GENDER COMMITMENTS FACT SHEET

Through the new Feminist Open Government Initiative in partnership with the Government of Canada, OGP seeks to encourage participating governments to adopt more gender commitments and to consider gender throughout the co-creation and implementation process. Doing so will ensure that gender considerations and women and girls' needs are part of the action plan process from start to finish.

Current OGP gender commitments cover a variety of thematic and strategic objectives, some focused on gender-specific initiatives and others that incorporate gender analysis and data within broader thematic topics. In particular, they tend to focus on increasing women's political participation and mechanisms through which citizens can hold governments accountable for the treatment and status of women and girls.

Key Takeaways:
- Integrate an explicit gender focus in commitments' design phase.
- Engage experts to analyze pressing challenges through a gender-equity lens.
- Explore and expand gender dimensions of existing OGP commitments.

Numbers at a Glance

27 OGP members have included gender commitments in their action plans to date.

54 gender commitments made to date

28 currently being implemented

22 commitments have been assessed by OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM).

2 commitments have transformative potential impact, are starred, and have shown significant early results in increasing government transparency, citizen participation, or public accountability.[1]

How many OGP participants are working on gender?
Gender is a prominent topic in the open governance community, yet less than a quarter of OGP participants **(15)** are currently implementing gender commitments.

[1]As of November 1, 2018. Since delays can occur between Action Plan submission, IRM report releases, and when data are updated in OGP databases, data may not reflect the most up to date information for every country/local entity. Scored Major or Outstanding on the Independent Report Mechanism's (IRM) Did It Open Government metric.

Open Government Partnership

So what?

The IRM assesses commitments for whether they are verifiable, relevant to open government principles, would create change on the ground, and are on their way to credible completion. We call these **"starred commitments."** Based on these criteria, **2 of 22 (9%)** gender commitments have been starred. While this is roughly double the overall average for starred commitments, so few gender commitments have been IRM-assessed that we cannot responsibly draw conclusions about rate of starred gender commitments. The IRM does not assess commitments for gender and inclusion unless they specifically mention women or gender within them.

What's the state of gender commitments at OGP?

- Notably few OGP commitments pertain specifically to gender. Those that do have below-average completion rates and often lack ambition.

- More than half of all gender-specific commitments since 2011 were made in action plans submitted in 2016 and 2017, indicating an uptick in this thematic area.

What does it all mean?

- **Incorporate gender considerations in commitment design:** Members should consider opportunities to integrate a gender focus when designing commitments. There is untapped potential for cross-pollination between gender-specific reforms and others that could easily take on a gender perspective. For example, countries should consider commitments on gender budgeting for specific programs or public services (such as health services) or create systems for gender-disaggregated data (such as gender-disaggregated procurement data).

- **Improve inclusivity of commitment creation:** Members should involve agencies and ministries working on gender-related issues and stakeholders with expertise on analyzing issues with a gender-lens in commitment design and implementation.

- **Understand effects of existing commitments:** Members should engage in further research to identify how many of their commitments are (1) gender-specific or explicitly gender-mainstreamed; (2) which commitments have differential gender impacts and how these impacts might be mitigated and; (3) which commitments are truly gender-neutral.

Notable Commitments

Buenos Aires, Argentina: Improving access to sexual and reproductive health services
To help close gaps in access to sexual and reproductive health care for youth, Buenos Aires uses online tools to engage citizens on the issue of public health. The #DÓNDE digital platform collaboratively developed by the government of Buenos Aires and the Huésped Foundation, publishes important information on the availability of sexual and reproductive health services in Buenos Aires. It allows citizens to rate their experience at the centers and lodge complaints in an effort to improve the quality of service delivery.
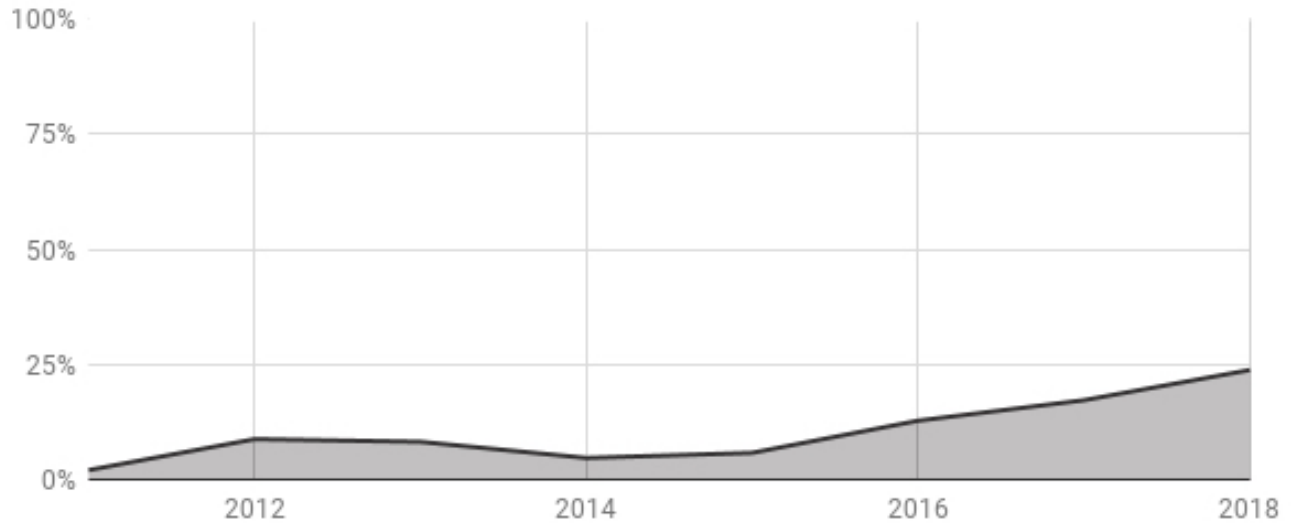
Sri Lanka: Women in local government
In 2016, the government used the OGP process to commit to implementing and maintaining a 25% mandatory quota for women within local governments, dramatically increasing women's representation in local elected office.

Ireland: Marriage for all
Ireland committed to amending its constitution by having a referendum for same-sex marriage. In doing so, Ireland now allows to people, regardless of sex, to enter a marriage – further broadening the inclusion of LGBT citizens.

Gender Commitment Growth

■ Proportion of members implementing open contracting commitments

Members Working on Gender

Members with Active Commitments in 2011:
- Norway

Members with Active Commitments in 2012:
- Guatemala, Jordan, Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway

Members with Active Commitments in 2013:
- Brazil, Guatemala, Jordan, Macedonia, Montenegro

Members with Active Commitments in 2014:
- Ireland, Macedonia, Brazil

Members with Active Commitments in 2015:
- Colombia, Malta, Ireland, Macedonia

Members with Active Commitments in 2016:
- Jalisco, Buenos Aires, El Salvador, Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Colombia, Malta

Members with Active Commitments in 2017:
- Afghanistan, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Spain, Jalisco, Buenos Aires, Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Uruguay

Members with Active Commitments in 2018:
- Afghanistan, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Spain, Bojonegoro Regency, Buenos Aires, Côte d'Ivoire, Elgeyo Marakwet, Honduras, Kaduna State, Macedonia, Mexico, Sierra Leone