

# DEMOCRACY **BEYOND** THE BALLOT BOX

Open  
Government  
Partnership



Open Government Partnership

## How Does Government Serve its Citizens, Instead of Itself?

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 are members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

### How OGP Works

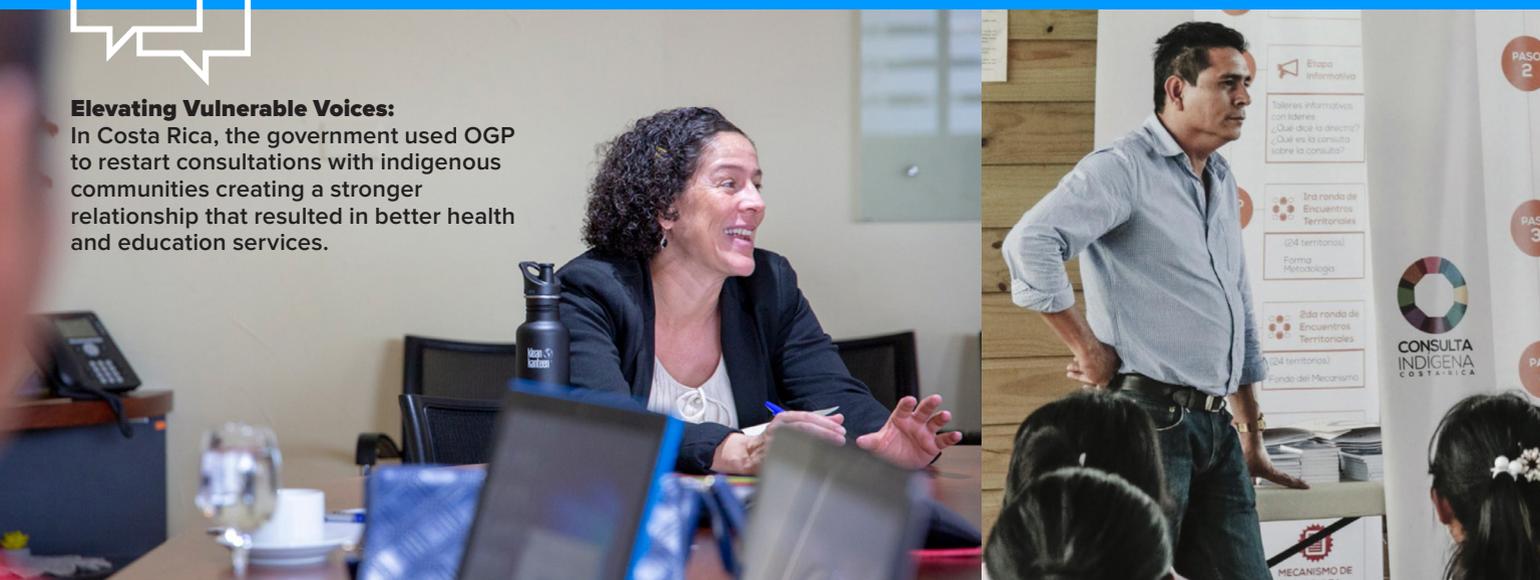
Upon joining OGP, governments work with civil society to co-create two-year action plans, with concrete steps - commitments - across a broad range of issues. This model allows civil society organizations and direct citizen engagement to play a role in shaping and overseeing governments. Collectively, nearly 4,000 commitments have been made globally.

OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism monitors all action plans to ensure governments follow through on commitments.



#### **Elevating Vulnerable Voices:**

In Costa Rica, the government used OGP to restart consultations with indigenous communities creating a stronger relationship that resulted in better health and education services.



# Issues To Address Through OGP

OGP members work with civil society to determine priority public policy areas. Current issues being addressed include:

## > Guarding Civic Space

Ensuring the right to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly is fundamental to OGP members and underpins their action plan commitments.

## > Including All Voices

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

## > Protecting Natural Resources

Governments often manage oil, gas, and mineral resources on behalf of citizens. OGP reforms can lead to greater extractives transparency - and fairer decisions - on natural resources distribution, revenue collection, and corruption.

## > Improving Digital Governance

Fake news, biased systems, hateful speech, and privacy violations continue to raise alarm. OGP members work - often together - to reduce these negative impacts and increase the ways technology can positively increase accountability and public participation.

“The promise of democracy has often been defined by elections. But too often, that promise has not translated into reality in people's daily lives. By helping to fight corrupt practices, improve health, education and ensure civic participation, open government helps leaders deliver for their citizens between and beyond the ballot box.”

**Sanjay Pradhan**  
CEO OGP





**From Broken Chairs to Brighter Futures:**  
In Mongolia, parents, teachers and administrators collaborate with local government to improve health and education services in ten provinces.



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“The strongest foundation for human progress lies in open economies, open societies, and in open governments.”

**U.S. President Barack Obama at launch of OGP at the United Nations (September 2011)**

### > **Promoting Better Public Services**

Citizens depend on governments for healthcare, education and clean water. OGP can help improve these services through practical reforms ranging from opening data to directly engaging the public in decision making.

### > **Granting Access to Justice**

An accessible justice system helps citizens find fair solutions to issues ranging from land disputes to the denial of public service or the failure to act on behalf of victims of crime and violence. OGP members work to remedy past ills and protect human rights.

### > **Opening Up Budgets**

Transparency, public participation, and legislative oversight in the development of budgets creates better outcomes. OGP members work to promote openness as it is proven to better leverage taxpayer dollars.

### > **Obtaining the Right to Information**

OGP members are required to have laws that enable fair access to information. Through OGP, the effectiveness of these laws can be improved by removing additional barriers to information and creating platforms to report on fraud or corruption.

### > **Fighting Corruption**

OGP members tackle corruption through prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and sanction - with a popular focus on commitments to create and leverage registries that expose company ownership and enforce open contracting principles.



## OpenGov Week

More than 50 countries and local governments have taken part in OGP's annual global initiative to bring together citizens and governments to share ideas, discuss solutions, and commit to new levels of citizen participation.



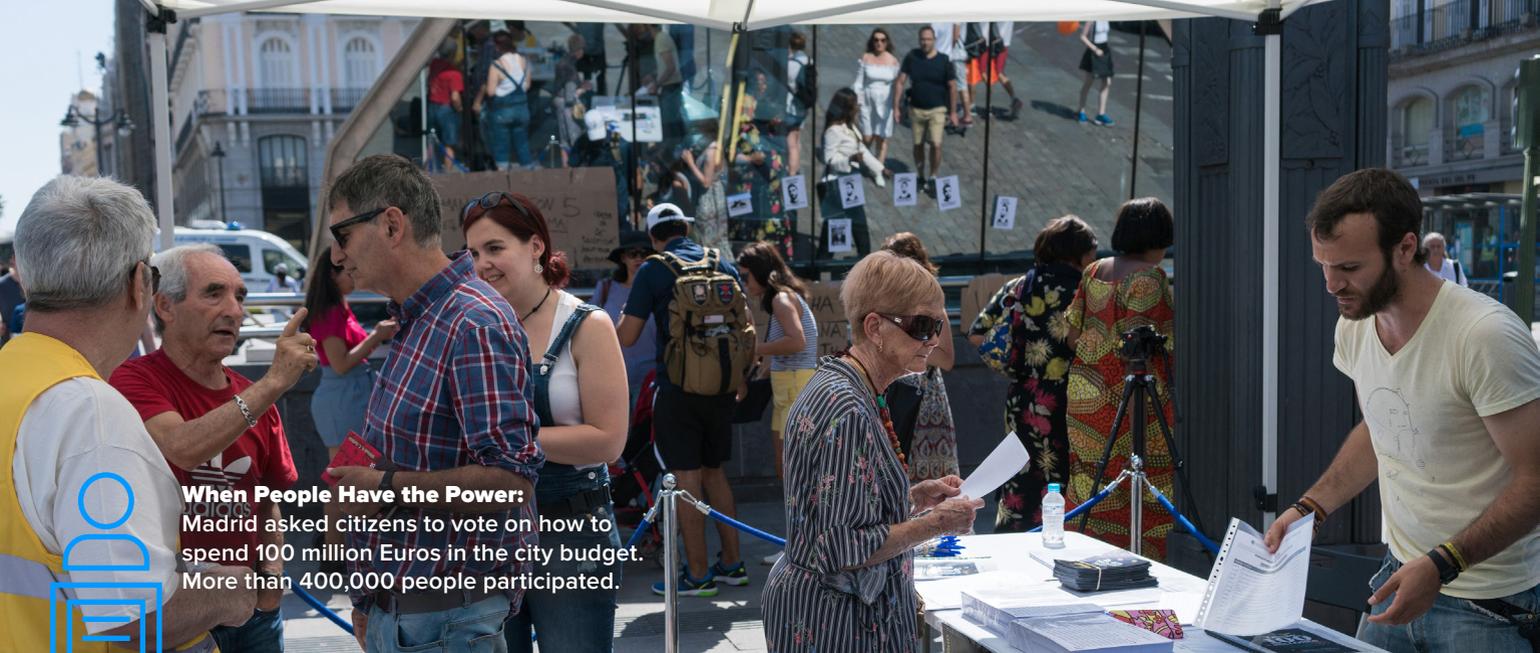
“OGP is making important strides in Africa and throughout the developing world. Several countries now show that fiscal transparency, open procurement and participatory budgeting can create unique avenues for citizens and governments to work together”

**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Former Finance Minister of Nigeria, OGP Ambassador**



**Protecting Land and Livelihood:**  
In Liberia, government helps communities understand and protect their rights to their traditional lands and the resources they hold.





**When People Have the Power:**  
Madrid asked citizens to vote on how to spend 100 million Euros in the city budget. More than 400,000 people participated.



## Global Summits

Every two years OGP and its co-chairs bring together thousands of reformers inside and outside government to share knowledge and create solutions for more transparent, accountable and inclusive governments.



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“The complex challenges our world faces call upon formidable leadership from governments. But governments alone cannot solve them all. They need the ideas, wisdom and commitment of people.”

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of Oxfam and Dr. Mo Ibrahim, Businessman and Founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, OGP Ambassadors

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“Open government is essential to advancing global development, and we’ve seen strong evidence that citizen participation can lead to landmark progress in climate action, gender equality, conservation, and beyond.”

**Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and  
UNDP Administrator, OGP Ambassador**



“Transparency enables citizens to hold their governments accountable yet also fosters the civic engagement that can lead to the outcomes that both citizens and reasonable governments seek.”

**Gayle Smith, CEO of ONE Campaign**



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