership (OGP) recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. Since 2011, it has grown from eight founding governments and nine civil society leaders to 70 participating governments and thousands of civil society organizations. During the first five years, governments and civil society have come together to co-create at least 148 National Action Plans (NAPs), which included nearly 2,500 commitments aimed at more open, transparent, responsive, and accountable governments. Many of the commitments were implemented and are beginning to have an impact in their countries. Over the next five years, OGP seeks to support more ambition in national and subnational action plans. OGP also seeks a stronger focus on implementation of commitments, so that OGP can become a home of innovation, learning, and collaboration for more open governments around the world.
The biennial development and implementation of NAPs is at the core of the OGP model. Since the start of 2015, 49 countries submitted new plans containing over 800 commitments. Given that government and civil society actors develop each plan according to the country context, the OGP platform addresses a variety of issue areas. This briefing paper highlights reforms in the 2015 and 2016 NAPs. It also analyzes emerging thematic focuses that are gaining traction within the OGP community and that have the potential to respond to citizen concerns about open government. We grouped the following six themes:

**Noteworthy reforms should inspire others to use the OGP platform to tackle some of the toughest challenges facing societies and to make a difference in the lives of citizens.**

The second part of the report highlights one innovative commitment per country found in recent NAPs. These commitments were chosen to shine a light on the breadth of public policy challenges OGP is tackling and to provide inspiration for government and civil society reformers who will be co-creating future NAPs.

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**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**
Disclosing the actual owners and beneficiaries behind companies

**OPEN CONTRACTING**
Making public procurement more transparent

**CIVIC SPACE**
Strengthening citizen participation and addressing the narrowing of civic space

**SERVICE DELIVERY**
Ensuring more effective and responsive public services

**CLIMATE CHANGE**
Addressing climate change through participatory and transparent reforms

**SUBNATIONAL REFORM**
Bringing the OGP method to all levels of government

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*This briefing includes analysis of NAPs received between January 1, 2015 and October 31, 2016. NAPs received after the October 31, 2016 deadline can be found on the OGP website, but are not included here. This report does not in any way replace the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) role of assessing the quality and ambition of individual commitments as part of the overall OGP process. The IRM is not responsible for any of the content.*
GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT

After an initial phase of “getting the basics right,” OGP countries are shifting to developing innovative measures and reforms that translate into actions capable of generating real change and, ultimately, that improve people’s lives.

Membership in OGP increased from 8 founding country members to 70 countries.

Despite the increase in implementation rates, the impact and ambition of proposed actions have not reached their full potential yet.


TO INNOVATION

An analysis of the 2015 and 2016 commitments reveals the following areas as the most prevalent addressed in the new NAPs:

- Public Service Delivery: 94 tags (19%)
- Fiscal Openness: 84 tags (17%)
- Access to Information: 65 tags (13.2%)
- Subnational: 51 tags (10.3%)
- Anticorruption: 42 tags (8.5%)
- Natural Resources: 42 tags (8.5%)
- Private Sector: 39 tags (7.9%)
- Public Procurement: 33 tags (6.7%)
- Marginalized Communities: 22 tags (4.5%)
- Social Audits: 22 tags (4.5%)
- Education: 20 tags (4%)
- Law Enforcement and Justice: 19 tags (3.8%)
- Health and Nutrition: 18 tags (3.6%)
- Audits and Controls: 17 tags (3.4%)
- Science and Technology: 12 tags (2.4%)

*Tags used by the OGP SU are not meant to be mutually exclusive. Most commitments fall under more than one tag category.

*This is based on 494 commitments that the OGP Support Unit tagged through October 31, 2016.


0% 5% 10% 15% 20%

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Fiscal Openness 84 tags; 17%
Access to Information 65 tags; 13.2%
Subnational 51 tags; 10.3%
Anticorruption 42 tags; 8.5%
Natural Resources 42 tags; 8.5%
Private Sector 39 tags; 7.9%
Public Procurement 33 tags; 6.7%
Marginalized Communities 22 tags; 4.5%
Social Audits 22 tags; 4.5%
Education 20 tags; 4%
Law Enforcement and Justice 19 tags; 3.8%
Health and Nutrition 18 tags; 3.6%
Audits and Controls 17 tags; 3.4%
Science and Technology 12 tags; 2.4%
While each NAP submitted aims to address the individual needs and aspirations of OGP member countries, the following overarching themes were identified in the 2015-2016 action plans:

- **BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP** Disclosing the actual owners and beneficiaries behind companies
- **CIVIC SPACE** Strengthening citizen participation and addressing the narrowing of civic space
- **CLIMATE CHANGE** Addressing climate change through participatory and transparent reforms
- **OPEN CONTRACTING** Making public procurement more transparent
- **SERVICE DELIVERY** Ensuring public services such as education, health, and water are more effective and responsive
- **SUBNATIONAL REFORMS** Bringing the OGP method to all levels of government

*These emerging topics do not intend to be mutually exclusive, but rather they are a way to categorize the variety of reforms proposed according to their intended results.*
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EMERGING THEMES IN THE NEW ACTION PLANS

This section provides inspiring commitments grouped under the six emerging themes found in the 2015 and 2016 NAPs.
Beneficial owners are the individuals who ultimately possess, control, or benefit from a company and its income. However, complex corporate structures make the beneficial owners’ identity unclear, giving way to the formation of anonymous shell companies. The ONE campaign estimated that US$1 trillion dollars are syphoned out of developing countries each year through corrupt or illegal activities involving clandestine companies. Many countries are taking steps to make beneficial ownership information more transparent, thus making it more difficult for individuals to benefit from crime and corruption. The following are examples of commitments on beneficial ownership found in the new NAPs:

France #9: Identifying the Beneficial Owners of Legal Entities Registered in France
The European Union published the “Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive” in 2015 on the prevention of using the financial system for the purpose of money laundering or financing terrorist activities. In the context of beneficial ownership, the Directive specifies the creation of a centralized register per member state and extends to members the option of granting restricted or fully open access to such registries. In an effort to increase transparency, France committed to mandatory identification of beneficial owners of companies and other legal entities registered in France, to centralizing this information in a register, and to making this information public.

Kenya #5: Creating an Open and Public Beneficial Ownership Register
Suspects of illicit gains, money laundering, and manipulating public contracts have been able to circumvent Kenya’s checks and balances system. According to the Global Financial Integrity Report, more than US$13.5 billion flowed illegally into or out of Kenya from 2002 through 2010 through improper invoicing of trade transactions, fueling crime and costing the Kenyan Government at least US$3.92 billion in lost tax revenue. To address this challenge, Kenya committed to preparing and submitting necessary legislation to the National Assembly for the creation of an open, usable, and publicly accessible beneficial ownership register.

United Kingdom #1: Establishing a Beneficial Ownership Register for Foreign Companies
Since early 2016, all UK companies are required to hold a register of People with Significant Control (PSC) and to provide this information to the Companies House public register. However, it currently does not collect or publish information regarding beneficial ownership of foreign companies operating in the country. In its new NAP, the UK committed to creating a public register of company beneficial ownership information for foreign companies that already own or buy property in the UK or that bid on UK central government contracts.

South Africa #8: Implementing South Africa’s Action Plan on the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership
In late 2014, South Africa adopted the new G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency in Australia. In this context, and with the aim to protect the integrity and transparency of the global financial and public procurement systems, South Africa committed to implementing a publicly available register of legal persons and arrangements in open data format. Through this commitment, an Inter-Departmental Committee responsible for developing, implementing, and reporting on the Country Implementation Action Plan will be established.

Norway #9: Developing a Register for Ultimate Beneficial Ownership
Company shareholders’ information is publicly available in Norway, yet the underlying beneficial owners remain unclear. In light of this, Norway committed to investigating, sending for consultation, and promoting proposals for a publicly accessible ultimate beneficial ownership registry. The Norwegian Government appointed a commission to consider the legislative changes necessary to adhere to the Financial Action Task Force’s 2012 recommendations and the EU’s fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive regarding beneficial ownership. An assessment of how to make beneficial ownership information public will be presented and subject to general consultation and input from civil society.
A resilient and unrestricted civil society is necessary to foster more responsive and accountable governments. Yet, across many countries, trends are growing of shrinking civic space and more limited ability of CSOs to operate freely. Civic participation is at the heart of OGP and, while more than 600 commitments focused on improving and creating spaces for participation, fewer have focused on improving the enabling environment for CSOs. In the new action plans, countries are including commitments that open opportunities to tackle narrowing civic space through strengthening CSOs’ institutional frameworks, increasing transparency in government funding models to CSOs, building capacity, and reforming laws. The following are examples of commitments on civic space found in the new NAPs:

Latvia #6: Establishing a Sustainable Model to Finance NGOs

Latvian NGOs play a key role in service delivery, particularly in sectors with limited public funding such as education. However, NGOs face administrative and financial challenges and are experiencing a decline in engaged participants. Of the more than 14,000 NGOs in Latvia, only a small percentage actively are engaged in human rights, anticorruption, ecological challenges, and other related sectors. In response, Latvia committed to enhancing NGOs’ legal and financial frameworks in an effort to increase their institutional capacity and ability to participate meaningfully in decision making, strengthening their position as social partners and, when possible, promoting the delegation of public functions to NGOs.

Estonia #3.2: Increasing the Transparency of the Funding of Non-Governmental Organizations

A report provided by the Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organizations (NENO) highlighted that government financing practices towards NGOs are more transparent and organized than before Estonia adopted instructional guidelines. However, a systematic change in compliance with financing principles has not been achieved yet, and government entities still do not have a precise or continuous overview of the funds allocated to NGOs from the state budget. In an effort to increase the transparency of public funds allocated to NGOs, Estonia committed to harmonize financing practices and to disclose financial data of funds granted to NGOs. The government will prepare a knowledge-based analysis methodology to evaluate compliance with the principles. Additionally, financial data will be collected from the central financial accounting software and shared with NENO for analysis.

Bulgaria #4B: Improving the Environment and Increasing Support for the Development of Civil Society Organizations in Bulgaria

Bulgaria’s “Strategy for Developing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)” expired and currently no institution has been tasked with updating or implementing it. This strategy is key for creating a favorable environment for CSOs and promoting their active involvement in decision making, policy-formulation and citizen oversight. The Bulgarian Government strives to improve civic space and provide support for the development of civil society organizations. The government committed to updating the strategy and adopting a new action plan to implement it. Further, this measure also aims to strengthen the link between CSOs and the government, thus increasing public integrity.

Guatemala #11: Fostering Spaces for Collaboration within Municipalities through “Ideathons”

Guatemala wants to promote collaborative spaces and the generation of open data for development in municipalities across the country. Guatemala committed to developing and implementing a pilot project using Ideathons to collect citizens input and to incentivize innovation, thus improving municipal public services, promoting greater local development, and broadening engagement of a multitude of stakeholders.
Climate change is one of the greatest threats to future generations. It requires a collective approach to find sustainable solutions. In this context, countries adopted the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, which aims to reduce the risks and impact of climate change by limiting average global warming to below 2°C. Many international efforts to address climate change are underpinned by open government principles such as transparency, citizen participation, and oversight of climate policy and financing. The following are examples of commitments on climate change found in the new NAPs:

**Sierra Leone #6: Increasing Citizens’ Access to Climate-Related Information**

Citizens currently do not have access to climate change information and do not help develop related policy or data generation processes. Sierra Leone committed to empowering citizens with user-friendly information in open data format regarding climate change and related actions, both reactively and proactively. Proposed activities include creating a user-friendly public tool to track progress on commitments and related policies such as greenhouse gas targets, renewable energy, forest restoration, clean mobility, and green buildings, among others.

**Macedonia #8.1: Developing Transparent and Participatory Climate Change Policies**

Existing national plans and other reports on climate change were developed in a transparent and participatory manner. However, additional efforts are needed to present this issue more widely and to engage multiple stakeholders to create a greater sense of mutual ownership over the results. To increase transparency and participatory development of climate policy, Macedonia committed to developing its second biannual audit report on climate change with the participation of all relevant parties through working groups, public debates, and other forms of consultation.

**USA #42: Promoting Open Climate Data around the World**

The United States is a leader in providing information about climate, including through the Climate Resilience Toolkit and the Climate Data Initiative. The Toolkit comprised of 40 tools, five map layers, and case studies in key areas of climate change risks and vulnerability. The Climate Data Initiative is an online catalogue of more than 250 high-value climate-related datasets from a dozen federal agencies. Building on these successful domestic initiatives, the United States committed to expanding the availability and accessibility of climate-relevant data worldwide and to promoting the development of new technologies, products, and information services that can help solve problems in the face of a changing climate.

**France #29: Fostering Collaboration to Develop Solutions that Meet the Challenges of Climate and Sustainable Development**

The “Climate Change Challenge” initiative (C3) is one of the numerous initiatives promoted in the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, or “Agenda of Solutions” which launched in Peru during COP 20. C3 aims to stimulate the emergence of innovations promoting the use of data and services, and C3 seeks to create a lasting effect by stimulating and organizing collaboration between data providers and data users. Through this commitment, France organized and launched the C3 initiative and rewarded winners during COP21 in Paris. France continues to monitor and support the most innovative projects that foster greater awareness, prevention, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change.

**Honduras #12: Developing Resilient Communities through Citizen Participation and Technological Innovation**

The decline of ecosystems due to human activities such as construction, pollution, and unsustainable extraction of resources endangers the ability to provide basic services and has a direct effect on climate. In addition, extreme temperatures across the country can lead to more frequent and intense climate-related disasters. Honduras committed to creating more resilient communities in which public authorities, civil society, academia, and the private sector collaborate to foster innovative technological solutions that reduce the loss of human lives and livelihoods due to natural disasters caused by climate change.
Countries provide goods, services, and critical infrastructure to their citizens through government contracts worth trillions of dollars every year. That makes public procurement one of the main global expenses, but also the number one corruption risk for countries. Through open contracting, information on government contracts is published in an open and timely manner, enabling citizens to become more engaged in identifying and fixing issues they care about. Through open contracting, taxpayers’ money can translate into vital community needs such as roads, hospitals, and schools. The following are examples of commitments on open contracting found in the new NAPs:

**Colombia #8: Promoting Citizen Participation and Accountability in the Extractives Sector**

Colombia has been a member of EITI since 2014, and, in its new NAP, committed to promoting the effective use of information gathered in the EITI framework. Colombia will design and implement a strategy to train, sensitize, and build capacity of citizens, local authorities, and social organizations – national, territorial and local – related to the mining sector value chain and EITI Colombia’s initiative. Additionally, it will empower public authorities to develop public accountability mechanisms around the extractive sector value chain.

**Sierra Leone #10: Fostering Open Public Procurement Contracting**

Sierra Leone has witnessed challenges regarding corruption, misuse of government funds, and inefficiency in public contracts, all of which diminish the opportunities for businesses to engage in public procurement or to access public funding. In an effort to improve accountability of procurement management in the country, Sierra Leone committed to increasing access to information about public procurement for citizens and businesses that is open, timely, and credible. In addition, in an effort to reduce malpractices in public contracting, it seeks to promote citizens’ and businesses’ engagement in monitoring public procurement processes.

**Costa Rica #12: Promoting the Transparency of Government Contracts throughout Their Life Cycle**

Although the right to public information is guaranteed under the Costa Rican Constitution, data tends to be presented in complex, unclear, or incomplete formats. For government contracts, information usually is limited to the procurement process, excluding equally important preparatory stages such as project selection rationale, funding methodologies, or economic or technical feasibility. Costa Rica committed to increasing transparency of government contracts throughout their lifecycle by providing detailed information of each step, thus enabling effective citizen oversight of public institutions’ performance.

**Mongolia #10: Making Government Procurement Process More Transparent**

Mongolia has made significant achievements towards making the government’s procurement process more transparent to the public. To continue on this trend, the Government Procurement Agency (GPA) is creating an online portal to provide information regarding government contracts. Per recommendation of the World Bank, Mongolia is aligning this strategy with the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) and engaging all relevant stakeholders in its implementation. Mongolia committed to implementing OCDS fully, distributing information regarding invitations to bid for government contracts and publicly sharing the results through the government procurement website.

**Romania #17: Implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard**

Romania is in the process of implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) to increase the transparency of public acquisitions. This continues priorities in Romania’s previous NAP which aimed to increase the transparency and efficiency of public spending by opening data collected through the electronic procurement system and engaging citizens in this process. Romania committed to implementing OCDS successfully to make data accessible in a user-friendly format through the eLicitatie platform. The platform will incorporate search filters for criteria such as contracting authority, economic operator, and procurement name, among others.
SERVICE DELIVERY

The successful provision of critical public services—such as healthcare, education, and sanitation, among others—can shape the relationship that citizens have with their governments, as well as their trust in the system. Representing a large portion of governments’ budgets, public services should not be only human-centered responses to the needs and preferences of the population, but also should be transparent, efficient, and accessible by all. Integrating open government principles in service delivery can help expand the reach of the services, enable feedback mechanisms, and allow citizens to monitor the delivery and quality of the services. The following are examples of commitments on service delivery found in the new NAPs:

EDUCATION
Uruguay #6.3: Engaging the Community in the Maintenance of Public Schools The Government of Uruguay makes a large investment in the infrastructure of full-time public schools. Their durability and performance largely depend on buildings’ maintenance and care, and it is widely accepted that a school’s condition is correlated with the level of engagement of the community it serves. In this context, Uruguay committed to engaging teachers, students, parents and neighbors in the development of Building Maintenance Plans, which are required for schools that are five years or older. As part of this commitment, a pilot plan to develop these plans will be implemented.

Ivory Coast #6: Improving the Quality of Education through the “Digital Campus” Program Outdated technological infrastructures across public universities have led to limited knowledge-exchange opportunities within the university community, poor use of ICTs in higher education, insufficient resources to ensure all subjects are taught, and difficulty in accessing libraries’ information. To improve the quality of higher education and access to information, Ivory Coast committed to implementing the “Digital Campus” program, which will interconnect universities and business schools. The program will ensure deployment of latest-generation ICT infrastructures. Changes include fiber optic connectivity, data centers to host services, amphitheaters equipped for distant learning, and high-speed internet access.

HEALTH
Sri Lanka #1: Improving Public Access to Preventive Measures to Combat Chronic Kidney Disease Chronic kidney disease (CKD) has deeply affected Sri Lankans for the past two decades, claiming the lives of over 20,000 and affecting more than 400,000 people. The public currently is not aware of prevention, mitigation, or coping strategies for CKD, and existing treatment is often inadequate. The country only has 183 dialysis machines, and citizens lack access to reliable information regarding their availability and other medicine in public hospitals. In response, Sri Lanka committed to developing a strategic prevention plan in coordination with the Ministry of Health and civil society, along with increasing public awareness for its successful implementation.

Sierra Leone #3: Co-creating a Strategy to Address Waste Management Freetown’s waste management is uncoordinated and lacks information on the roles of the various stakeholders. This resulted in waste being spread throughout the city, creating a health hazard and making citizens more prone to contracting diseases such as malaria and cholera. As the country recovers from Ebola, the need for a clear policy around waste management is paramount. Sierra Leone committed to developing a waste management implementation strategy with clear deliverables and timelines. The strategy will be made public to inform citizens and government agencies of their duties and responsibilities.

WATER
Mexico #4: Increasing Access to Water In Mexico, the geographic distribution of the population does not coincide with the distribution of water, creating a major challenge in guaranteeing this human right. This uneven distribution favors heavy consumers (e.g. tourism, industrial and business sectors) and negatively affects the quality and quantity of access to water in rural areas. To improve water service management, Mexico committed to measuring water consumption and discharge, promoting reuse, and monitoring treatment. In addition, Mexico will promote the participatory development of a centralized, open platform to provide easy access to updated information and to facilitate citizen monitoring.

Chile #3: Empowering Citizens for Greater Water Management Monitoring Chile lacks online information to locate and to monitor requests for water use rights and complaints regarding breaches of the Water Code submitted to the water authority. Therefore, Chile prioritized improving information systems to facilitate this information and to allow search by web engines. In this context, Chile committed to developing a user-friendly web application that would pinpoint the locations of requests and complaints on a map. Through it, citizens will have access to updated and relevant information regarding the demand for water resources, allowing for greater citizen monitoring of water service management.

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The majority of the world’s population lives in cities, bringing local governments much closer to citizens than ever before. In addition, many crucial services such as healthcare and education are administered locally, thereby increasing the need for effective and robust institutions at all levels of government. While most open government efforts within OGP to date have been developed and implemented nationally, there are numerous innovative and exciting reforms happening at the local level. The reforms create an opportunity to learn from effective local approaches, and they can be replicated and adapted for other local and national contexts. This is why the OGP started a subnational government pilot program in which 15 pioneer subnational governments will produce action plans for implementation in 2017. In concert with the pilot program, certain national governments pursued subnational open government reforms in their NAPs. The following are examples of commitments on subnational reforms found in the new NAPs:

Italy #28: Making Decision Makers’ Meeting Agendas Public in Milan The City of Milan has been actively engaged in transparency measures in many sectors and has developed different tools. However, the city currently does not publish meeting agendas of public decision makers. In addition to expanding the transparency of the public administration, meeting agendas would aid in countering undue pressure from lobbyists. The City of Milan committed to launching a pilot project to publish and update meeting agendas electronically, bringing to light the activities of decision makers to all citizens. Through this commitment, citizens will be empowered to evaluate their choices regarding rights of representation and other topics of public interest.

Estonia #2.1: Implementing Open Government Principles at the Local Level Estonia’s NAP cycle coincides with the preparation and implementation of the country’s administrative reform, through which local governments will be merged. This presents a systematic opportunity to develop an open governance culture and to bring the OGP model to the local level. Estonia committed to implementing open government principles within local governments that are going through the merger. Through this “Open Government Partnership in Local Authorities” project, participating governments will be able to plan the joint development of the newly formed local governments in an open and inclusive manner.

Chile #15: Launching the Open Government Model for Municipalities The adoption of open government policies and NAP implementation in Chile has been centralized, preventing reach to subnational governments. In an effort to address individual needs of municipalities, Chile committed to launching the “Open Government Model for Municipalities” pilot program in at least five local governments. The project will be modeled after domestic and international best practices in the OGP context, and it will align gaps between the project’s approach and the realities on the ground. The Council for Transparency will lead the project with the active participation of local civil society.

Romania #9: Adapting the OGP Subnational Government Program in Romania Local Romanian public authorities have low knowledge of open government principles. While there are several initiatives and good practices, often they are not replicated due to the lack of information and communication on this topic. With the aims to increase citizen engagement in decision making and to increase the engagement of local authorities in the OGP process, Romania committed to developing a set of recommendations regarding open government at the local level that will be based on OGP principles. A pilot program modeled after the OGP Subnational Pilot Program will be launched within eight local governments.

Colombia #9: Fostering Greater Accountability and Transparency through Participatory Public Hearings in Antioquia The Department of Antioquia is ranked the least prone to suffer from corruption within the country, according to the “Transparency for Colombia” national index. Further, Antioquia is the first subnational government to submit a commitment in Colombia’s NAPs. In this context, Antioquia committed to fostering greater accountability and transparency through holding 125 public hearings across its municipalities, bringing together more than twelve thousand people. The hearings will serve as a space to discuss the results of Antioquia’s development plan, of the contracting transparency fairs, and of the public agreements made Governor and each of Antioquia’s municipal mayors.
COUNTRY SPOTLIGHTS

ALBANIA

COMMITMENT #1.8: FOSTERING GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON PUBLIC CONTRACTS. The Government of Albania is engaged in utilizing open data standards for contracting. However, contracts and concessions have not been published online in their entirety yet. Albania, through the Concession Treatment Agency (CTA), committed to creating a publicly accessible Electronic Registry of Concessions and Public Private Partnerships. Currently Albania is collecting data from all contracting authorities in the country.

ARGENTINA

COMMITMENT #9: BRINGING OPEN GOVERNMENT REFORMS TO THE SUBNATIONAL LEVEL. Argentina has no specific legislation regarding open government at the subnational level, creating a lack of knowledge around the subject and low dissemination of existing initiatives. Argentina committed to fostering the implementation of open government policies at the provincial and municipal levels and to promoting open government initiatives through cooperation agreements, technical assistance programs, and a web portal called “Open Argentina Network.” Proposed activities will bring to light good practices from local governments and will help identify the needs and demands of constituents.
ARMENIA

**COMMITMENT #5: PORTAL FOR COMMUNITY DECISIONS.** Currently, Armenia has no single unified platform for electronically publishing decisions of Councils of Elders and heads of communities. Decisions already published are titled using the number and date of adoption of the legal act, making it difficult for users to find or access this information. Armenia committed to increasing the transparency of community activities by creating a unified legal information system that would publish these decisions based on open data principles.

BULGARIA

**COMMITMENT #1.1.5: DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING E-HEALTH SERVICES.** Currently, almost no e-health services are provided in Bulgaria, resulting in administrative burdens for medical professionals, inconvenience and delays for patients, and difficulty in controlling the financial flows in the health system. Bulgaria committed to digitalize and to streamline health care processes with the aims of increasing the quality and access to health services as well as improving the oversight of public funding in the health sector.

CANADA

**COMMITMENT #16: FOSTERING COLLABORATION TO HARMONIZE THE DELIVERY OF OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.** In Canada, open data implementation has reached varying levels among governments at the federal and subnational levels. While some have launched open data portals and released numerous datasets, others lack official open government policies and initiatives. Canada committed to harmonizing the delivery of open government data across all levels of government to increase the comprehensiveness of data available and to encourage comparability across. In addition, one or more provincial partners will participate in a pilot program that will allow users to search data from multiple governments via a common portal.

CHILE

**COMMITMENT #2: LEADING THE PROCESS TOWARDS GREATER ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.** Considering the progress and remaining challenges regarding participation and access to environmental information within Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile expressed the need and will to initiate a regional instrument for cooperation at the 2012 Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. In its new NAP, Chile committed to leading the development of this instrument aimed to strengthen environmental democracy and to implement good practices of transparency and participation on climate change throughout the region.
COLOMBIA

COMMITMENT #17: HISTORIC MEMORY AND TRUTH OF THE INTERNAL ARMED CONFLICT. Since the 1960s, Colombia has suffered from the longest internal armed conflict in the Americas. To assure victims of the conflict and the general public the right to the truth, to remember as a basis from which to construct a future, and to promote a respectful culture of human rights, Colombia committed to launching the Human Rights and Historic Memory Archive and the National Museum of Memory.

COSTA RICA

COMMITMENT #14: FOSTERING A CUSTOMER SERVICE CULTURE FOR THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES. Costa Rica’s public sector currently lacks a customer service culture. To ameliorate this shortcoming and to guarantee citizens’ rights of respectful, efficient, and speedy attention in regards to public service delivery, the Government of Costa Rica committed to increasing the capacity of public servants in the context open government principles. A manual on citizen service and training workshops for individuals exercising public functions will be implemented.

CZECH REPUBLIC

COMMITMENT #2.3: ENHANCING OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH DATA AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION. The Czech Republic does not have a national open access strategy or document unifying the plans for developing open access to scientific information at the national level. In its new NAP, the Czech Republic committed to submitting the “National Open Access to Scientific Information Strategy 2017-2020” for the government’s approval. The strategy would enable the full integration of the Czech Republic into the European Research Area and would enhance the competitiveness of Czech research.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

COMMITMENT #9: DEVELOPING A MOBILE APPLICATION TO REPORT FAULTY WATER PIPES. Faulty pipelines and water leaks are one of the main causes of inadequate water service delivery in the Dominican Republic. In addition, an innovative approach to report these daily occurrences currently does not exist. The Dominican Republic committed to developing a phone application that will enable citizens to report breakdowns and water waste in their communities, without the need to place a phone call. The application and related awareness campaigns will be implemented in three pilot cities.
EL SALVADOR

COMMITMENT #9: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT. In El Salvador, consultations about issuing environmental permits currently are restricted and beyond the reach of rural populations who may be affected by these decisions. In addition, the available information is highly technical and not easily interpreted by all. Further, projects only tend to become known when they begin. El Salvador committed to developing a mechanism for participatory management of environmental permits and to empowering citizens with information regarding threats that proposed projects pose to the environment and the community.

ESTONIA

COMMITMENT #1.2: REDUCING BUREAUCRACY THROUGH THE ZERO BUREAUCRACY PROJECT. In Estonia, citizens and companies currently face a burden when communicating with the state and when dealing with the requirements of legislation and bureaucracy within the public sector. To reduce these challenges, the Government of Estonia gathered more than 250 proposals from interest groups and companies. An analysis of their applicability revealed that 164 proposals can be implemented in part or in full. Estonia committed to implementing these proposals gradually by 2019, as well as to developing a systematic approach for constantly collecting and analyzing options for the reduction of bureaucracy, in cooperation with entrepreneurs.

FINLAND

COMMITMENT #4: ENGAGING CITIZENS OF ALL AGE GROUPS IN THE CO-DESIGN OF PROCESSES AND SERVICES. In an effort to foster greater public participation, and building upon a workshop for the youth organized through its first OGP NAP, Finland committed to enhancing the engagement of children, youth, and elderly groups in the co-design of processes and services. CSOs will participate in advising state and municipal governments on how to engage citizens of all age groups. Particular focus will be given to people with disabilities and those who often lack the language skills or cultural knowledge to participate.

FRANCE

COMMITMENT #28: OPENING DATA AND MODELS RELATED TO CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. In preparation for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, France committed to opening datasets related to climate and sustainable development in an effort to mobilize actors from the digital civil society, researchers, and media. Data, models, simulators and impact assessment studies will be provided in open format through the data.gov.fr platform. The platform aims to educate, to raise awareness, and to catalyze action concerning climate issues. These activities are expected to stimulate economic and social innovation as well as to encourage the development of innovative solutions to climate challenges.
GEORGIA

COMMITMENT #2: LAUNCHING THE UNIFIED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM INFORMATION PORTAL. The population does not have enough information about the conditions covered and services rendered by Georgian healthcare programs. This results in the violation of citizens’ healthcare rights and, ultimately, in unnecessary costs. In an effort to raise public awareness as well as to improve the transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of the healthcare system, Georgia committed to developing and implementing a unified information portal for the healthcare system (E-Health). The portal will provide citizens access to reliable and complete information about the system. It also will enable citizens to check their insurance status and availability of healthcare programs, among other services.

GHANA

COMMITMENT #5: OIL REVENUE MANAGEMENT AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT FUND. Reinforcing its commitment to transparency and accountability in the natural resources sector, Ghana committed to implement the amended Petroleum Revenue Management Act (PRMA) and an associated citizen oversight body, with an emphasis on timely passage of legislative instruments necessary to catalyze operation. Ghana seeks to leverage the good practices and successful experiences in managing petroleum resources by replicating these legal instruments in the mining sector, catalyzing government action to pass the Minerals Development Fund Bill, which has been in the works for the past two decades.

GREECE

COMMITMENT #28: DEVELOPING THESSALONIKI’S “CITY DASHBOARD”. The Municipality of Thessaloniki (MoT) has made great strides towards its strategic objective of transforming the city into an integrated, open, and participatory platform through the effective use of ICTs. However, open data currently available is fragmented through various platforms and different formats. Greece committed to developing and implementing the MoT City Dashboard which will provide citizens with a single, integrated focal point to access information, while strengthening transparency and accountability regarding the MoT’s operations.

GUATEMALA

COMMITMENT #5: DEVELOPING A SINGLE OPEN DATA PORTAL FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION. Currently Guatemala has no single portal that integrates data and information in open formats. In an effort to increase citizen trust and to generate greater transparency and accountability, Guatemala committed to developing a centralized Open Data Portal and to seeking the approval of the National Open Data Policy. These steps will enable the publication of information in an open format and will empower citizens to access, reuse, and redistribute data easily.
HONDURAS

COMMITMENT #9: IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY AND DELIVERY OF WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES.
In Honduras, the combination of lack of infrastructure, contamination, and mismanagement of water sources has caused an estimated 40 percent of population to lack access to drinking water. In addition, water and sanitation services are deficient in various areas of the country. Honduras committed to improving service delivery and management of its water basins. It committed to do this through expanding the model of social accountability and expanding citizen participation at the subnational level, which would enable citizens to access relevant information and government to make timely decisions on the provision of these services.

HUNGARY

COMMITMENT #8: ENHANCING SERVICE DELIVERY AND IMPROVING COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE APPLICATION “POLICEMAN NEARBY”.
Smartphones have become widespread among public service providers in Hungary, presenting a great opportunity for the police to use modern technology to improve communication and overall relations with the public. Hungary committed to developing a mobile phone application called “Policeman Nearby” that will provide easy access and fast information to victims or witnesses of crimes, including the location and contact information of the nearest police station or district office. The application also will allow users to share video or pictures of perpetrators with authorities in real time, enhancing the efficiency of investigations.

INDONESIA

COMMITMENT #4: INCREASING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TO IMPROVE THE GOVERNANCE OF GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION.
Conflicting geospatial data presented in maps at all levels of government, including land use and tenure, has caused land disputes and overlapping permits for plantation and mining operations in Indonesia. In an effort to increase citizen participation in improving geospatial information, Indonesia committed to developing a reference standard for public participation in the collection and management of this information. It is part of the effort to accelerate the implementation of the One Map policy.

ISRAEL

COMMITMENT #5: ENCOURAGING THE INNOVATIVE USE OF GOVERNMENT DATABASES.
Israel has developed dozens of applications for the public’s benefit based on more than 240 existing databases published by more than 30 government offices. In an effort to enhance transparency, public participation, and public services, Israel committed to disseminating the databases and encouraging the public, academia, and the government to use them creatively. Implementation of this commitment will help map main government databases, encourage the publication of new ones, and improve the quality of those already published.
ITALY

COMMITMENT #9: PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKS. As a result of legislation adopted in the past five years, Italy has had a proliferation of data, documents, and information published through public administration websites. However, lack of capacity and funding for dissemination means this information often remains unknown to citizens. To increase awareness and use of this wealth of information and to foster greater social accountability, Italy committed to developing a standard procedure to use social networks to inform citizens and to promote the “Transparent Administration” program through social platforms.

IVORY COAST

COMMITMENT #14: PROMOTING PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. Currently, Ivory Coast lacks transparency in budget development and implementation. To encourage local authorities to engage in participatory budget practices and to foster more efficient management of public resources, Ivory Coast committed to ensuring the participation of all local players in budget development and implementation, including NGOs and women. Five communes will be trained on participatory budgeting practices as part of a pilot project.

KENYA

COMMITMENT #1: DEVELOPING TRANSPARENT AND PARTICIPATORY CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES. In the context of the Paris Agreement of 2015 and the targets set within the new SDGs, Kenya seeks to create a transparent and participatory environment for the implementation of sound climate policies. Kenya committed to developing a robust multistakeholder consultative process to operationalize the Climate Change Act of 2016. Kenya also committed to opening forestry datasets with the aim of encouraging CSOs and private sector practitioners to reuse and to develop innovative apps and services.

LATVIA

COMMITMENT #8: DRAFT LAW ON THE PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS. Currently in Latvia the general public has negative perceptions about whistleblowers, and Latvia lacks a mechanism to protect whistleblowers. To shift society and public officials’ notion regarding whistleblowers, to ensure whistleblowers’ adequate protection from acts of retaliation, and to promote better understanding of the role played by whistleblowers in the fight against corruption, Latvia committed to developing the legal framework and practical guidelines for this law.
Liberia

Commitment #3: Expanding the Open Budget Initiative. Liberia committed to increasing citizen awareness and knowledge of the Open Budget Initiative. It seeks to do so by implementing a series of dissemination activities such as circulating budget information through a mass SMS platform, coordinating town hall meetings, publishing quarterly budget execution and audit reports in the open data portal, and hosting radio talk shows that would enable spaces for dialogue and serve as mechanisms for receiving citizen’s feedback.

Lithuania

Commitment #2.2: Tackling Corruption in the Healthcare System through Social Advertisements. Former anticorruption campaigns in the health sector have not yielded the expected results among patients and the general public. To mitigate this situation, Lithuania committed to reducing factors that give way to the spread of corruption in the healthcare system such as informal payments on behalf of patients. Lithuania will develop publicity on corruption prevention in the health sector, along with a strategy for broad dissemination through several mass media outlets.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

Commitment #4.1: Ensuring the Protection of Whistleblowers to Strengthen the Fight Against Corruption. Macedonia’s Law on Whistleblower Protection, which went into effect in early 2016, recognizes the critical role that whistleblowers play in the fight against corruption and in increasing trust in public and private entities. To generate greater public awareness about the topic and related legislation and to encourage whistleblowers to report illegal activities, Macedonia committed to the successful implementation of the law. It would provide a system for protected reporting and safeguarding whistleblowers’ identities, security, welfare and employment status.

Malawi

Commitment #1: Passing the Freedom of Information Legislation. Although the right to information is guaranteed under the Malawi Constitution, currently no enabling legislation regulates and implements this right. The Government of Malawi made great strides by obtaining Cabinet approval for the Access to Information (ATI) Bill and publishing it in a gazette. Malawi committed to the full enactment of the law by the Parliament to realize the constitutional principles on right to information, thus paving the way toward transparency. In turn, it paves the way toward greater accountability by enabling citizens to hold duty bearers accountable for their actions.
MALTA

COMMITMENT #1: FOSTERING GREATER PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Despite making significant progress in bridging the gender employment gap, Malta still has low rates of employment among women. In an effort to increase women’s participation and empowerment in the public and private sectors, Malta committed to fostering more family-friendly measures and greater work-life balance initiatives such as reduced working hours, telecommuting, and flexible working schedules. In addition, more services, cost-free childcare services, and tax exemptions will be provided for women who join the labor market.

MEXICO

COMMITMENT #1: COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO COMBAT FORCED DISAPPEARANCE.

Forced disappearance is one of the most damaging crimes to society. In addition to strengthening punitive mechanisms against those perpetrating forced disappearance, it is necessary to establish processes that ensure the location of missing persons and care for victims. Mexico committed to designing and setting in motion a national public policy on forced disappearance, in coordination with civil society and victims. Through this commitment, civil society, academia, experts, victims, and the government will co-design a mechanism to publish data on missing persons in a standard and open format.

MONGOLIA

COMMITMENT #4: FOSTERING GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN POLITICAL FUNDING.

As in the case of other countries, in Mongolia funding of political parties is a contentious topic. Corruption in political parties not only affects the parties, but also endangers the integrity of the political system as a whole. Given the high propensity of political parties to be exposed to corruption, there is a critical need to foster more open, transparent, monitored and accountable political funding. Mongolia committed to amending its Law on Political Parties in coordination with other local OGP stakeholders to address these issues better.

NETHERLANDS

COMMITMENT #6: ENHANCING OPEN LOCAL AUTHORITY DECISION MAKING.

While access to council information and criteria under which decisions are made is available, in the Netherlands the current format is unstructured and not machine-readable, making it difficult to search or to compare with other local authorities’ data. To address these challenges, the Netherlands committed to developing and implementing a pilot project in which five local authorities will produce and publish information in open, reliable, and reusable format to allow comparison with other localities. The pilot will serve as the basis to implement the project more broadly throughout all municipalities as part of the Digital Agenda 2020 program.
NEW ZEALAND

COMMITMENT #6: IMPROVING ACCESS TO LEGISLATION. Legislative instruments are published on various websites and platforms, including the New Zealand Legislation (NZL) website, the Gazette, and newspapers. Some instruments are not even readily available to the public yet. The absence of a specific repository where people can access all legislative instruments has a direct impact on the cost of doing business in the country as well as on people’s rights and their ability to comply with the law. New Zealand committed to improving access to legislation by ensuring that all instruments and related information is published in the NZL website, resulting in a single, comprehensive, official, and public source.

NORWAY

COMMITMENT #3: INCREASING TRANSPARENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION. The Norwegian Environmental Information Act of 2013 safeguards the right to environmental information and participation in decision making processes relating to the environment, yet there is general lack of knowledge about the law and its use. Norway committed to improving awareness among citizens and the seven public administrations through developing guidelines and courses that will foster greater use of the act by different stakeholders. This will result in increased transparency and engagement as well as enhanced legislation, policies, and governance to safeguard the environment.

PARAGUAY

COMMITMENT #8: INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR THROUGH GREATER CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. In Paraguay, the lack of transparency in the use of public funds in the education sector has been reported, including the National Fund for Public Investment and Development (FONACIDE), school-kit provision, meals, and granting fellowships. In an effort to increase transparency, citizen participation, and oversight, Paraguay committed to expanding the information available on this sector through disseminating activities and empowering citizens with innovative monitoring tools such as the mobile app “Social Monitoring of School Kits and Meals.”
PERU

**COMMITMENT #6: ESTABLISHING TRANSPARENCY COMMISSIONS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES.**
Subnational governments in Peru receive royalties from extractive industries operating within their regions. However, there is a perceived lack of space for dialogue between government officials, civil society, and companies regarding the use of extractive industries’ income to promote the development of communities. In an effort to foster greater transparency, Peru committed to implement Transparency Commissions of Extractive Industries in three regional governments, which will publish annual reports adhering to EITI guidelines.

PHILIPPINES

**COMMITMENT #5: ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY IN PUBLIC AUDIT.** The main objective of Citizens Participatory Audit (CPA) is to strengthen and to sustain the engagement of citizens and the Commission on Audit (COA) in participatory audits. The pilot phase was completed with the publication of three CPA reports. The Philippines committed to implementing Phase II, which intends to scale the implementation of CPA nationally. The desired outcome is to create an improved public finance management system that ensures the efficient allocation and expenditure of public funds based on citizen-centric projects.

ROMANIA

**COMMITMENT #12: IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SEIZED ASSETS.** Romania’s National Agency for the Management of Seized Assets (ANABI) recently was established. Romania committed to developing a platform to publish information in open data format regarding the management of crime proceeds such as the social reuse of seized immovable assets. To ensure transparency of these processes, the agency will publish and update data on each property seized, including its current legal status, location, photographs, and other relevant information of public interest.

SIERRA LEONE

**COMMITMENT #1: ELIMINATING GENDER-RELATED VIOLENCE.** Although Sierra Leone is fully committed to protecting women and girls and eliminating sexual violence, a report by the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police indicates that there was an increase in related crimes, while conviction rates remain low. To bolster its commitment, the Sierra Leone Police, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, committed to publishing comprehensive data on sexual violence, establishing a forensic lab with trained and qualified personnel, developing a directory for sexual violence convicts, and providing free health services to those affected.
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

**COMMITMENT #3: OPENING EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.** While Slovak copyright regulations recognize free and fair access to educational materials that are publicly financed, use is limited to within school infrastructures, preventing students from accessing the materials from their homes or other private locations. The Slovak Republic committed to publishing publicly funded educational resources in open data format to provide students and teachers the right to access, adapt, and republish them freely. These measures not only will make educational materials more cost-effective, but also will improve the quality of education in the country.

SOUTH AFRICA

**COMMITMENT #4: DEVELOPING A PORTAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION.** South Africa committed to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. It will develop a portal to provide public access to relevant information. The portal will include spatial data on biodiversity, ecosystems, water, agriculture, and other information to identify and to map environmentally sensitive areas at a national level. The portal also will enable citizens to determine whether mapped developments (proposed and approved) have a potential negative impact on their environment or if they support or compromise surrounding communities’ environmental sustainability or livelihoods.

SRI LANKA

**STRENGTHENING FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL DECISION MAKING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.** Commitments to gender equality and nondiscrimination are enshrined in the Sri Lankan Constitution and other international conventions to which the country is a signatory. However, low levels of female participation in politics are prevalent at all levels of government. In accordance to the Local Government Amendment Bill of 2016, Sri Lanka committed to increasing the participation of women in politics and to achieving the established minimum of 25 percent female representation in subnational governments.

TUNISIA

**COMMITMENT #11: ENGAGING THE YOUTH IN PUBLIC POLICY DIALOGUE.** Tunisia is committed to engaging the youth in the development and implementation of open government policies. In its new NAP, Tunisia committed to increasing citizen participation and strengthening the link between the public and decision makers regarding public policies and programs, especially policies included in the country’s 2016-2018 OGP NAP. An e-platform and local councils with high levels of youth participation will be developed to enable youth to provide feedback on the delivery of selected public services and to provide a mechanism for those responsible to respond to issues raised.
UNITED KINGDOM

COMMITMENT #4: DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING AN ANTICORRUPTION INNOVATION HUB. Current efforts in the UK to innovate in tackling corruption often are scattered and piecemeal, and they do not always utilize the benefits of scale. With the aim of championing creative ways to report, detect and investigate corruption, the UK committed to incubating an Anticorruption Innovation Hub. The Hub will connect social innovators, technology experts, and data scientists with law enforcement, businesses, and civil society to collaborate on innovative anticorruption approaches, which can be replicated and customized in different countries and contexts.

URUGUAY

COMMITMENT #1.2: ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL. In Uruguay, processes for formulating public policies in consultation with the youth have been in development for the past decade. However, a sustained mechanism for youth participation has not been implemented yet. Uruguay committed to establishing a National Youth Council which integrates existing participation mechanisms and helps bridge the gap between members of the youth council and decision makers in the government, strengthening the possibility of implementing initiatives proposed by the youth, at both the local and the national levels.

UNITED STATES

COMMITMENT #36: BUILDING SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES WITH POLICE OPEN DATA. The United States is fostering a nationwide community of practice to highlight and to connect local open data innovations in law enforcement agencies. The aim is to enhance community trust and to build a new culture of proactive transparency in policing. Currently 26 jurisdictions participate in the Police Data Initiative, which aims to improve trust, to bring better insight and analysis to policing efforts. Ultimately, the jurisdictions aim to co-create solutions to enhance public safety, to reduce bias, and to reduce unnecessary use of force in policing. The United States committed to expanding this initiative to include additional jurisdictions.
THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP is an international multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. To participate in OGP, countries must endorse a high-level Open Government Declaration, deliver a National Action Plan developed with public consultation with civil society, and commit to independent reporting on their progress.

www.opengovpartnership.org