

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Republic of Armenia

Self-Assessment End of Term Report

Second Action Plan (2014-2016)

September, 2016

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Introduction

In the modern world, societies demand from their governments to be open, accountable and efficient, expecting a more active civic participation in the processes of public administration.

In 2011, the Open Government Partnership (hereinafter OGP) initiative was introduced as a mechanism to enhance open, efficient and accountable operation of the Government, as well as to trigger active civic participation in public administration. It is obvious that our country could not refrain from participating in the OGP process. Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Open Government Partnership movement was heralded by the letter¹ of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia addressed to the co-chairs of the OGP Steering Committee.

The OGP process is in the focus of attention of the President of the Republic of Armenia. In April 2015, at the 5th media conference entitled “At the Foot of Mount Ararat”, in his speech, the President of the Republic of Armenia prioritised Armenia's active participation in the processes of the OGP initiative.

In 2014, the OGP/Armenia Second Action Plan was adopted (hereinafter second AP), and the initiative stepped into a new stage.

When drafting its second AP, the Government of the Republic of Armenia **was guided by the principle of addressing the main OGP challenges**, particularly, involving commitments for the improvement of public services, effective management of public assets and the advancement of public integrity.

It is no secret that it is imperative **to adopt 4 OGP principles as a guide** to most effectively address the above-mentioned challenges. Within this logic, very close attention was paid to ensuring that every commitment was viewed as a target and to meeting the requirement of complying with at least one of the 4 OGP principles at the initial stage of plan development.

National Action Plan Process

OGP/Armenia Second Action Plan Development Process

¹ <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/country/armenia>

Jointly with the representatives of the civil society, the Government of the Republic of Armenia, based on the recommendations of the Independent Reporting Mechanism (hereinafter IRM) and taking account of the unprecedented experience gained as a result of the development of the OGP/Armenia First Action Plan and its implementation, launched the development of the second AP in the autumn of 2013.

The second AP has been drawn up based on the recommendations put forth by both the Government and the civil society, covering areas such as mining industry, healthcare, education, local self-government, freedom of information, etc. 8 of the 11 commitments included in the Plan have been incorporated based on the recommendations received from the civil society, and the remaining 3 were recommended by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

A new working group was established to develop the Plan and to co-ordinate the deriving actions (by the respective decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia), which, this time, was composed of the representatives of 8 non-governmental organisations (hereinafter referred to as “NGO”), **namely all the NGOs** that were interested in being involved in the working group and applied with the corresponding request.

The draft Plan was developed based on the recommendations submitted by state agencies. Subsequently, it was posted on www.ogp.am to raise public awareness and to receive recommendations of the civil society. The draft, as well as the announcement on submitting recommendations have been circulated by the NGOs actively engaged in the process among other partner NGOs and citizens. In parallel, the draft was discussed several times during the sessions of the working group (*namely, during the sessions of 9 September 2013 and 26 November 2013*). To continue public discussions, the Government of the Republic of Armenia, jointly with the “Freedom of Information Centre” NGO and with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development and the United Nations Development Programme, organised a seminar entitled “OGP-Armenia: Transparency and Accountability. Partnership between the Government and the Civil Society” on 5-6 April 2014 in Aghveran.

Meanwhile, to include new recommendations in the Plan and to ensure public awareness, “Asparez” (Arena) Journalists’ Club of Gyumri organised an awareness raising campaign and a series of meetings, as a result of which a number of NGOs also submitted recommendations to the Government of the Republic of Armenia. For the purpose of consideration and further clarification of the above-mentioned recommendations, a workshop with the participation of the representatives of the civil

society and state agencies was held at the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on **5 June 2014**. The final version of the draft Plan was discussed on 15 July 2014 at the session of the working group established by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 656-A of 15 July 2014. The final public discussion of the draft was held on 18 July 2014 in Yerevan within the framework of the event organised jointly by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the “Freedom of Information Centre” NGO and with the financial support of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. Apart from the members of the above-mentioned working group, the workshop was also attended by representatives of the civil society and a number of international organisations.

A total of about 50 recommendations were submitted, 11 of which were selected as relevant to the OGP principles and its format.

A summary of the recommendations not incorporated in the Plan was drafted, in which the Government of the Republic of Armenia provided substantiation and clarification for not including them in the Plan. The summary was also provided to the members of the working group in advance and posted on www.ogp.am.

With regard to the recommendations not incorporated in the plan, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has expressed willingness to discuss the probable mechanisms for their implementation beyond the OGP initiative with the civil society, however, until today this recommendation has not been granted attention, and no recommendation has been made by the civil society in the course of one year, with the exception of the “Freedom of Information Centre” NGO.

It should be noted that the finalisation of the second AP and its approval by the Government of the Republic of Armenia coincided with the resignation of the Government of the Republic of Armenia headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the formation of the new Government. Thus, *the above-mentioned circumstance is to account for the fact that the Plan was approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and submitted with a slight deviation from the established timeline.*

Public discussions during the implementation of the OGP/Armenia Second Action Plan

The second AP was approved by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 32 from 31 July 2014. The implementation of some commitments

commenced in September 2014. About 2 years have passed since the launch of the Plan, during which numerous meetings and discussions have been held at the initiative of both the Government and the NGOs.

Individual commitments and their implementation processes, as well as other issues pertaining to the OGP process have been discussed.

In particular, **Commitment 4** of the Plan (Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making supplements and amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1835-N of 15 December 2011”) was posted on www.ogp.am to hold public discussions and receive the opinions of the civil society and was presented to the NGOs involved in the working group, proposing to circulate it among other NGOs.

Another example would be the active public discussions held by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia in the last few months on **Commitment 7 of the Plan** (ensuring the open, transparent, participatory and accountable process of public policies and legislative reforms).

The stakeholder NGOs actively participate in the OGP process on their part.

For example, workshops were held by the “Journalists for the Future” NGO with the support of the US Embassy within the framework of a programme entitled “OGP” which was actively supported by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

On 3 March 2015, in the Picasso hall of the Congress hotel, an enlarged session of the OGP working group was held. The session was attended not only by the members of the OGP working group but also by the representatives of local and international organisations. The course of the implementation of the second Action Plan commitments was presented, and issues related to the monitoring of the Plan by the civil society as well as other matters were discussed during the session.

On 15 April 2015, session of the co-ordination working group of the OGP initiative was held at the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Recommendations for the applications to be submitted for the Open Government International Award (OGP AWARD) on the theme of “Improvement of Public Services, Applying Open Government Principles” were discussed during the session. The session was attended by the representatives of the Government, as well as the representatives of the civil society and international organisations.

On 29 June 2015 at Congress hotel, a seminar entitled “OGP: Monitoring Tools” organised by the “Freedom of Information Centre” and supported by OSCE Office in

Yerevan was held. The methodology and phases of evaluating the OGP processes and the AP, as well as issues pertaining to the effective monitoring of the Plan were discussed. The session was attended by the representatives of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, NGOs, and international organisations.

On 5 October, the co-ordination working group of the “Open Government Partnership” initiative in Armenia held a regular session, to which also partner representatives of international organisations were invited. During the meeting, the members of the OGP working group presented the implementation process of the second AP according to the 11 Commitments. During the session, the representative of the responsible agency for each OGP commitment presented the outcomes of the works implemented on their part and issues pertaining to the processes.

On 15 February 2016, enlarged session of the co-ordination working group of the “Open Government Partnership” initiative in Armenia was held. As usual, representatives of international organisations were present at the session. During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed, including:

- OGP Global Summit and OGP International Award held in Mexico City in October 2015;
- the implementation process of the OGP Second Action Plan of Armenia;
- development of the Third Action Plan for 2016-2018.

On 4 April 2016, a public discussion on the theme of “Progress Report of Armenia on the Independent Reporting Mechanism of the Open Government Partnership” was held. Artak Kyurumyan, national independent researcher of OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism, Aram Asatryan, adviser on public administration issues of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, member of the OGP working group, Varuzhan Hochtanyan, executive director of Transparency International Anti-Corruption Centre, Liana Doydoyan, head of the “Freedom of Information Centre”, Levon Barseghyan, chairman of the Board of “Asparez” (Arena) Journalists’ Club, and a number of other NGOs participated in the discussion.

New stage of public awareness raising

In April 2016, for the first time in the history of the OGP process in Armenia, the Government scheduled also regional meetings with the view to attracting regional and specialised non-governmental organisations, as well as raising the awareness about the OGP initiative and the development of the Third Action Plan also outside the capital. The awareness-raising campaign commenced in Yerevan with a meeting at the UN

office, and the rest of the meetings were held in Gyumri, Vanadzor, Dilijan, Armavir and Goris in accordance with the previously published timeline.² Besides the members of the working group, representatives of the civil society and international partner organisations also participated in the meetings.

Based on the recommendations of the IRM researcher on the OGP/Armenia Second Action Plan, the public awareness-raising process underwent significant corrections due to the Government of the Republic of Armenia. For example, a larger number of NGOs and, for the first time, individual citizens were engaged in the process, a number of awareness-raising campaigns and meetings were held, numerous stakeholder discussions were organised, experts from various areas and representatives of the private sector were engaged. For the purpose of raising the level of public awareness of the process, a series of TV programmes were prepared where the OGP process, as well as the commitments of the second AP and their implementation process were presented. These TV-programmes are broadcast every Sunday on “Yerkir Media” TV Channel. The mentioned materials were posted and made available on www.ogp.am.

On 5-6 August 2016 in “Russia” Complex in Tsakhkadzor, the OGP working group held an enlarged session to which also representatives of international organisations, as well as other partner NGOs were invited. The session was aimed at summarising the commitments and the implementation of the OGP Second AP. The event was organised jointly with FOICA and the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia with the support of the US Embassy.

Public discussions and recommendations on the Self-Assessment Report

In order to ensure public discussions and to receive recommendations with regard to the draft Self-Assessment Report on OGP/Armenia Second NAP, the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia posted it on www.gov.am on 15 September 2015 and also provided it to the members of the working group via e-mail with a request to review it and circulate among other stakeholder NGOs and individuals. A two-week period is provided for submitting recommendations and holding public discussions, for which the deadline is 28 September of this year, (in accordance with the methodological instructions).

² <http://ogp.am/hy/news/item/2016/04/22/regions/>

In the mentioned period, individual discussions on the draft were held with a number of state agencies. Of all the members of the co-ordination working group of the OGP, only “Araza” NGO submitted recommendations. The recommendations by “Araza” NGO received by e-mail were discussed and fully incorporated in the Self-Assessment Report.

Recommendations by the researcher of the Independent Reporting Mechanism

Based on the recommendations by the researcher of the Independent Reporting Mechanism on the OGP/Armenia First Action Plan, the Government of the Republic of Armenia introduced significant corrections in the development and implementation processes of the second AP.

It was recommended to:

- *engage a larger number of specialised and regional NGOs in the development of the Action Plan;*
- *publish a brief overview of the outcomes of public discussions;*
- *publish all the received recommendations and organise broad public discussions;*
- *select commitments matching the OGP principles and values.*

Thus, a larger number of NGOs were engaged in the process of the development of the second AP, which, in their turn, being members of the working group, had stakeholder discussions and meetings with other specialised and regional partner NGOs, collected numerous recommendations and submitted them to the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Apart from this, the timeframe provided for the public discussions on the second AP exceeded the timeframe provided for the first AP, during which numerous meetings were organised both with the representatives of the civil society and with the representatives of state agencies to have all the submitted recommendations were discussed. Individual recommendations were also discussed personally with their authors or the representatives of the authors.

The outcomes of the meetings/discussions were published on www.ogp.am in the form of brief overviews and were made publicly accessible. All the received recommendations, whether incorporated in the AP or not, and the comments of the Government of the Republic of Armenia with regard thereto were published on the same website.

Based on the already gained experience and using the materials and templates provided by the OGP Support Unit and posted on www.opengovpartnership.org, taking account of the recommendations of the Independent Reporting Mechanism, the OGP/Armenia Second AP was developed in compliance with the OGP format and its principles, and is aimed at overcoming the OGP challenges.

Information on the implementation of commitments enshrined in OGP/Armenia Second Action Plan

7 of 11 commitments assumed are completed and 4 — substantially implemented. For details see below:

1. Digitalisation and publication of data available at “Republican Geological Fund” SNCO	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Shushanik Kerobyan
Title, Department/Division	Head of Division of Natural Resources and General Geology of Subsoil Department
E-mail:	sh.kerobyan@gmail.com
Phone	+37411 32 32 73
Other interested actors involved	Government
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, other multilaterals
Main objective	It is envisaged to completely digitalise the information available at the Fund (about 12 000 geological reports on around 750 mines of natural resources and 600 mineral occurrences and 8 000 mapping and drawing packages) — simultaneously ensuring the digitalisation of newly-received materials (maps, financial and non-financial statements, other documents).
Brief description of commitment	Introducing an electronic database for mining industry in the

(140 character limit)	Republic of Armenia.			
Relevance	Access to information, public accountability, technologies and innovation targeted at ensuring transparency and accountability			
Ambition	Improving and facilitating public access to information on mining industry. The information on rights to subsoil use provided for the purpose of mineral extraction, rights to subsoil use provided for geological investigations for the purpose of mineral extraction, rights to subsoil use provided for the purpose of extraction of underground mineral waters, as well as the map of metal minerals will be published.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			V	
Description of the results	The equipment necessary for digitalisation activities have been acquired on competitive bases and an organisation has been selected to perform the activities of digitalisation and website design. The digitalisation activities are underway. Up to date, materials of around 350 000 pages and maps of 2 500 m ² have been digitalised. The website www.geofund.am will be launched on 1 October. Before the expiration of the time limits for the commitment, 50-60% of the envisaged activities will be performed.			
End date	December 2016			
Next steps	Ensuring smooth performance of activities.			
Additional information				
The delay in implementation of this commitment is conditioned upon the negotiations over the contract and conditions with regard to fundraising, as well as to the time limits for provision and installation of necessary equipment.				

2. Ensuring transparency in mining industry	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Shushanik Kerobyan
Title, Department/Division	Head of Division of Natural Resources and General Geology of

		Subsoil Department			
E-mail:		sh.kerobyan@gmail.com			
Phone		+37411 32 32 73			
Other interested actors involved	Government	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia			
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, other multilaterals				
Main objective		Joining the initiative will enable to enhance transparency in the field, it will contribute to ensuring a higher level of accountability and will improve the investment environment.			
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		Launching the process of joining the Exporting Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), in particular, holding discussions, negotiations and performing other necessary preparatory activities.			
Relevance		Access to information, public accountability, civic participation			
Ambition		Ensuring high level of accountability, as well as improving the investment environment.			
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
					V
Description of the results		<p>The willingness of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to join the Exporting Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) was announced during the first sitting of the Anti-Corruption Council held in the Government of the Republic of Armenia on 28 July 2015 and the coordination of the respective processes was assigned to Davit Harutyunyan, Minister-Chief of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>A multi-stakeholder group was formed, the <u>decision</u> of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia approving the individual composition of that group <u>was drafted</u>. On 27 July 2016, <u>the first sitting</u> of the multi-stakeholder group of the EITI of the Republic of Armenia was held in the Government of the Republic of Armenia,</p>			

	<p>during which the schedule for the upcoming activities of the multi-stakeholder group and submission of the EITI candidacy application form was determined. The multi-stakeholder group has launched its activities, the rules of procedure of the group is being drafted.</p> <p>A relevant section has been created in the website www.gov.am where complete information on the initiative is posted.</p>
End date	December 2016
Next steps	Signing the decision of the Prime Minister approving the individual composition of the group, approving the rules of procedure of the group, drawing up an action plan.

3. Ensuring public awareness about healthcare financing

Agency implementing the commitment	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Armine Shahverdyan	
Title, Department/Division	Head of Division for Procurement of Medical Services and Information of the State Health Agency of the Staff of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia	
E-mail:	shah.armine@gmail.com	
Phone	+37410 65-47-11	
Other interested actors involved	Government	
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, other multilaterals	
Main objective	To create a financial portal for healthcare system, where the population, specialists and the public will be able to obtain information on the state-guaranteed funding, on the basic package of services to be paid for by the patient, and on the manner of receiving prescriptions to ensure state-guaranteed payment; to access financial and non-financial statements and other kinds of information.	

Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	<p>Creating a reporting website for outpatient polyclinic analysis.</p> <p>Creating an information and analytical website for the State Health Agency.</p>			
Relevance	Access to information, public accountability, civic participation, transparency			
Ambition	<p>The implementation of the commitment will promote better public awareness on the healthcare financing mechanisms, on the package of free medical care services guaranteed by the state, as well as on the services actually provided within the framework of free medical care guaranteed by the state, improving the transparency of and public accountability on the policy implemented by the state in given field which will entail more intensive public participation in these processes.</p>			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				V
Description of the results	<p>The website of the State Health Agency (www.sha.am) has been created by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia which contains information on the free medical care package guaranteed by the state and the healthcare financing mechanisms, along with three modules for receiving reports, namely: 1. “Open Government Partnership-Armenia” — 29 public reports may be received therefrom, 2. “Reporting systems” and 3. “OPRAP (Outpatient Polyclinic Reporting and Analytical Portal)”.</p> <p>The Reporting system module consists of 2 parts — “For Experts” and “For Public”. The “For Experts” section is intended for the staff of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, medical organisations implementing state-paid services and officials in charge of regional segments of the healthcare sector of the Republic of Armenia that can receive an individual username and password from the State Health Agency of the Staff of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia to use the options of the reporting system. Depending on the authorisations of the user, the reports may be grouped under the domains of republican, regional and medical organisations.</p> <p>The “For Public” section can be accessed by anyone interested in</p>			

	<p>information on medical care and services within state-paid packages. It is important to note that all the above-mentioned reports can be received — at the choice of the user — grouped according to the regional location (city of Yerevan, marzes of the Republic of Armenia), age (up to 18, 18 and over) and time (2011-2015). The received reports can be displayed in MS Excel, MS Word or Adobe Acrobat formats.</p> <p>The Outpatient Polyclinic Reporting and Analytical Portal (OPRAP) section enables the public users to receive different reports on the state programmes implemented in the field of primary healthcare (PHC) (grouped by marzes of the Republic of Armenia, medical institutions and other search criteria), including reports on the age and gender of the population registered with a PHC doctor, PHC visits, pregnancy monitoring and visits of pregnant women, PHC according to the performance financing bonus indicators and screening examinations.</p> <p>On 10 June 2016, a meeting with the participation of civil society organisations and mass media representing the healthcare sector was organised in the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia which aimed at presentation of the technical possibilities of the website of the State Health Agency to the public and the composition of public reports on activities with respect to medical care and services within state-paid packages.</p>
End date	September 2015
Next steps	Based on the recommendations, it is envisaged to develop new formats for making that information more accessible for the public.

4. Ensuring transparency of asset and income declarations of high-ranking officials of the Republic of Armenia	
Lead implementing agency	Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials (upon consent)
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Siranush Sahakyan

Title, Department/Division	Chairperson of the Commission
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Email:		info@ethics.am			
Phone		+37410 524689			
Other interested actors involved	Government	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia			
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	“Freedom of Information Center” NGO (upon consent), “Transparency International” anti-corruption center (upon consent)			
Main objective		Ensuring the transparency of the asset and income declarations of high-ranking officials of the Republic of Armenia			
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		The list of data to be presented in the asset and income declarations of high-ranking officials and subject to publicity approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1835-N of 15 December 2011 does not provide for including a fully transparent list of all operations with the property of high-ranking officials and their affiliated persons in the declarations. In particular, those are restricted by the price thresholds of operations. The Commission plans to reduce such restrictions and intends to expand the list of data to be made available to public and thus increase the accessibility of declarations for the public.			
Relevance		Improvement of public confidence			
Ambition		Extension of transparency			
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
					V
Description of the results		The thresholds prescribed for property operations have been eliminated from the data subject to publicity by the adoption of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 150 of 19 February 2015 “On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1835-N of 15 December 2011 and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1819-N of 15 December 2011”. As a result, the extent of media coverage and the number of references to the published declarations have increased.			
End date		June 2015			

5. Online broadcasting of the State Procurement Appeals Board sessions				
Lead implementing agency		Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hayk Ayunts		
Title, Department/Division		Deputy Head of “Procurement Support Center” SNCO		
Email:		ayunts@armeps.am		
Phone		+37410 28-93-24		
Other interested actors involved	Government			
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals			
Main objective		Ensuring transparency of the Procurement Appeals Board decision-making process		
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		Online broadcasting of Procurement Appeals Board sessions		
Relevance		Public accountability, transparency		
Ambition		Enhanced public trust in the decision-making of the Procurement Appeals Board.		
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial
				V
Description of the results		To ensure the online live broadcasting of the sessions of Procurement Appeals Board of the Republic of Armenia, the relevant hyperlink has been placed on the website www.gnumner.am , and since June 2015 the online broadcasts of the Procurement Appeals Board sessions have been accessible on the website www.e-gov.am and have been fulfilled via the website www.youtube.com .		
End date		June 2015		

Additional information

Due to this commitment, the number of appeals has risen; thus, for instance, 96 appeals were received during the first semester of 2016 in comparison to 54 appeals received during the same period of 2015. This fact proves the rise of public confidence in the decision-making of the Procurement Appeals Board.

6. Community microsurveys introduction in 10 communities

Lead implementing agency		Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Ashot Giloyan
Title, Department/Division		Head of Local Self-Government Department
Email:		a.giloyan@mta.gov.am
Phone		+37410 511-347
Other interested actors involved	Government	Marzpetarans (Regional Governor's Offices) of the Republic of Armenia
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	UN Development Programme
Main objective		Community micro-survey is an affordable and unique tool that will contribute to the strengthening of relations between residents of the community and local self-government bodies and ensuring transparency in the decision-making process.
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		The “Community micro-survey” programme will be introduced in 10 communities. Surveys via SMS will be conducted in those communities, with a subsequent publication of the results.
Relevance		Civic participation, transparency
Ambition		The implementation of the commitment will result in a clearer understanding of community priority issues among local self-government bodies. The survey will involve the residents of the communities, and the necessity and urgency of the issues to be addressed will be determined by their responses.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			V	
Description of the results	<p>As of 30 June 2016, micro-surveys via short messages (SMS) were conducted in 9 communities of the Republic of Armenia: Ashtarak in Aragatsotn Marz, Goris in Syunik Marz, Gyumri and Aregnadem in Shirak Marz, Yeghvard, Byureghavan, Kasakh, Jrvezh and Arzakan in Kotayk Marz.</p> <p>With the support of UNDP “Women in Local Democracy” project and based on the methodology developed by themselves, conduction of micro-surveys is underway in Syunik and Vayots Dzor Marzes — Tatev consolidated community, as well as in Jermuk, Gndevaz, Goris, Akner, Bardzravan, Khndzoresk, Hartashen, Nerkin Khnadzoresk, Shurnukh, Vorotan, Verishen and Karahunj communities included in the forthcoming consolidation programmes. This component of the project is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in the amount of up to USD 10 000 (ten thousand).</p> <p>The results of micro-surveys have been published on the community websites:</p> <p>http://kotayk.mtad.am/general-information/OpenGovernmentPartnership</p> <p>http://ashtarak.am/Pages/Home/votadmin.aspx</p> <p>http://yeghvard.am/Pages/Misc/Announces/view.aspx?recID=256</p> <p>http://kasakh.am/Pages/Home/votadmin.aspx</p> <p>http://jrvezh-kotayq.am/Pages/Misc/Announces/view.aspx?recID=316#.V9IMO3V97Dc</p>			
End date	December 2016			
Next steps	To continuously enlarge the number of communities where surveys will be conducted.			
Additional information				
<p>The main problem hindering the full implementation of the commitment in some communities is the scarcity of financial means.</p> <p>For more information on the “Community micro-survey” program visit: http://europeandcis.undp.org/blog/2015/03/30/my-opinion-matters-how-a-mobile-tool-in-armenia-is-engaging-</p>				

[citizens/](#)

7. Ensuring an open, transparent, participatory and accountable process of state policies and legislative reforms		
Lead implementing agency		Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Diana Ghazaryan
Title, Department/Division		Deputy Head of Department for Drafting Anti-Corruption and Penitentiary Policies
Email:		diana_ghazaryan@yahoo.com
Phone		+37410 594157
Other interested actors involved	Government	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	“ARAZA” charitable NGO
Main objective		Making amendments to the exemplary practices of the boards/councils of Ministries of the Republic of Armenia that: will clarify and distinguish the functions of the boards and councils, will specify the list, rights and obligations of the members thereof, will define open and transparent procedures for establishing the councils and activities thereof, as well as the criteria for representativeness of the CSOs and professional qualifications.
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		The formation of an efficient, transparent and accountable participatory civil society system in the process of policy and legislative reforms.
Relevance		Transparency, accountability, civic participation
Ambition		An efficient, transparent and accountable participatory civil society system will be formed in the process of policy and legislative reforms.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
Description of the results	<p>Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 52 “On making a supplement to Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 16 of 18 April 2002 and approving the Model Rules of Procedure of the civil society council adjunct to the Minister of the Republic of Armenia” was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia on 26 November 2015, pursuant whereto civil society councils adjunct to the Minister shall be established in each Ministry. At the same time, the functions of civil society councils and boards were clarified and distinguished by the above-mentioned Protocol Decision.</p>			
End date	August 2015			
Next steps	<p>As of June 2016, the civil society councils adjunct to the Minister were formed in 18 Ministries pursuant to the procedure adopted by the Decision. In September 2016, the majority of the civil society councils held their first sitting, during which ambitious measures were already planned.</p>			

8. Public awareness on the lawmaking activity of state government bodies

Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Diana Ghazaryan	
Title, Department/Division	Deputy Head of Department for Drafting Anti-Corruption and Penitentiary Policies	
Email:	diana_ghazaryan@yahoo.com	
Phone	+37410 594157	
Other interested actors involved	Government	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
	CSOs, private sector, working groups,	

	multilaterals			
Main objective	Creation of a shared online platform for the publication of draft normative legal acts developed by state government bodies, enabling the civil society to make recommendations on the drafts, as well as be informed about their status (i.e. whether the proposed draft has been adopted or not, how it has been edited, as well as the justification for the non-adoption).			
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	The public will have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the drafts before their adoption, make recommendations to the responsible agencies, as well as contribute to the elaboration thereof.			
Relevance	Transparency, civic participation			
Ambition	Public involvement in the process of policy making. Increasing the level of accessibility of the legal acts being drafted by the principle of collecting onto a unified interactive platform.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			v	
Description of the results	<p>The draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 296-N of 25 March 2010” has been submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia, by which a unified platform of draft normative legal acts is envisaged to be created. The Draft was submitted to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia by assignment 02/16.8/9965-16 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 8 July 2016 for a joint discussion of the technical and programme solutions of the unified platform envisaged by the Draft with “E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit” CJSC.</p> <p>The Draft was approved in the sitting of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 2 September 2016 and submitted for the signature of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>At the same time, the technical description of the unified platform was developed by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and “ARAZA” charitable NGO, based on which website design activities are currently being carried out by computer specialists.</p>			

End date	December 2016
Next steps	<p>Ensuring training for the specialists in charge at the agencies.</p> <p>Publication of the draft normative legal acts being developed by the agencies on the created platform.</p> <p>Organisation by the agencies of a large-scale awareness raising presentation of the website for users, particularly for interested CSOs.</p>

9. Ensuring transparency of the election of governing boards and of the annual budget planning and expenses of state general education institutions of the Republic of Armenia		
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia	
Person responsible from agency implementing the commitment	Susanna Sos Makyan	
Title, Department/Division	Head of Preschool and Secondary Education Policy and Analysis Division of General Education Department	
E-mail:	syuzannamakyan@mail.ru	
Phone	+37410 524777	
Other interested actors involved	Government	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	“World Vision Armenia” charitable organisation, “Goris Teachers Union” NGO
Main objective	<p>Promoting public confidence.</p> <p>More efficient management of public assets.</p> <p>Ensuring efficient democracy, active civic participation in public administration processes, transparency and accountability.</p>	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Elaboration of the Procedure for forming a collegial governing body — Board — at the “State General Education Institution” State Non-Commercial Organisation of the Republic of Armenia, approved by Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 113-N of 18 March 2010.	

	Development and approval of the Procedure for annual budget planning and reporting on the annual budget expenses of general education institutions.			
Relevance	Access to information, public accountability, civil society engagement, transparency.			
Ambition	Amendments to the election procedures of the governing boards of the state general education institutions of the Republic of Armenia, ensuring transparency and accountability in the budget planning (draft annual budget) and the annual budget expenses for the educational services in the field of general education will contribute to a more open and transparent management; corruption risks will be reduced, active civic participation will be ensured; an atmosphere of trust will be built.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				V
Description of the results	<p>The Procedure for forming a collegial governing body — Board — at the “State General Education Institution” State Non-Commercial Organisation of the Republic of Armenia was elaborated by the working group and approved by Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 102-N of 24 February 2015 “On making amendments and a supplement to Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 113-N of 18 March 2010”.</p> <p>The working group has also developed and submitted for approval the Procedure for the annual budget planning and reporting on the annual budget expenses of general education institutions, approved by Order No 205 A/Q of 30 March 2015.</p> <p>The publication of the above-mentioned procedures on the websites of schools of general education and the announcement boards of the institutions will contribute to more efficient implementation of the commitments assumed.</p> <p>The procedures are posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia www.edu.am, the Procedure for the annual budget planning and reporting on annual budget expenses of general education institutions is also available on the</p>			

	website Armenian legal information system — www.arlis.am . Relevant letters have been sent to the educational institutions under the subordination of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan Municipality and Marzpetarans (Regional Governor's offices) to implement these procedures at the educational institutions.	
End date	March 2015	
Next Steps	The Procedure will be elaborated based on the recommendations and observations received.	
Additional Information		
The Procedure for forming the collegial governing body — Board — at the “State General Education Institution” State Non-Commercial Organisation of the Republic of Armenia is already implemented in general education schools, and as for the Procedure on the annual budget planning and reporting on the annual budget expenses of general education institutions, schools will be guided by that procedure starting from 2015-2016 academic year, then, if necessary, the Procedure will be elaborated based on the recommendations and observations received from the schools.		
10. Knowledge and capacity building of public servants in the fields of freedom of information and anti-corruption		
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Ashot Giloyan	
Title, Department/Division	Head of Local Self-Government Department	
E-mail:	a.giloyan@mta.gov.am	
Phone	+37410 511-347	
Other interested actors involved	Government	Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	“Freedom of Information Center” NGO “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO
Main objective	To promote the improvement of public service quality through trainings aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of public servants, developing corruption-fighting skills, as well as freedom of information.	

Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	<p>Ensuring information, knowledge and skills through training courses organised for public servants in the sphere of fight against corruption and freedom of information.</p> <p>Trainings of community servants, local self-government bodies, as well as the employees of Marzpetarans of the Republic of Armenia are simultaneously organised. The mentioned programmes address topics related to the enhancement of corruption-fighting skills and freedom of information.</p>			
Relevance	<p>Access to information, public accountability, transparency.</p>			
Ambition	<p>As a result of the implementation of the commitment, public servants will have an opportunity to ensure a higher level of transparency and accountability when providing public services.</p>			
Completion level	<p>Not started</p>	<p>Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
				<p>V</p>
Description of the results	<p>255 civil servants, 14 — from “Freedom of Information Center” NGO, 42 — from “Union of Armenian Government Employees” NGO, 121 — from “National Institute of Labour and Social Research”, 78 — from “Law institute of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia” have participated in the trainings during 2015, within the scope of the initiative “Open Government Partnership” under the commitment “Knowledge and capacity building of public servants in the fields of freedom of information and anti-corruption” stipulated in the Second Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2 hours have been allotted to the topic “Corruption-fighting skills in the local-self government system” within the programme “Training of heads of communities and members of the Council of Elders” approved by the Minister of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia on 19 May 2015. 2 hours have also been allotted to the topic “Restrictions on freedom of information, grounds and procedure for refusal to provide information”.</p> <p>8 hours have been allotted to the topic “Corruption risks arising in the course of provision of services on behalf of the local self-government bodies” within the programme “Within the scope of general hours envisaged for improvement (training) of professional</p>			

	<p>knowledge and working abilities of employees of territorial administration bodies”, approved by the Minister of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia on 19 May 2015. 8 hours have also been allotted to the discussion of the topics “The concept of information”, “Legal base for freedom of information” and other topics related to freedom of information.</p> <p>During 2014-2015, 2 103 community servants, 1 518 heads of communities and members of the Council of Elders, as well as 150 employees of Marzpetarans have participated in trainings under the mentioned programmes.</p>
End date	December 2015
Next steps	To continue organisation of training courses in the field of public services.
Additional information	
Information on the results of the training courses is regularly posted on the respective website of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia.	

11. Ensuring transparency of the activities of local self-government bodies of large communities		
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Ashot Giloyan	
Title, Department/Division	Head of Local Self-Government Department	
Email:	a.giloyan@mta.gov.am	
Phone	+37410 511-347	
Other interested actors involved	Government	Marzpetarans (Regional Governor's Offices) of the Republic of Armenia
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	“Asparez” (Arena) Journalists’ Club NGO

Main objective	Creation and updating of websites, publication of all the legal acts adopted by the community authorities, notifications on the sittings of the Council of Elders, public discussions and hearings, as well as online broadcasting of the sittings of the Council of Elders will be ensured for the communities of Armenia with population of 20 000 and over.			
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	<p>It is necessary to organise fund-raising for procurement of technical equipment for online broadcasting of the sittings of the Council of Elders, public discussions and LSG conferences, for upgrading the existing websites or creating new ones for communities with population of 20 000 and over, to ensure the procurement of technical equipment and web design services.</p> <p>Creation of information websites for communities with population of 20 000 and over with the possibility of interaction with the public via comments.</p> <p>Organisation of trainings for the respective specialists of the communities.</p> <p>Launching website, online broadcasting of the sittings of the Council of Elders of target communities and LSG conferences.</p>			
Relevance	Access to information, public accountability, transparency.			
Ambition	As a result of the implementation of the commitment, the population of the community will be informed of the standpoint voiced by the Council of Elders regarding this or that particular issue on community programs discussed in the sittings of the Council of Elders.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			v	
Description of the results	As of 30 June 2016, 17 communities with population of 20 000 and over have already received part of the equipment (auxiliary equipment for connection, memory cards) required for online broadcasting of the sittings of the Council of Elders, public discussions and LSG conferences. The remaining part of the equipment, pursuant to the contracts already signed with the suppliers, will be provided to the communities, enrolled in the programme, during June. System installation activities and then			

	<p>trainings of the technical specialists will be carried out in the communities during August. We are of the opinion that — taking into account the availability of the internet connection with the required speed in the above-mentioned communities — the communities will have the opportunity to launch online broadcasting from September.</p> <p>Currently Gyumri, Vanadzor, Hrazdan and Armavir communities with population of 20 000 and over (at the expense of own budgets) have already ensured online broadcasting of the sittings of the Council of Elders and LSG conferences.</p>
End date	April 2016
Next steps	Online broadcasting of the sittings of the Council of Elders of the communities and LSG conferences
Additional information	
<p>Equipment has already been purchased within the scope of the programme of the Council of Europe “Support to Consolidating Local Democracy in Armenia” and the communities have been provided with some part of it and installation activities are underway.</p> <p>In view of the necessity to ensure regular operation of the community websites, employees of 17 community administrations have regularly participated in trainings.</p> <p>The commitment will be implemented using modern technical equipment. The launching of the websites and the broadcasting of the sittings and conferences will lead to the awareness of the community routine among a larger number of beneficiaries.</p>	

Conclusion

The ongoing global movement towards open governance is meant to strengthen trust between the citizens and the elites leading them. It is a proportionate response of the power to the fair demands of the civil society.

During 2011-2016, the Republic of Armenia implemented tangible reforms through its two OGP National Action Plans in such important areas, as budget system (for instance, programme budgeting), mining industry (for instance, the process of accession to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)), healthcare, education, local self-governance, freedom of information, state procurement reforms, law-making activities, access to information, etc.

Continuity

Conduct in line with the OGP principles has become an approach already adopted by Armenia also outside the scope of the OGP Action Plan. The continuity of commitments assumed through previous Action Plans is a vivid example of this. The commitments assumed through previous Action Plans are continuously implemented regardless of whether they will be included in the next OGP action plans or not. Thus, for instance, “*Mail-Armenia*” system has already been introduced, which operates under *e-Citizen* portal, and personal e-mail addresses are provided to citizens of the Republic of Armenia. Works are underway for sending official notifications through that system as well. The commitment of “*Ensuring transparency of the activities of local self government bodies in communities*” will be implemented for Armenian communities having a population less than 20 000. *Increasing the level of effectiveness of activities of community administrations, exercising of the powers vested in local self government bodies (hereinafter LSG bodies) (heads of communities and members of the Councils of Elders)* will also continue through the opening of new offices for providing services to citizens, as well as training the heads of communities and the members of the Council of Elders. Armenia will complete the ongoing process of accession to the *Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative*.

Achievements

It is inspiring that the efforts of our country are being noticed and appreciated both by the civil society of Armenia and the international community. In particular, the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia was granted “the Golden Key” award during the 13th “Golden Key and Rusty Lock” annual award ceremony, initiated by “Freedom of Information Center” NGO in September 2015, for the best implementation of commitments of the National Action Plan of Armenia within the scope of the Open Government Partnership international initiative. The results of the annual international award ceremony of the initiative were summed up within the scope of the Global Summit of the OGP initiative held in Mexico City, United Mexican States in October 2015, during which Armenia, having submitted for the first time an application for participation, was granted a high award, winning the first place, the so-called title of “Regional Champions” in the region (Asia-Pacific). Armenia introduced “Creation and introduction of community governance information systems in community administrations of the Republic of Armenia” initiative during the award ceremony. The initiative was referred to as “Smart Municipality” during the competition. The project is aimed at raising the level of effectiveness of the activities of

LSG bodies in Armenia and improving public services provided by LSG bodies to the people of the community through open governance.

Third AP Development Process

The unprecedented experience gained as a result of the development and implementation of the two previous Action Plans, the international network of the OGP and the recommendations of the Independent Reporting Mechanism (hereinafter IRM) served as cornerstones, based on which the Government of the Republic of Armenia, jointly with the representatives of the civil society, international partner organisations and this time also with individual citizens and representatives of the private sector, initiated the process of development of the Third Action Plan. Today, guided by the belief that a plan developed through multilateral co-operation and stakeholder discussions will ensure higher quality and tangible outcomes, the OGP/Armenia Third Action Plan was developed according to this very logic. This means that primary importance was given to the issue of taking the plan through a new stage of development in line with the OGP fundamental principles and having its chain effect on the whole implementation process during the next 2 years.

In general, **about 70 recommendations were submitted, 8 of which were selected** as complying with the OGP principles and its format. Every commitment incorporated in the plan was viewed as a target and chosen as a result of comprehensive discussions.

When developing its OGP Third Action Plan, the Government of the Republic of Armenia was guided by the principle of incorporating commitments to respectively overcome the OGP challenges, by the OGP principles and the format for the development of an action plan available at www.opengovpartnership.org, as well as by the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy approved by the United Nations.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia highly appreciates the efforts invested by all the parties, in particular, by the representatives of the state agencies, civil society, international organisations, the private sector, as well as the efforts of the experts and individual citizens involved in the process of development of the OGP Third Action Plan.

International Cooperation

Armenia could not refrain from the OGP international processes either. Thus, for example, Aram Asatryan, one of the OGP team members in Armenia, jointly with

Marina Mkhitarian, Head of Kolba Innovations Lab, created a blog entitled “*Beggars and Netizens: Crowdsourcing policy-making in Armenia*”, dedicated to the use of the new tools (crowdsourcing) applied in the development process of the Third Action Plan for Armenia, and published it on 3 August 2016 on www.opengovpartnership.org.

Armenia verified its willingness to be a full-fledged member of the OGP initiative paying a 50 000 US Dollar membership fee to cover the maintenance expenses of the OGP Initiative Support Unit and IRM in 2015 and 2016.

Open government does not itself imply raising the level of effectiveness of governance; however, it provides the opportunity to introduce a new set of supervision tools, raise accountability, make the activities of state agencies transparent, thus enhancing the power of the people, which, in its turn, will result in effective governance. Based on the above, Armenia continues being more committed to bringing the OGP principles to life, which brings honour to each democratic state of the 21st century. What is also important is that a new culture of citizen-state partnership is being enhanced, ensuring active participation of citizens in decision-making and policy-development processes.