

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Republic of Armenia

Midterm Self-Assessment Report

Second National Action Plan (2014 – 2016)

September, 2015

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
National Action Plan Process	3
<i>OGP/Armenia Second National Action Plan Development Process.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Consultations during OGP/Armenia Second National Action Plan Implementation.....</i>	<i>5</i>
Public Discussions and Recommendations on the Self-Assessment Report.....	6
Independent Reporting Mechanism Recommendations	7
Implementation of OGP/Armenia Second National Action Plan Commitments.....	8
Conclusion.....	17

Introduction

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

The Republic of Armenia constantly aspires to take advantage of every opportunity to ensure a functioning democracy. In this regard the [Open Government Partnership](#) (hereinafter OGP) is highly valued as a mechanism to enhance the open, efficient and accountable operation of the government, as well as a mechanism to trigger active public participation in public administration.

It is obvious that our country could not afford staying apart from this global process. This is testified to by the fact that the OGP process is in the focus of the President's attention. In [April 2015 during the 5th media conference, entitled "At the Foot of Mount Ararat" the RA President](#) prioritized in his speech Armenia's active participation in the processes of the OGP initiative.

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

Armenia's involvement in the OGP initiative is notable, especially, due to the active participation of the civil society. In the last decade Armenia has hardly had as much public participation in larger programs as it witnessed in the course of the preparatory work for the draft second AP.

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

The important steps for the improvement of public services include, for example, ensuring the transparency of the activities implemented by local self-governments within the framework of which it is envisaged to create and update community websites, to publish all the legal acts passed by community authorities, notifications about Elder's Council sessions, public discussions and hearings and to ensure online broadcasting of the Elder's Council sessions. Besides, the "Introduction of community micro-survey program in 10 communities" commitment is also aimed to address the above-mentioned challenge, within the framework of which the community population is involved in the decision making process of the self-government bodies, in this way dictating services that are mostly demanded by the population.

For example, the regulation of ensuring transparency in the mining industry, the planning of state budget for educational services in general education and the transparency of its annual expenditure are the activities that will address issues in the efficient management of public assets.

And the transparency of the declarations on property and income of the RA officials, along with steps to ensure the online broadcasts of Public Procurements Appeals Board sessions and other activities shall promote public integrity.

It is no secret that it is a mandatory directive 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 National Action Plan Development Process

Jointly with the representatives of the civil society, the RA Government launched the development of the second AP, on the basis of the [recommendations of the independent reporting mechanism](#) (hereinafter IRM) and

with a consideration of the unprecedented experience gained as a result of the development of the OGP – First Action Plan for the Republic of Armenia and its implementation in the autumn of 2013.

Taking into consideration the circumstance that the information on the timeframe for the conclusion of the OGP-First Action Plan for the Republic of Armenia (which was made evident from the very title already) and the development and approval of the new, second AP was publicly available, no special announcement was published on the timeline for the development and public discussion works for the draft of the new, second AP. At the same time it should be noted that there were multiple announcements on the submission of proposals for the development and discussion of the second AP during the working meetings of the OGP process coordinator working group and the individual meetings and conversations with the representatives of the civil society.

The second AP has been drawn up based on the recommendations put forth by both the Government and the civil society, involving areas such as mining, health care, education, local self-government, freedom of information and so on. 8 of the 11 commitments involved in the plan have been incorporated from the proposals received from the civil society, and the remaining 3 were proposed by the RA Government.

A new working group has been established to develop the plan and to coordinate the deriving actions (by the respective decision of the RA Prime-Minister). The new working group was composed of the representatives of 8 non-governmental organizations (hereinafter NGO), namely, all the NGOs that were interested in being involved in the working group and applied with the corresponding request.

An electronic notification on the launch of the development process of the Second AP was sent to those representatives of the civil society who were members of the working group, and an order was sent to public administration institutions, offering to submit recommendations on commitments to be incorporated in the second AP.

The draft of the plan was developed based on the proposals submitted by state agencies. Subsequently, it was posted onto the www.ogp.am website to raise public awareness and to receive the recommendations of the civil society. The draft drawn up by the NGOs actively involved in the process and an announcement on the submission of recommendations were also circulated among the citizens and other partner NGOs. In parallel with these measures, the draft was discussed several times during the sessions of the dedicated working group (particularly, on September 9, 2013, and November 26, 2013). To continue public discussions, [on April 5-6, 2014, in Aghveran](#) the RA Government, jointly with the Freedom of Information Center NGO and with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development and the United Nations Development Program organized a seminar, entitled “OGP-Armenia: Transparency and Accountability. Partnership between the Government and the Civil Society.” During the event, both the draft Plan and the new proposals submitted by state agencies and non-governmental organizations were discussed.

Meanwhile, to include new proposals in the Plan and to ensure public awareness, “Asparez” (Arena) Journalists’ Club of Gyumri organized an awareness raising campaign and a series of meetings, as a result of which a number of NGOs also submitted recommendations to the RA Government. For the further consideration and clarification of the above-mentioned recommendations, a workshop was held with the representatives of state agencies and the civil society at the Staff of the Government on **June 5, 2014**. The final draft was discussed and approved during the working group session on [July 15, 2014](#), based on Prime Minister’s Decision No 656, dated July 15, 2014. The final public discussion of the draft Plan was held [in Yerevan on July 18, 2014](#) within the frame of an event organized jointly by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the "Freedom of Information Center" NGO with the financial support of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. Besides the members of the above-mentioned working group, the workshop was also attended by several representatives of the civil society and international organization.

A total of [about 50 proposals](#) were submitted, 11 of which have been selected as relevant to the OGP principles and its format. It should be noted that every proposal was discussed both individually with the author submitting it, and in the course of general working group sessions.

When developing its OGP Second Action Plan the RA Government was guided by the principle of incorporating commitments to respectively overcome the OGP challenges, as well as by the OGP principles and the format for the development of an action plan available at www.opengovpartnership.org.

[A summary](#) of recommendations not incorporated in the plan was drafted in which the RA Government provided a substantiation and clarification on the reasons of leaving those out of the Plan. The working group members were provided with this summary, and it was uploaded onto the www.ogp.am website which is publicly accessible.

With regard to the proposals not incorporated in the plan, the RA Government has expressed willingness to discuss the probable mechanisms of their implementation beyond the OGP initiative with the civil society, however, until today this proposal 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 Center for Information Freedom NGO. As a result of cooperation among the Center for Information Freedom NGO, other partner NGOs and the RA Ministry of Justice, the [draft of the RA Government Decree](#) on “Establishing the Procedure of Recording, Classifying and Maintaining Data Processed by the Sent to the Information Owner, as well as the Procedure of the Provision of Information or a Copy of a document by State and Local Self-Governments, Public Institutions and Organizations). Public discussions have been held on the draft, and it was submitted to the RA Government for discussion in September 2015.

It should be noted that the finalization of the second AP and its approval by the RA Government coincided with the resignation of the RA Government, headed by the RA Prime Minister and the formation of the new Cabinet. Hence, the above-mentioned circumstance is to account for the fact that *the Plan was approved by the RA Government Decree and submitted with some deviation from the established timeline.*

Consultations during OGP/Armenia Second National Action Plan Implementation

The Second AP was approved by Protocol Decree N. 32 of the RA Government, dated July 31, 2014. The implementation of some commitments was launched in September, 2014. It has been about a year since the launch of the Plan, during which numerous meetings and discussions have been held within the framework of the dialogue platform between the civil society and the government at the initiative of both the Government and the NGOs.

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

Particularly, **Commitment 4** of the Plan (RA Government Draft Decree on “Amendments to the RA Decree N 1835-N, dated December 15, 2011”) was uploaded on the www.ogp.am website to [hold public discussions](#) and receive the opinions of the civil society and was presented to 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 for a few months now about **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, with the support of the US Embassy in Armenia the “Journalists for the Future” NGO [workshops](#) were held with the active assistance of the RA Government, entitled “Open Government

Partnership Initiative”. The discussions within the framework of the workshops aimed at the provision of the necessary knowledge and literature about the OGP initiative, as well as the commitments undertaken by the RA Government and the process of their implementation. A representative of the RA Government Staff participated in one of the 7 workshops, presenting the OGP process, the incorporated commitments, the criteria for their selection, as well as the process of their implementation. The closing event of the series of workshops was held in Erebuni Plaza Business Center on February 3, 2015, with the participation of the representatives of stakeholder NGOs, the RA Government and international partner organizations.

On March 3, 2015, in the Picasso hall of the Congress hotel the enlarged session of the OGP working group was held. The session was attended not only by OGP working group members but also by the representatives of local and international organizations. 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. The event was organized by the RA Government, jointly with Freedom of Information Center NGO, with the financial assistance of the British Embassy in Yerevan.

On April 15, 2015 the session of the coordination working group of the OGP initiative was held at the RA Government. 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 both the Government, and the civil society and international organizations.

On June 29, 2015 at Congress Hotel a seminar entitled “Tools for civil society for the monitoring and evaluation of Open Governance Partnership – Armenia processes” was held in Yerevan, organized by the “Freedom of Information Center” NGO and the with the assistance of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. The methodology and phases of evaluating OGP processes and the AP, as well as issues related to the effective implementation of the Plan were discussed. The session was attended by the representatives of the RA Government Staff, NGOs, and international organizations.

In September 2015 it is planned to hold an enlarged session of the working group during which issues related to the process of the implementation of commitments, the evaluation and monitoring of the plan, as well as the further steps and the issues related to the launch of the third Action Plan will be discussed.

Public Discussions and Recommendations on the Self-Assessment Report

In order to ensure public discussions and proposals on the draft midterm self-assessment report on OGP/Armenia Second NAP, the staff of the Government of Armenia posted it on the www.ogp.am website on September 4, 2015, and sent it to the members of the working group via e-mail with a request to read it and circulate it among other stakeholder NGOs and individuals. September 21, 2015, was fixed as the deadline for the proposals and public discussions, thus factually providing a period longer than 2 weeks. During this time individual discussions were held on the draft report between a number of state bodies and the member of the working group Center for Information Freedom NGO. The questions raised during the discussions and all the proposals received via e-mail correspondence have been incorporated in the Self-Assessment Report.

Independent Reporting Mechanism Recommendations

On the basis of the recommendations, presented in the report of the Independent Reporting Mechanism (hereinafter IRM) researcher on the OGP- First Action Plan for the Republic of Armenia, the RA Government introduced corrections in the development and implementation processes of the second AP.

It was recommended to

- *Involve a larger number of specialized and regional NGOs in the development of the Action Plan,*
- *To publish a brief overview of the public discussions results,*
- *To publish all the received proposals and to organize broad public discussions,*
- *To select commitments that matched the OGP principles and values.*

Thus, a larger number of NGOs were involved in the process of the development of the second AP, which in their turn, acting as working group members, had discussions with stakeholders and held meetings with other specialized and regional partner NGOs, collected numerous proposals and submitted them to the RA Government. Besides, the timeframe allocated for the public discussions on the second AP was longer than that intended for the first AP, during which multiple meetings were held with both the representatives of the civil society and the representatives of state agencies to have all the submitted proposals discussed. Individual proposals were also discussed personally with their authors or the representative of the entity submitting them.

It should be noted that the meetings/discussions were open and were attended not only by the members of the working group, but also by the representatives of all stakeholder NGOs, state agencies, and partner international institutions.

The results of the meetings/discussions have been published on the www.ogp.am website in the form of brief overviews and have been publicly accessible. All the received recommendations, whether incorporated in the AP or not, and the comments of the RA Government have been published on the same website.

Based on the already gained experience and using the materials and templates provided by the OGP support office and available at the www.opengovpartnership.org website, and taking into consideration the recommendations of the IRM, OGP-Second Action Plan for the Republic of Armenia was developed in compliance with the OGP format and its principles, and aims at overcoming the OGP challenges.

A lead implementing agency, a partner agency or organization, timelines, verifiable and measureable milestones have been established for every commitment, a description of the current situation and issues within the scope of its regulation, as well as the objective of the commitment have been provided, specifying which challenge the commitment derives from and the promotion of which OGP values it is meant for.

Implementation of OGP/Armenia Second National Action Plan Commitments

1. Digitization and publication of data in the 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		Vardan Vardanyan		
Title, Department		Head of Mining Department		
E-mail		vvrula@rambler.ru		
Phone		+37411 32 32 72, mobile: +37491 51 25 24		
Other actors involved	Government			
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	United States Agency for International Development USAID (upon consent)		
Main objective		It is planned to fully digitize the information available at the fund (over 12,000 geological reports on approximately 750 mines and 600 mineral occurrences and 8,000 mapping and drawing packages), at the same time ensuring the digitization of new materials (maps, financial and non-financial reports and other documents).		
Brief Description of Commitment		Introduction of electronic databases on mining in the Republic of Armenia		
Relevance		Access to information, public accountability, technologies and innovation for openness and accountability		
Ambition		Will improve and facilitate public access to information about mining. Information will be published about the rights to subsurface mining for extraction purposes, about the rights to mining provided by the geological studies for the purpose of extracting minerals, about rights to mining for the extraction of underground mineral waters. The map of metal minerals will be published, too.		
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial
		V		
Description of the results		Negotiations are underway with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); the latter proposed to the Government of the Republic of Armenia to grant respective financial assistance for the implementation of the planned events with the participation of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The above-mentioned negotiations are currently at the final stage.		
End date		December 2016		
Next Steps		Signing a relevant agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).		
Additional Information				
Delay in the implementation of this commitment is conditioned by the negotiations on the agreement and terms for the use of the finances.				

2. Ensuring transparency in mining	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Vardan Vardanyan
Title, Department	Head of Mining Department
E-mail	vvrula@rambler.ru
Phone	+37411 32 32 72, mobile: +37491 51 25 24

Other actors involved	Government	RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RA Ministry of Justice, RA Ministry of Economy, RA Ministry of Finance			
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, 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	Launching the process of joining the Exporting Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), particularly, holding discussions, negotiations and other necessary preparatory actions.				
Relevance	Access to information, public accountability, civic participation				
Ambition	Ensuring a high level of accountability, as well as improvement of the investment environment.				
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
					V
Description of the results	The willingness of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to join the Exporting Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) was announced during the first session of the Anti-Corruption Council in the RA Government on July 28, 2015, and the coordination of the respective processes was assigned to David Harutyunyan, Minister-Chief of the Government Staff.				
End date	December 2016				
Next Steps	Establishment of a group involving numerous stakeholders, development of the work plan by the established group, submission of the EITI candidacy application form				

3. Ensuring public awareness about health care financing

Lead implementing agency	RA Ministry of Health				
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Saro Tsaturyan				
Title, Department	Head of State Health Agency of the RA Ministry of Health				
E-mail	stsaturyan@moh.am				
Phone	+37410 65-47-11				
Other actors involved	Government				
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals				
Main objective	To create a financial portal for the healthcare system where the 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 reports and other kinds of information.				
Brief Description of Commitment	Creating a reporting website for outpatient polyclinic analysis, creating an analytical and information webpage for the State Health Agency				
Relevance	Access to information, public accountability, civic participation, transparency				
Ambition	The implementation of the commitment will contribute to better public awareness on the healthcare financing mechanisms, on the package of free medical care services guaranteed by the state, and on the services actually provided within the framework of the free medical care guaranteed by the state, to improve the transparency of and public accountability on the policy implemented by the state in the given field which will entail more intensive public participation in these				

	processes.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			V	
Description of the results	<p>The website of the State Health Agency (sha.am) has been created. It contains information about the free medical care package guaranteed by the state and the healthcare financing mechanisms, along with two modules of reports submission, namely “Reporting Systems” and 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 RA Ministry of Health, medical organizations implementing state-paid services and the officials in charge of the regional segments of the RA healthcare system, who need to primarily receive a username and password from the State Health Agency of the RA Ministry of Health to use the reporting system. Depending on the authorities of the user, the reports are grouped under the domains of republican, regional and medical institutions.</p> <p>The ‘For Public’ section can be accessed by anyone interested in information on the medical care and services within state-paid packages. In this case in order to log onto that section there is no need for provision of a username and password by the State Health Agency of the RA Ministry of Health. It suffices only to get registered in the established manner and to individually select a username and a password.</p> <p>All the above-mentioned reports can be received by the user’s choice grouped according to the criteria of the regional location (City of Yerevan, RA marzes), age (up to 18, 18 and over) and time (2011 – 2014). The received reports can be displayed in MS Excel, MS Word or Adobe Acrobat formats.</p> <p>The Data System section of the Outpatient Polyclinic Reporting and Analytical Portal enables public users to receive different reports on the state programs implemented in primary healthcare (PHC) (grouped by RA marzes, medical institutions and other search criteria), including reports and data 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>			
End date	September 2015			
Next Steps	Presentation of the technical possibilities of the website to stakeholder civil society organizations			
Additional information				
The design works on the webpage have been concluded, all the sections for uploading the required information have been designed. The reports are available and can be accessed by public users. The works on adding information onto the website are underway.				

4. Ensuring transparency of asset and income declarations of the RA high-ranking officials	
Lead implementing agency	The Commission on Ethics of the High-Ranking Officials (upon consent)
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Siranush Sahakyan
Title, Department	Chairperson of the Commission
E-mail	info@ethics.am
Phone	+37410524689
Other actors involved	Government RA Ministry of Justice, RA Ministry of Finances

	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 the RA high-ranking officials		
Brief Description of Commitment		The list of data to be presented in the declarations on property and income of high-ranking officials and subject to publicity established by the Government Decision N 1835-N of December 15, 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 by the public.		
Relevance		Transparency		
Ambition		Increasing public integrity		
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial
				V
Description of the results		The thresholds established for property operations have been eliminated from the data subject to publicity by the adoption of Decree N150 of the RA Government, dated February 19, 2015, «On Amendments to the RA Government Decree N 1835-N of December 15, 2011, and Decree N 1819-N, dated December 15, 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		RA Government Staff		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Harutyun Tunyan		
Title, Department		Acting Head of Procurement Support Center SNCO		
E-mail		tunyan@armeps.am		
Phone		+374 10 28-93-24		
Other 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		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 RA Procurement Appeals Board sessions, a respective hyperlink has been placed on the www.gnumner.am website, and since June 2015 the online broadcasts of the Procurement Appeals Board sessions have been accessible at the https://www.e-gov.am/gnumner/ website and		

	have been fulfilled via https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcoQ_1x63VYIMG9XJC3NS0g website, too.
End date	June 2015

6. Community microsurveys introduction in 10 communities

Lead implementing agency	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Ashot Giloyan			
Title, Department	Head of Local Self-Government Department			
E-mail	a.giloyan@mta.gov.am			
Phone	+37410-511-347			
Other actors involved	Government	RA Marz (Regional) Administrations		
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	UN Development Program		
Main objective	Community micro-surveys are an affordable and unique tool that will strengthen communication between the community and local self-governance bodies and will ensure the transparency in the decision-making process.			
Brief Description of Commitment	The "Community micro-survey" program will be introduced in 10 communities. Surveys via text messages will be conducted in those 10 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-governments. The survey will involve the population 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	It is planned to conduct a text message survey in over 10 communities. In the village of Aregnadem, Shirak Marz, RA, and the communities of Byureghavan, Jrvezh, and Kasakh micro surveys have already been conducted, and it is planned to conduct a survey in the town of Ashtarak, Aragatsotn Marz, RA, starting September 15, 2015.			
End date	December 2016			
Next Steps	To continuously enlarge the number of communities where the survey will be conducted.			

7. Ensuring open, transparent, participatory and accountable process of state policies and legislative reforms

Lead implementing agency	RA Ministry of Justice			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Norayr Balayan			
Title, Department	Head of Department of Legal Provision, RA Ministry of Justice			
E-mail	norayr.balayan@justice.am			
Phone	+37410 319-117			
Other actors involved	Government	RA Ministry of Justice		
	CSOs, private sector, working groups,	ARAZA charitable NGO (upon consent)		

	multilaterals			
Main objective	Making amendments to the exemplary practices of the boards/councils of Ministries of the RA that will separate and clarify the functions of boards and councils, will further specify the list of participants, their rights and responsibilities, will define open and transparent procedures for the formation and activities of councils, as well as the standards of CSO representation and professional qualifications.			
Brief Description of Commitment	The formation of an efficient, transparent and accountable participatory civil society system in the process of policy and legislative reforms			
Relevance	Transparency, public 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
			V	
Description of the results	A study of the work practices and international practices has been conducted, public discussions have been held, proposals have been collected, the proposal package has been amended, and the draft of the decree has been submitted to the Government for approval.			
End date	August 2015			

8. Public awareness on the lawmaking activity of state governance bodies				
Lead implementing agency	RA Ministry of Justice			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Norayr Balayan			
Title, Department	Head of Department of Legal Provision, RA Ministry of Justice			
E-mail	norayr.balayan@justice.am			
Phone	+37410 319-117			
Other actors involved	Government	RA Ministry of Justice		
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals			
Main objective	Creation of a shared online platform for the publication of draft normative legal acts developed by government agencies to inform the public about the normative legal acts being developed by the agencies, enabling the civil society to propose recommendations on the draft versions, 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	The public will have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the drafts before they are adopted, to make recommendations to the responsible agencies, and contribute to the amendment of the drafts.			
Relevance	Transparency, civic participation			
Ambition	Public involvement in the process of policy making. Increasing the accessibility of the draft legal acts due to the principle of collecting them onto one joint interactive platform.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed

		V		
Description of the results	Holding discussions on technical solutions, setting tasks (drawing up terms of reference)			
End date	December 2016			
Next Steps	<p>Creation of legal basis for the published draft normative legal acts</p> <p>Ensuring training for the specialists in charge at the agencies</p> <p>Publication of draft legal normative acts being developed by the agencies in the created platform</p>			

9. Ensuring transparency of the election of Governing Boards at the RA general secondary education institutions and of the annual budget planning and expenses of RA general secondary education institutions				
Lead implementing agency		RA Ministry of Education and Science		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Susanna Sos Makyan		
Title, Department		Head of Preschool and Secondary Education Policy and Analysis Division of Secondary Education Department at the RA Ministry of Education and Science		
E-mail		syuzannamakyan@mail.ru		
Phone		+374-99961171, +374-10524777		
Other actors involved	Government	RA Ministry of Education and Science		
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	«World Vision Armenia» charitable organization, Goris Teachers Union NGO		
Main objective		<p>Promoting public trust.</p> <p>More efficient management of public assets.</p> <p>Ensuring efficient democracy, active public participation in public administration processes, transparency and accountability.</p>		
Brief Description of Commitment		<p>Amendment to the procedure of forming a collegial governing body – Board – at the RA State General Education Institution State Non-Commercial Organization, established by RA Minister of Education and Science Order N 113-N, dated March 18, 2010.</p> <p>Development and approval of the order of the General Education Institutions Annual Budget Planning and Annual Budgetary Expenditure Reporting</p>		
Relevance		Access to information, public accountability, civic participation, transparency		
Ambition		Amendments to the election procedures of the Governing Boards of the RA public general education institutions, ensuring transparency and accountability in the annual budget planning (draft annual budget) and the annual budget expenses for the educational services in general education will contribute to a more open and transparent management; corruption risks will be reduced, active public participation will be ensured; an atmosphere of trust will be built.		
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial
				V
Description of the results		The working group has amended and the RA Minister of Education and Science Decision N 102-N, dated February 24, 2015 On Amending Order N 113-N of the RA Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, dated March		

	<p>18, 2010, approved the Procedure of Forming the Collegial Governing Body – Board – of the RA State Educational Institution State Non-Commercial Organization.</p> <p>The working group has also developed and submitted for approval The Procedure for the Annual Budget Planning and Annual Budgetary Expenditure Reporting of General Educational Institutions, approved by Order N 205, dated March 30, 2015. The publication of the above-mentioned procedures on the webpages of the general educational institutions (schools) and the announcement boards of the institutions will contribute to the more efficient implementation of the commitments made.</p> <p>The procedures are uploaded onto the edu.am website of the RA Ministry of Education and Science, The Procedure on the Annual Budget Planning and Annual Budgetary Expenditure Reporting of General Education Institutions is also available at the Armenian legal information system – arlis.am. Relevant notifications have been sent to the educational institutions under the RA Ministry of Education and Science, Yerevan Municipality and RA Marz (Regional) Administrations to implement these procedures at the educational institutions.</p>
End date	March 2015
Next Steps	Starting from the 2015 – 2016 academic year schools will be guided by The Procedure on the Annual Budget Planning and Annual Budgetary Expenditure Reporting of General Education Institutions, and later, based on the recommendations and comments received from the schools the procedure will be amended.
Additional Information	
<p>Procedure of Forming the Collegial Governing Body – Board – of the RA State Educational Institution State Non-Commercial Organization is already implemented in general education schools. With regard to The Procedure on the Annual Budget Planning and Annual Budgetary Expenditure Reporting of General Education Institutions, starting from academic year 2015 – 2016 schools will be guided by that procedure, and is will be revised and amended, as appropriate, on the basis of the recommendations and comments received from the schools.</p>	

10. Knowledge and capacity building of public servants in the freedom of information and anticorruption

Lead implementing agency	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Ashot Giloyan	
Title, Department	Head of Local Self-Government Department	
E-mail	a.giloyan@mta.gov.am	
Phone	+37410-511-347	
Other actors involved	Government	Civil Service Council of the RA
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Freedom of Information Center NGO Young Lawyers Association of Armenia NGO
Main objective	To promote the improvement of public service quality through strengthening the knowledge and skills of public servants on the fight against corruption, and to hold training courses to promote freedom of information.	
Brief Description of Commitment	<p>Information and knowledge is transferred and skills are developed within the framework of training courses organized for public servants in the area of struggle against corruption and freedom of information.</p> <p>Along with this, training sessions are organized also for the community servants, the local self-government, and RA Marz administration staff members. The mentioned courses address topics related to the strengthening of anti-corruption skills and freedom of information.</p>	
Relevance	Access to information, public accountability, transparency	
Ambition	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.	

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				V
Description of the results	<p>As of August 21, 2015, 680 community servants, 440 community heads and Elders' Council members, as well as 50 Marz Administration staff members have been trained within the framework of this project.</p> <p>Besides, the following training courses have been organized for public servants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Basics of Integrity” “Union of Armenian Public Servants” NGO. 15 public servants in June 2015, 15 public servants – July 2015. • “Struggle against Corruption” – “Legal Institute of the RS Ministry of Justice” SNCO, 26 civil servants in April 2015, 26 civil servants in May 2015. • Freedom of Information and public relations in the governance system” – “Center for Information Freedom” NGO, 14 civil servants in April 2015. 			
End date	December 2015			
Next Steps	To continue training courses in public services.			
Additional Information				
Information on the results of the training courses is regularly posted on the respective webpage of the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations.				

11. Ensuring transparency of local self government bodies of large communities		
Lead implementing agency	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Ashot Giloyan	
Title, Department	Head of Local Self-Government Department	
E-mail	a.giloyan@mta.gov.am	
Phone	+37410-511-347	
Other actors involved	Government	RA Marz (Regional) Administrations
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	“Asparez” (Arena) Journalists’ Club NGO
Main objective	The creation and update of internet pages, the publication of all legal acts adopted by community authorities, notifications on the sessions of the Elders’ Council, public discussions and hearings, as well as the online broadcasting of the sessions of the Community Council will be ensured for the communities of Armenia with a population of 20, 000 and over.	
Brief Description of Commitment	<p>It is necessary to organize fundraising for the technical equipment of online broadcasting of the Elders’ Council sessions, public discussions and LSG conferences, for upgrading the existing or creating new websites for communities with a population of 20, 000 and over, to ensure the procurement of the technical equipment and the web design services.</p> <p>Creation of information websites for communities with a population of 20,000 and over with a possibility of interaction with the public via comments.</p> <p>Organization of training sessions for the respective specialists of the communities</p> <p>Launching the websites, online broadcasting of the Elders’ Council sessions 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 and position voiced by the Elders’ Council members regarding this or that particular issue on community programs	

	discussed in the Elders' Council sessions.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		V		
Description of the results	Information Systems Development and Training Center NGO regularly organizes training courses on the use of Community Management Information System (general operations by CMIS, registry for physical persons and organizations, management of the community budget, planning of incomes and expenses, management of finances, budget reports, management of community property, electronic documents, management of local duties and fees, electronic circulation of documents, instructions, Elders' Council subsystem).			
End date	April 2016			
Next Steps	Online broadcasting of Community Elders' Councils and LSG conferences			
Additional Information				
The commitment will be implemented using modern technical equipment, the launching of the websites and the broadcasting of the sessions and conferences will lead to the awareness of the community routine among a larger number of beneficiaries.				

Conclusion

The 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. The power realizes and prioritizes the fact that without well coordinated work, without a clear and distinct formulation of transparency principles, without application of the international best practices and a meaningful demand from the society, it is impossible to build and maintain a level of citizens' trust necessary to fuel a smooth transition and transformation of our society.

The enhancement of the levels of transparency and accountability of public administration processes and public administration bodies is a priority for the RA Government.

Even though considerable success has been recorded in the OGP Armenia processes, the Government is far from the idea that the process is flawless. We could consider the following to be the so-called lessons learnt: the demand of the civil society from the Government to be proactive, to more actively implement the awareness raising campaign about the process, to expand the existing platform for the dialogue between the Government and the civil society and so on. Another group of issues related to the implementation of the process that is also in the focus of the attention of the RA Government is the meeting of deadlines for fulfilling the commitments. Thus, for example according to the [Calendar](#) of activities for the OGP initiative countries, published by the OGP Support Unit, June 30, 2016, is intended to be the end of the Second NAP for Armenia. Whereas the Second NAP for Armenia was approved before the publication of the schedule, hence there are commitments the deadline of which is in December 2016. Under these circumstances the Government of Armenia is making attempts to complete the fulfilment of those commitments within the timeframe set by the schedule, however, in case it proves impossible, these commitments may be moved to the third OGP NAP for Armenia. The availability of funds for the implementation of certain commitments, the pace of negotiations with partner donor organizations on necessary allocation, a longer time period for public discussions to ensure consensus

between the Government and the civil society and other unforeseen issues may also be factors for not meeting the initial deadlines for the commitments. .

However, the Government of the Republic of Armenia highly appreciates and prioritizes the OGP initiative and considers its membership to that initiative an incentive for constructive progress. In this context, our country also becomes part of the ongoing and global open government processes.

Armenia verified its willingness to be a full-fledged member of the OGP initiative paying a [25.000 US Dollar](#) membership fee to cover the maintenance expenses of the OGP Initiative Support Unit and IRM in 2015.

For the second year now OGP holds its signature international open governance awards. It was launched in March 2015. Over 35 of the 66 OGP initiative member states have submitted applications for the award. The applications are traditionally evaluated by an independent honourable international jury of 23 members. This year Armenia has submitted an application to participate for the first time in the OGP “Improvement of Public Services, Applying Open Government Principles” award, and we are hopeful that the jury will recognize the results of the reforms implemented in Armenia.

Open Government Movement is not immune from the global development processes and trends. Thus, for example, when developing the Third OGP Action Plan for the Republic of Armenia, we will give preference to the recommendation aimed at the implementation of the United Nations Organization [Sustainable Development Goals](#), apart from complying with the currently established criteria.

The implementation of the OGP actions in the course of these years has recorded considerable progress in terms of public participation and transparency of governance processes. However, the systematic approach to open government that would enable the integration of the open government principles and approaches in the other fields is not at a desirable level yet.

The RA Government is willing to initiate active steps for the conceptual and systemic adaptation of the open government in all aspects of its operation. It will contribute to strengthening the trust towards the Government and an increased visibility of information on the reforms.

Thus, summarizing the process of the implementation of commitments assumed by the second AP, it can be stated that Armenia has recorded serious progress in terms of the quality of its commitments and the process of their implementation, and occupies quite advanced positions. The RA Government highly appreciates the assistance and the invested efforts of all the partners involved in the implementation of Armenia’s commitments.