OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Open
Government
Partnership

OPEN BY DEFAULT

POLICY BY THE PEOPLE

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESULTS

OPEN GOVERNMENT DECLARATION

As members of the Open Government Partnership, committed to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention against Corruption, and other applicable international instruments related to human rights and good governance:

WE ACKNOWLEDGE that people all around the world are demanding more openness in government. They are calling for greater civic participation in public affairs, and seeking ways to make their governments more transparent, responsive, accountable, and effective.

WE RECOGNIZE that countries are at different stages in their efforts to promote openness in government, and that each of us pursues an approach consistent with our national priorities and circumstances and the aspirations of our citizens.

WE ACCEPT responsibility for seizing this moment to strengthen our commitments to promote transparency, fight corruption, empower citizens, and harness the power of new technologies to make government more effective and accountable.

WE UPHOLD the value of openness in our engagement with citizens to improve services, manage public resources, promote innovation, and create safer communities. We embrace principles of transparency and open government with a view toward achieving greater prosperity, well-being, and human dignity in our own countries and in an increasingly interconnected world.

TOGETHER, WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO:
Increase the availability of information about governmental activities. Governments collect and hold information on behalf of people, and citizens have a right to seek information about governmental activities. We commit to promoting increased access to information and disclosure about governmental activities at every level of government. We commit to increasing our efforts to systematically collect and publish data on government spending and performance for essential public services and activities. We commit to pro-actively provide high-value information, including raw data, in a timely manner, in formats that the public can easily locate, understand and use, and in formats that facilitate reuse. We commit to providing access to effective remedies when information or the corresponding records are improperly withheld, including through effective oversight of the recourse process. We recognize the importance of open standards to promote civil society access to public data, as well as to facilitate the interoperability of government information systems. We commit to seeking feedback from the public to identify the information of greatest value to them, and pledge to take such feedback into account to the maximum extent possible.

Support civic participation. We value public participation of all people, equally and without discrimination, in decision making and policy formulation. Public engagement, including the full participation of women, increases the effectiveness of governments, which benefit from people's knowledge, ideas and ability to provide oversight. We commit to making policy formulation and decision making more transparent, creating and using channels to solicit public feedback, and deepening public participation in developing, monitoring and evaluating government activities. We commit to protecting the ability of not-for-profit and civil society organizations to operate in ways consistent with our commitment to freedom of expression, association, and opinion. We commit to creating

mechanisms to enable greater collaboration between governments and civil society organizations and businesses.

Implement the highest standards of professional integrity throughout our administrations. Accountable government requires high ethical standards and codes of conduct for public officials. We commit to having robust anti-corruption policies, mechanisms and practices, ensuring transparency in the management of public finances and government purchasing, and strengthening the rule of law. We commit to maintaining or establishing a legal framework to make public information on the income and assets of national, high ranking public officials. We commit to enacting and implementing rules that protect whistleblowers. We commit to making information regarding the activities and effectiveness of our anticorruption prevention and enforcement bodies, as well as the procedures for recourse to such bodies, available to the public, respecting the confidentiality of specific law enforcement information. We commit to increasing deterrents against bribery and other forms of corruption in the public and private sectors, as well as to sharing information and expertise.

Increase access to new technologies for openness and accountability. New technologies offer opportunities for information sharing, public participation, and collaboration. We intend to harness these technologies to make more information public in ways that enable people to both understand what their governments do and to influence decisions. We commit to developing accessible and secure online spaces as platforms for delivering services, engaging the public, and sharing information and ideas. We recognize that equitable and affordable access to technology is a challenge, and commit to seeking increased online and mobile connectivity, while also identifying and promoting the use of alternative mechanisms for civic engagement. We commit to engaging civil society and the business community to identify effective practices and innovative approaches for leveraging new technologies to empower people and promote transparency in government. We also recognize that increasing access to technology entails supporting the ability of governments and citizens to use it. We commit to supporting and developing the use of technological innovations by government employees and citizens alike. We also understand that technology is a complement, not a substitute, for clear, useable, and useful information.

We acknowledge that open government is a process that requires ongoing and sustained commitment. We commit to reporting publicly on actions undertaken to realize these principles, to consulting with the public on their implementation, and to updating our commitments in light of new challenges and opportunities.

We pledge to lead by example and contribute to advancing open government in other countries by sharing best practices and expertise and by undertaking the commitments expressed in this declaration on a non-binding, voluntary basis. Our goal is to foster innovation and spur progress, and not to define standards to be used as a precondition for cooperation or assistance or to rank countries. We stress the importance to the promotion of openness of a comprehensive approach and the availability of technical assistance to support capacity- and institution-building.

We commit to espouse these principles in our international engagement, and work to foster a global culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens, and advances the ideals of open and participatory 21st century government.

WHAT IS OGP?

In under five years, Open Government Partnership (OGP) has grown from eight founding governments to nearly 70. Each OGP government partners with civil society to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to improve governance. OGP has become a global movement of reformers working to make their governments more effective and responsive to citizens.

At the heart of each country's participation is a National Action Plan (NAP) developed in collaboration with civil society. These action plans translate the political will demonstrated when a country joins OGP into concrete action.

Each NAP contains specific commitments to enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation in government. The commitments are then subject to independent review. OGP encourages reformers to use innovations in public policy and new technologies to transform the culture of government and better serve the public.

OGP's model is unique. As a voluntary partnership that emphasizes collaboration, OGP places its trust in the power of ideas. It does not prescribe standards for openness that countries should follow, nor does it specify sectors to target. Instead, its deliberate, context-specific approach is designed to bring

government and citizens of each country together to define their own priorities for reform. Governments and citizens are encouraged to experiment with bold changes that address urgent public policy challenges, learning from and inspiring each other along the way. This emphasis on big ideas drives the nearly 2,500 commitments that have made their way into over 110 action plans since OGP was founded in 2011.

JOINING OGP

There are several steps governments must take in order to join OGP. For countries that already meet OGP's eligibility criteria this is a straightforward process. For those that do not yet meet the criteria, reforms must be made in order to qualify. The OGP Support Unit can advise governments on what steps should be taken to become eligible.

STARRED COMMITMENTS ⭐

Throughout this brochure you will find commitments classified by the Independent Reporting Mechanism as "starred." These are commitments which are measurable, specific, potentially transformative, clearly relevant to open government, and substantially or completely implemented at the time of assessment.

TO JOIN OGP GOVERNMENTS MUST:

- Meet OGP's eligibility criteria in four areas: Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information, Public Officials Asset Disclosure, and Citizen Engagement

- Send a letter of intent to join OGP to the OGP Steering Committee Co-Chairs. The letter must be signed by a senior political leader and include a commitment by the government to the principles of the Open Government Declaration

- Identify a lead ministry and begin developing a National Action Plan

- Commit to OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism process

CSOS PARTICIPATE IN OGP BY:

There is no official procedure for civil society to join OGP. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to participate in the following ways:

- Campaigning for eligibility: If you are working in a country that has not yet joined OGP, help the government meet OGP's eligibility criteria and then encourage application

- Co-creating National Action Plans: Work with your government to create National Action Plans that are ambitious, tackle major problems facing society, and have the potential to create positive changes in the lives of citizens

- Assisting implementation: Share your knowledge and experience with government officials as they work to implement commitments

- Assessing performance: Contribute to the Independent Reporting Mechanism review process, the government's self-assessment, or prepare your own assessment

- Contributing to learning: Work with other civil society organizations and governments within OGP's global network to support those in need of your expertise

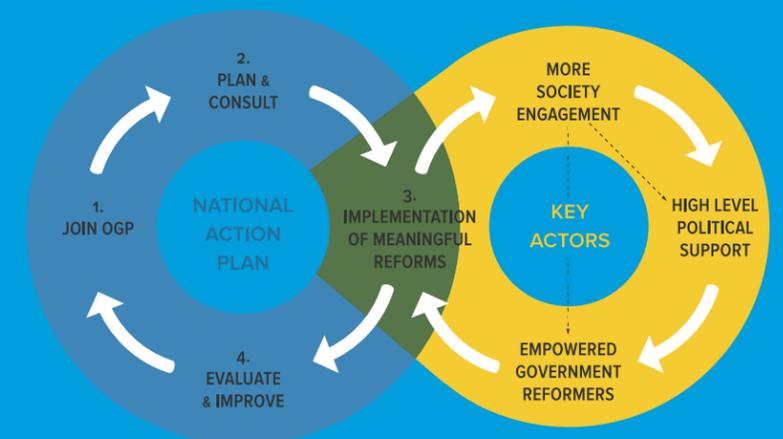- Start again: Use OGP to move forward on your next goal

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

To join OGP, governments must co-create a National Action Plan (NAP) with civil society. Each NAP should contain specific, ambitious commitments meant to enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation in government - commitments designed to tackle genuine problems and create positive changes in citizen's lives.

The NAP is where political will turns into concrete action. It ideally begins with several rounds of open consultation, in which all interested parties are invited to present and discuss ideas for commitments. After a process of prioritization, the final NAP should contain five to fifteen commitments, with input from both civil society and different government departments.

OGP encourages countries to develop a permanent dialogue mechanism between government and civil society so that they actively collaborate throughout the full national OGP cycle: first by co-creating the action plan, then by supporting and carrying-out implementation, and finally by monitoring and evaluation.

A new NAP is developed every two years and should be informed by experiences from the previous cycle, new input from civil society, and recommendations from the Independent Reporting Mechanism. Each new NAP should be a learning experience, with the objective of more ambitious reforms, greater citizen engagement, and more energetic implementation of policies.

Strengthening environmental democracy: CHILE is accelerating regional progress on the implementation of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration by developing a national and regional citizen-centered policy framework that promotes citizen's right to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental issues. ⭐

1. JOIN OGP

2. PLAN & CONSULT

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF MEANINGFUL REFORMS

4. EVALUATE & IMPROVE

MORE SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

KEY ACTORS

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL SUPPORT

EMPOWERED GOVERNMENT REFORMERS

THE INDEPENDENT REPORTING MECHANISM

The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) holds governments accountable for their commitments and allows stakeholders to track OGP progress in participating countries by producing thorough, impartial reports that track the progress of every National Action Plan (NAP).

To produce each IRM report, national experts assess governments on the development and implementation of their NAP's progress in fulfilling open government principles. They also make technical recommendations for improvements.

All IRM reports go through a rigorous quality-control process. Government and civil society actors involved in OGP are invited to contribute evidence and analysis of progress, but the final decision on the content of the reports lies with the IRM. This process helps to maintain the strength and integrity of OGP and makes it unique among governance initiatives.

The reports are intended to inform the development of the subsequent NAP, and to stimulate dialogue and promote accountability between governments and citizens.

The IRM is overseen by a group of technical experts working on open government issues, known as the International Experts Panel, and staffed by a small team in Washington, D.C. All IRM data from reports is publicly available in open data format.

Following the money: To increase government accountability for taxpayer money, the **ITALIAN** government is creating tools that allow citizens to better understand and track public spending. ⭐

Empowering citizens at the local level: **PARAGUAY** is establishing 50 councils with space for dialogue and interaction among citizens and local governments in order to provide citizens with an opportunity to participate in government decision making. ⭐

WHO WE ARE

STEERING COMMITTEE
The OGP Steering Committee guides the overall strategy of the partnership. It also oversees the Support Unit. There are 22 members, 11 from governments and 11 from civil society organizations, reflecting the OGP principle of co-decision making and collaboration. The Steering Committee rotates once a year, giving an opportunity to new members to join, and is led by four co-chairs. Careful consideration is given to ensuring regional, gender, and sectoral balance.

The Steering Committee meets in person at least three times a year, including once at Ministerial level, to approve policies, programs, and procedures. In addition, Steering Committee members play a crucial role in advancing OGP's mission by using their professional networks and diplomatic reach to encourage greater participation in OGP by their peers.

SUPPORT UNIT
OGP is supported by a permanent secretariat - the OGP Support Unit and Independent Reporting Mechanism - that designs and implements the core program of work (Government Support and Exchange, Civil Society Engagement,

Learning and Impact, Independent Reporting Mechanism, Operations, and External Communications). The Support Unit also oversees relationships with multilateral partners and funders and provides strategic and administrative assistance to the Steering Committee and the broader partnership. This includes planning and facilitating Steering Committee and subcommittee meetings, providing support in organizing global and regional OGP events, administering annual Steering Committee elections, annually updating OGP eligibility scores, and maintaining all official OGP correspondence and documents.

The Support Unit is led by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is responsible for the overall implementation of OGP's strategy and program. The CEO also manages the Support Unit, which is composed of about thirty people of fifteen different nationalities.

OGP AMBASSADORS
OGP Ambassadors are senior international figures committed to the global open government movement. They are charged with raising OGP's

profile, protecting its credibility and promoting its long-term development. The current OGP Ambassadors are Winnie Byanyima (Executive Director of Oxfam International), and Dr. Mo Ibrahim (Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation).

HOW WE'RE FUNDED
OGP's funding model reflects the partnership between government and civil society. Financial support for OGP comes from both philanthropic foundations and government donors in roughly equal measure. Foundations contribute to OGP through multiyear grants. Government support comes in the form of multiyear grants from bilateral aid agencies and annual contributions requested of all participating governments. OGP also maintains formal partnerships with seven multilateral organizations to support the development and implementation of strong National Action Plans.

RESPONSE POLICY

In 2014, the Steering Committee adopted a Policy on Upholding the Values and Principles of the Open Government Partnership, known as the Response Policy. This acknowledges that there may be issues outside the scope of National Action Plans that have a major impact on successful participation in OGP. Issues may include restrictions on basic freedoms, access to information, closing civic space or the overall operating environment for civil society. To maintain OGP's integrity and credibility—and safeguard its long-term future—it is important that participating countries uphold these values and principles, as expressed in the Open Government Declaration and in the Articles of Governance.

The Response Policy, and subsequent research and review, is triggered when the Steering Committee or the OGP Support Unit receives a letter of concern regarding a situation of relevance to OGP in a participating country from: a fellow Steering Committee member - either government or civil society a multilateral partner or working group co-anchor; or a civil society, not-for-profit organization, or media organization involved in OGP at the national or international level.

OGP SUBNATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

In April 2016, OGP announced 15 local governments chosen to participate in a groundbreaking Subnational Pilot Program: Austin, US; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Jalisco State, Mexico; La Libertad, Peru; Ontario Province, Canada; São Paulo, Brazil; Elgeyo-Marakwet County, Kenya; Kigoma Municipality, Tanzania; Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana; Madrid, Spain; Paris, France; Scotland, UK; Bojonegoro Regency, Indonesia; Seoul, South Korea; and Tbilisi, Georgia.

This program allows OGP to tap into successful open government innovations being developed at a local level. It

also allows OGP to support a growing number of subnational governments that are looking for new ways to interact with citizens, build trust, and harness the opportunities provided by new technologies to improve the lives of all citizens.

For the next two years, governments involved in the pilot program will work closely with local civil society organizations to develop their own specific commitments to open government, which will be assessed by OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism. A broader network of open government leaders (other subnational governments

and civil society organizations) will also be supported by OGP as they work with their national governments to develop and include subnational commitments in their respective NAPs.

Participants will be invited to join in learning and networking events, such as global and regional OGP Summits. We hope the Subnational Pilot Program will strengthen engagement at a subnational level and provide further support to the growing community of reformers working on open government at local and regional levels.

PEER EXCHANGE AND WORKING GROUPS

The goal of OGP's peer exchange strategy, and of its working groups, is to develop an active and mutually supportive community of reformers from around the world, engaged in specific thematic areas and experiencing similar challenges. Some peer exchange activities are organized for both government and civil society constituencies, while others are designed specifically for one or the other.

EXAMPLES OF PEER EXCHANGE IN 2015 INCLUDE:

→ South Africa, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Tanzania formed an African OGP caucus to share experiences and ideas about developing and implementing OGP National Action Plans (NAPs) based on region-specific challenges.

→ Philippines and Sierra Leone exchanged ideas from their experiences with OGP commitments related to open data and tackling corruption.

→ Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay met to exchange ideas to strengthen their commitments and explore incorporating Sustainable Development Goals in their NAPs.

The OGP peer exchange program also seeks to identify successful initiatives from one country that could be adapted to work in other countries. For example, the governments of Mexico and Colombia collaborated on dashboards and other tools for monitoring commitment implementation, with Mexico sharing the source code for its commitment-tracking site.

OGP has six thematic working groups that help governments design and implement more ambitious open government commitments, including by offering expert peer review of draft NAPs. Each working group is co-led by an OGP government and civil society organization and is open to any OGP participating country or civil society member to join.

WORKING GROUPS

OPEN DATA WORKING GROUP led by World Wide Web Foundation and the Government of Canada

ACCESS TO INFORMATION WORKING GROUP led by Carter Center and Mexico's Federal Institute for Access to Public Information and Data Protection

FISCAL OPENNESS WORKING GROUP led by the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, the Federal Secretary of Budget and Planning of the Government of Brazil, and the International Budget Partnership

OPENNESS IN NATURAL RESOURCES WORKING GROUP led by Natural Resources Governance Institute, the World Resources Institute, and the governments of Indonesia and Mexico

LEGISLATIVE OPENNESS WORKING GROUP led by the National Democratic Institute and the Congress of Chile

ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP led by Transparency International, Open Society Foundations and the governments of UK, Georgia, and Brazil

OPEN GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Presented in ceremonies at high-level events such as the OGP Global Summit and the United Nations General Assembly, the Open Government Awards are a focal point of the OGP calendar.

The awards are given to reformers from government and civil society organizations who have led open government initiatives resulting in real and sustainable change in people's lives.

A new theme for the awards is chosen each year based on OGP strategic priorities and influenced by current events and the needs and desires of citizens around the world. All submissions are reviewed and scored by an international panel of judges drawn from governments, civil society organizations, multilateral organizations, academics and funders. At the awards ceremony, winners present TED-style presentations of their initiatives, which are then featured on the OGP website.

The theme in 2016 is "making transparency count" with an emphasis placed on how transparency in government-held information has led to improved public accountability, service delivery, and decision making. Winners will be honored in a ceremony at the OGP Global Summit in Paris in December, 2016.

Shining a light on influence peddling: **IRELAND** committed to regulating lobbying and divulging the influence of lobbyists on government policy making. ★

IN 2014, THE TOP THREE WINNERS **OF THE "CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT" THEME WERE:**

Denmark, for empowering senior citizens to influence local government policy

Montenegro, for helping citizens report unregulated economic activity and create a fairer business environment

Philippines, where local government and civil society jointly allocated budgets for development projects

IN 2015, THE TOP THREE WINNERS **OF THE "IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES" THEME WERE:**

Uruguay, for giving citizens unparalleled access to the performance indicators of health-care providers

Indonesia, for developing a partnership to address complex health challenges faced by an archipelago

United Kingdom, for giving citizens power to make planning policies and shape their communities

IN ADDITION, OGP HONORED FOUR REGIONAL CHAMPIONS:

Mexico, for transforming public child-care facilities with civic engagement

Croatia, for involving citizens as designers, users and evaluators of public services

Armenia, for connecting the needs of the citizenry to the institutional development of local government

Tunisia, for increasing transparency in public procurement in a challenging political environment

OGP RESOURCES

OGP EXPLORER
An interactive digital tool that tracks progress on commitments by both country and theme. All commitment and process data is easily available, both in the form of graphs and downloadable open data.

OPEN GOV GUIDE
A resource for people working to make their governments more transparent, responsive, accountable, and effective. Co-created with partner organizations, the guide features a host of key cross-sector and sector-specific themes such as open data, civic space, legislatures, environment, and development aid. It highlights practical, measurable, specific, and actionable steps that governments and civil society should consider when developing NAPs. A special edition of the Open Gov Guide highlights how NAPs can be used to help implement the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

OGP BLOG
An online platform featuring the latest debates and developments on open government issues, including posts authored by academics, senior public officials, civil society leaders, OGP Steering Committee members, Support Unit Staff, and others from OGP's global community.

OGP NEWSLETTER AND GAZETTE
Subscribe to the OGP Newsletter (available in both English and Spanish) to start your month with timely updates on the latest OGP developments. The OGP Gazette, published in the middle of the month, provides technical and administrative updates including deadlines, grant opportunities, NAP and IRM report releases, communications tools, and job openings.

CIVIL SOCIETY MAILING LIST
Join the mailing list and connect directly with over 1,500 practitioners around the world leading efforts to steer reforms. Subscribe by sending an email to info@opengovernmentpartnership.org with "subscribe mailing list" in the subject line.

EVENTS
OGP works with host countries and international civil society organizations to convene several important events each year, including regional meetings and a biennial Global Summit. These events help facilitate peer learning by connecting reformers and giving them an opportunity to share experiences and exchange tools. OGP events also create advocacy opportunities and often offer action-forcing moments for new commitments.

WEBINARS
OGP organizes multiple webinars a month that bring together practitioners and experts to discuss innovative approaches to solving shared open government challenges.

SOCIAL MEDIA
OGP's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channels are a great way to stay on top of the latest updates and developments in the open government community.

You can find a Spanish and French translation of this brochure here.

OGP PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

CONTACT

For more information about Open Government Partnership, please contact the Support Unit.

Open Government Partnership
1110 Vermont Avenue NW
Suite 500/ Open Gov Hub
Washington, DC 20005
United States

email: info@opengovpartnership.org

telephone: +1 202 609 7859

web: opengovpartnership.org

twitter: @opengovpart

Open
Government
Partnership