New Commitments, New Approaches:
Emerging Policy Areas
in 2018–2020 Action Plans

Open
Government
Partnership

Introduction

In 2011, government leaders and civil society advocates came together to create a unique partnership - one that combines these powerful forces to promote accountable, responsive and inclusive governance. Seventy-nine countries and a growing number of local governments - representing more than two billion people - along with thousands of civil society organizations form the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

This publication highlights notable commitments from the 2018-2020 action plans in five emerging policy areas within the OGP community. These reforms represent the multi-faceted approaches OGP members are taking as part of a global open governance movement. In 2018, the OGP Multi-Donor Trust Fund began providing its support in the co-creation process in nine countries and local governments to help enhance ambition and ownership of their action plans. This publication will showcase a selection of these commitments as well.

Gender and Inclusion

Commitments that are intentional, strategic, and ambitious in bringing women and underrepresented groups into the OGP process and ensuring that reforms are inclusive of all people's needs.

Justice

Commitments that empower citizens through access to information about legal institutions, accountable justice-sector institutions, and effective legal assistance.

Anti-Corruption

Commitments that tackle corruption through prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and sanction, with a focus on creating and leveraging registries that expose company ownership and enforcing open contracting principles.

Public Services

Commitments that help improve services like healthcare, education, water, and public infrastructure, through reforms ranging from opening data to directly engaging the public in decision-making.

Civic Engagement

Commitments that mobilize citizens to engage in policy dialogue, provide input and monitoring that lead to more responsive, innovative, and effective governance.

Multi-Donor Trust Fund Enhanced Co-Creation Support

With the support of development partners and the World Bank, OGP has established the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) to support participating countries and local members with co-creation and implementation of OGP commitments and action plans.

Gender and Inclusion

Opening up government is an underexplored method for accelerating gender equality and closing critical gaps in information, access, and participation for underrepresented groups. When the contributions of women and marginalized communities are absent from open government, the loss is extraordinary…and the consequences real. Many core OGP policy areas can be enhanced by acknowledging the skills, perspectives and lived experiences of traditionally marginalized groups and building systems that address their concerns. OGP offers an action platform to advance inclusion and equality for women and marginalized groups in both national and local action plans. The following are examples of commitments on gender and inclusion in the 2018-2020 action plans.

CANADA
COMMITMENT #8
Feminist and Inclusive Dialogue

Many traditionally marginalized communities in Canada continue to face obstacles to accessing government information and participating in decision-making. To foster more inclusivity in its public engagement, Canada committed to implementing Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), a tool used to assess how women, men and non-binary people experience public policies. The commitment also includes increased publication of gender and inclusion data and gender-based impact analyses of Canadian action plan commitments. The government will form a Federal Housing Advocate and National Housing Council, and a National Advisory Council on Poverty. The councils will reflect Canada's diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity, regions, indigenous peoples, official languages, and include Canadians with experience living in poverty.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
COMMITMENT #5
Training Youth Councils

In 2018, the Dominican Republic committed to training 1,200 young citizens on the Legal Framework of Auditing and Social Control in the Dominican Republic. Through these training sessions, youth will gain familiarity with their rights to access public information from the government and how to participate in policy creation. The councils will ultimately propose a youth-led oversight and monitoring plan for public policies that could be implemented across all municipalities.

MALTA
COMMITMENT #2
"I Belong" Program for Migrant Integration

Increasing ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity in Malta has resulted in the creation of a Migrant Integration Strategy, out of which the "I Belong" program will be launched. The initiative seeks to build a partnership between the government, civil society, and migrants grappling with societal integration. To help migrants qualify for permanent resident status, the state will offer educational courses on local laws and customs, as well as Maltese and English language learning. A public "befriend a migrant" awareness campaign and a pool of cultural mediators ready to assist at points of government service will help create an environment of belonging for all new residents.

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
COMMITMENT #1
Digitizing Subway Maps for Vulnerable Populations

Maps of the Seoul subway system often lack comprehensible transfer routes and clear markers of elevators, making them difficult to navigate for vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant women. Seoul has committed to converting its subway map into Open API, a digital format that can be easily updated and is accessible through a mobile app. The city will partner with Muui, a media production group combating social stigmas around disabilities, and other civil society organizations to generate continuous updates to the new digital map system.

URUGUAY
COMMITMENT #2.2
Opening Data on Gender-Based Violence

In Uruguay, there is sustained public interest for information on gender-based violence, yet data collected by the government has been kept in decentralized and often inaccessible formats. In response to public demand for greater access to this information, Uruguay committed to designing an open format digital model for the centralization and publication of data on gender-based violence. The government will develop visualizations of the data to improve understanding of the information by all Uruguayans. This newly centralized database will set a standard for open data on gender-based violence that could be replicated across Latin America.

Justice

To achieve open government, citizens must have the ability to seek and obtain remedy for grievances and protect their rights when they are infringed upon by government, corporations, or other citizens. A fair and accessible justice system offers its citizens this opportunity through access to information about legal institutions, accountable justice sector institutions, and effective legal assistance when necessary. Recently, OGP members have begun to focus their commitments in this area on strengthening access to justice for marginalized groups. The following are examples of commitments on justice in the 2018-2020 action plans.

HONDURAS
COMMITMENT #15
Digital Open Justice

Honduras will increase judicial transparency by developing a digital system where citizens can review judicial processes and court sentences in an open format online and through a newly developed phone app. The government will then take a multi-faceted approach to expanding access to justice by training judicial staff on the importance and practical implications of open justice and by gradually extending the National Service of Judicial Enablers throughout the country, giving Hondurans better access to legal aid services.

INDONESIA
COMMITMENT #15
Increasing the Quantity and Quality of Legal Aid Services

Indonesia aims to combat the unequal distribution of legal aid services, which provide legal advice and representation to ordinary citizens seeking justice through the court system. Through this commitment, the government will create regulations that guarantee funding for the legal aid organizations, allowing them to expand their reach to more remote and poorer communities. The government will also begin a civic education campaign to teach citizens how to identify violations of their rights and how legal aid providers can help them win justice for their grievances.

NORTH MACEDONIA
COMMITMENT #6
Implementing a Universal Right to Free Legal Assistance

For many Macedonians — especially those in poor or marginalized communities — the justice system is often inaccessible, and it's difficult to assess whether their grievances are legal problems. To improve knowledge and use of the legal system, North Macedonia will adopt a law guaranteeing citizens free legal assistance. An accompanying Ministry of Justice database will house all information about where and how to access these legal services. The Ministry will also monitor legal assistance providers' compliance with the new law and conduct a public education campaign to ensure citizens understand their right to free legal assistance. Civil society organizations will manage newly established access to justice centers in four municipalities with significant Roma populations, a marginalized group who have previously experienced issues accessing the legal system.

Anti-Corruption

Two key methods of combating corruption that have seen growing focus in OGP are beneficial ownership transparency and open contracting.

Beneficial owners are the individuals who ultimately possess, control, or benefit from a company and its income. However, complex corporate structures make the beneficial owners' identity unclear, giving way to the formation of anonymous shell companies. Many OGP members are taking steps to make beneficial ownership information more transparent, thus making it more difficult for individuals to benefit from crime and corruption.

Countries provide goods, services, and critical infrastructure to their citizens through government contracts worth trillions of U.S. dollars every year. That makes public procurement one of the main global expenses, but also the number one corruption risk for countries. Through open contracting, information on government contracts is published in an open and timely manner, enabling citizens to become more engaged in tracking public expenditures.

The following are examples of commitments on beneficial ownership and open contracting in the 2018-2020 action plans.

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

CHILE
COMMITMENT #11
Co-Creating a Beneficial Ownership Register Policy

The lack of a centralized beneficial ownership register has prevented Chile from reaching full compliance with its international obligations, including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the OECD Common Reporting Standard. To bring itself in line with the global beneficial ownership transparency community, Chile committed to collaborating with public institutions and civil society organizations to co-create a proposal for a centralized beneficial ownership register. The government will perform an initial analysis, looking at similar policies adopted in the United Kingdom and the European Union. The final policy will give particular focus to companies that do business with the state or receive state subsidies.

KENYA
COMMITMENT #1
Beneficial Ownership and Corrupt Practices Register

In its 2016 action plan, Kenya undertook the process of collecting and storing information on the beneficial owners of companies. In 2018, Kenya committed to building on this progress by working with the private sector and non-governmental organizations to develop new beneficial ownership regulations and launch a public beneficial ownership register in Kenya, including

a central database of foreign and local companies bidding on public contracts and buying property. The database will include a module with information on companies and individuals convicted of bribery and corrupt practices.

OPEN CONTRACTING

FRANCE
COMMITMENT #2
Expanding Open Contracting Standards Across Territories

France is publishing public procurement data in an open format, in adherence to the Open Contracting Data Standard, and has committed to expanding standardization to cover all public purchasers (state and local authorities, hospitals, public institutions, etc.). This single flow of interoperable and reusable contracting data will be made available on data.gouv.fr and piloted in the Brittany and Occitania regions. The French government will gradually disseminate new procurement publication practices across other French territories and other countries that are in the process of adopting international open contracting data standards.

KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA
COMMITMENT #2
OCDS and "Eyes and Ears"

In Kaduna State, ministries, departments and agencies don't proactively disclose public procurement data, and citizen participation in procurement processes are

minimal. To improve accountability and transparency in government contracting, Kaduna State committed to gradual implementation of the Open Contracting Data Standard. The government will pilot a new e-procurement portal with open data from the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Environment and Works, Housing, and Transport. The portal will also be linked with the existing "Eyes and Ears" platform, which allows for the public to digitally monitor and submit feedback on the newly OCDS compliant procurement process.

PORTUGAL
COMMITMENT #8
Adopting OCDS and Increasing Bidder Competition

To counter the pervasive perception of corruption in the awarding of public tenders, Portugal committed to adopting the Open Contracting Data Standard. Data from the entire public procurement cycle will be published in an open format that is accessible to all. Open contracting will prevent officials from awarding contracts directly to their allies, promote healthy competition between bidders, and will ensure public money is well spent. Critically, new civic participation and monitoring tools will also be developed, including hackathons and "Integrity Pacts" between contracting authorities and civil society members.

Civic Engagement

Civic participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process and includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision. It promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers. It provides participants with the information they need to engage in a meaningful way and communicates to participants how their input affected the ultimate decision. Many OGP members have included innovative commitments that promote greater and more inclusive civic participation. The following are examples of commitments on civic engagement in the 2018-2020 action plans.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE
COMMITMENT #2
Collaborating on the Development of Preschools

In Côte d'Ivoire, the preschool attendance rate is as low as 5% in rural areas, compared to 30% in urban areas. Côte d'Ivoire will aim to scale up the number of adequate preschool facilities available in rural areas by taking a collaborative approach to school facility development. The government will undertake training of community members on topics like financial management and participative monitoring of infrastructure projects and procurement. Côte d'Ivoire

aims to construct 80 sustainable preschool facilities taking a Participative Decentralized Approach (PDA), transferring financial resources to communities and empowering citizens to participate in local development projects.

ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY, KENYA
COMMITMENT #2
Collaborating With Vulnerable Groups on Policy

Due to a lack of secure and accessible spaces, vulnerable groups in Elgeyo Marakwet have not been able to participate in shaping their county's budget and policy priorities. This has meant that their most urgent needs have not been met. In response, the County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet committed to establishing special interest groups for children, women, youth, and people with disabilities to actively collaborate with public officials to influence government planning, budgeting and policy priorities. The county government will aim to achieve the "collaboration" level on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum, incorporating citizen feedback in budget and policy decisions while providing public explanations where citizen input isn't used.

NETHERLANDS
COMMITMENT #11
Digital Democracy

A 2017 international comparative study concluded that the Dutch government is insufficiently open to public participation in policy making and direct democracy, with digital applications in particular being underutilized. In response, the Netherlands has committed to supporting democratic processes through the piloting of a new digital democracy platform. The digital participation system will be tested across 10 to 20 municipalities using both open and closed source tools, while promoting open source as the programming standard. A primary goal will be to increase the responsiveness of local authorities to citizen inquiries and to allow for digital consultation with the public on policy design and implementation.

NEW ZEALAND
COMMITMENT #5
Deepening Public Participation in Open Governance Reforms

To date, the majority of public consultations on policy issues in New Zealand have fallen in the "inform and consent" category of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum, with public participation occurring late in the policy development cycle. In 2018, New Zealand committed to launching a participation guidance decision tool that will assist

public officials in assessing how best to deepen public engagement. Once the tool has been launched, New Zealand will pilot a "live" policy issue with a higher level of public participation in policy development.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
COMMITMENT #5
Forming State-Society Partnerships

In adherence to its constitutional National Goals and Directive Principles, which call for active citizen participation in budgetary processes, Papua New Guinea will develop a national policy on state-society partnerships. In consultation with government representatives, a roundtable comprised of civil society organizations from all 22 provinces will convene annually and present budget proposals that reflect civil society priorities. Memoranda of Agreements will be signed between local governments and civil society in three provinces, consisting of pledges to include citizens in development and implementation of budget plans.

Public Services

The successful provision of critical public services – such as healthcare, education, and sanitation, among others – can shape the relationship that citizens have with their governments, as well as their trust in the system. Representing large portions of government budgets, public services should not only respond to the needs and preferences of citizens, but should also be transparent, efficient, and accessible by all. Integrating open government principles in service delivery can direct public investments where they are needed, expand the reach of the services, enable feedback mechanisms, and allow citizens to monitor the delivery and quality of the services. The following are examples of commitments on public services in the 2018-2020 action plans.

EDUCATION

**CZECH REPUBLIC
COMMITMENT #4.3**
Open Education Data

The Czech Republic committed to launching the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Departmental Information System (MEYS DIS), which will act as a platform for the publication of education system data in an open format. A variety of qualitative and quantitative data relating to the current number of school facilities, students, teaching and non-teaching staff, classes, departments, school equipment, and more will be publicly available through MEYS DIS. The new system will vastly improve the accessibility of education data to citizens, which had existed largely in aggregated formats or was only viewable if first publicly requested.

HEALTH

**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
COMMITMENT #3**
Performance Transparency in Health Systems

In 2017, the health system in the Kyrgyz Republic received a public trust index score far lower than most other government agencies. A lack of health budget transparency has been a major avenue for corruption. The government has committed to developing new regulations to prompt the publication of health budget and drug data in an open format from over 200 primary, secondary and tertiary level health organizations to regain the public trust. New quality assessment tools will let citizens see how health organizations are performing and whether they're achieving positive patient outcomes.

INFRASTRUCTURE

**SEKONDI-TAKORADI, GHANA
COMMITMENT #1**
Adopting the Cost Infrastructure Data Standard

Seeking greater participation of citizens in the infrastructure planning process and improved public understanding of procurement data, Sekondi-Takoradi will adopt the global Construction Sector Transparency (CoST) Infrastructure Data Standard. The government will develop and launch a digital geo-spatial information platform to openly publish infrastructure project procurement and implementation documents. The city will also increase the involvement of its citizens in infrastructure planning, including needs assessments, site selection and project design. Two hundred local "community champions" will undergo training to better understand public infrastructure information and use it to demand greater accountability.

WATER

**PARAGUAY
COMMITMENT #12**
Digital Platform for Water and Sanitation Systems

To improve the quality and availability of clean drinking water and sanitation services throughout the country, Paraguay will adopt the SIASAR (Rural Water and Sanitation System) digital platform. The online tool will allow for public monitoring and evaluation of open data on local water supply and rural sanitation systems. A working group made up of representatives from non-governmental organizations, municipalities, and donor groups will oversee the promotion and uptake of the tool throughout the country.

Multi-Donor Trust Fund Enhanced Co-Creation Support

With the support of development partners and the World Bank, OGP has established the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and awarded the first set of grants in 2018. The OGP MDTF supports participating country and local members in co-creating and implementing OGP commitments and action plans, and generating, curating and disseminating knowledge on open government reform. Nine OGP members were selected for co-creation support in 2018. Through this program, awardees were provided support with the goal of involving a broader range of domestic actors in co-creation, developing a more inclusive process, strengthening government ownership, improving prioritization of relevant themes, and increasing commitment ambition. The following are examples of commitments from the MDTF co-creation support recipients in the 2018-2020 action plans.

ARMENIA
COMMITMENT #3
Beneficial Ownership Register Helps Close the Enforcement Gap

A lack of transparency requirements for the beneficial owners of legal entities in Armenia has undermined existing laws prohibiting public officials from engaging in business activities. In consultation with representatives from civil society and the private sector, the Armenian government committed to launching an open beneficial ownership register, adhering to the internationally established Beneficial Ownership Data Standard. The new register will be piloted with beneficial owners of companies involved in metal mining, one of the largest industries in the country.

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL
COMMITMENT #5
Restoring Public Trust Through Budget and Bidding Transparency

Data on the contract bidding processes and budget of São Paulo City Hall are disclosed on a variety of decentralized portals and online systems, often in closed formats, or are missing entirely. Recognizing obfuscation of budget and spending data as a source

of public distrust in government, São Paulo committed to integrating the digital systems containing data on public contracts, bidding and budgetary execution into a single online portal. The newly centralized data will be published in an open format, and the city will train citizens to better understand their capabilities for oversight of the bidding processes.

TUNISIA
COMMITMENT #7
Open Contracting in Hydrocarbons

Contracting in the hydrocarbon sector in Tunisia is often characterized by immense complexity, which can act as a barrier to transparency and good governance of oil and gas resources. Tunisia committed to revising its hydrocarbon legal framework and publishing contract data through the entire selection process in an open format. The Advisory Committee on hydrocarbons will also publish meeting minutes, and the government will publish data on companies contracting with the state and the Tunisian Enterprise of Petroleum.

Open Government Partnership brings together government reformers and civil society leaders to create action plans that make governments more inclusive, responsive and accountable.

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