Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire End-of-Term Report 2016–2018

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Overview: Côte d'Ivoire

Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) End-of-Term Report 2016–2018

While Cote d'Ivoire's first action plan contains a wide variety of commitments, their outcomes, as implemented, inadequately reflect a broad governmental commitment to openness. Going forward, the government is encouraged to make specific, verifiable, and measurable commitments that are clearly aligned with OGP values and lead to significant changes in practice.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a voluntary international initiative that aims to secure commitments from governments to their citizenry to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) carries out a review of the activities of each OGP-participating country. This report summarizes the results of the period July 2016 to June 2017 and includes relevant developments up to June 2018.

The OGP process in Cote d'Ivoire is coordinated by the Ministry of Industry and Mines who set up a Technical Committee (CT-OGP), responsible for the implementation of all commitments. It is composed of three members from civil society, three members from the private sector and 10 government representatives. In 2016, some members of civil society established a platform, the Platform of Civil Society of Cote d'Ivoire of the Open Government Partnership (PSCI-OGP), consisting of 20 organizations[1] aiming to be a transformative and relevant force within the OGP process. This platform collaborates with the Technical Committee. However, civil society was not always involved by government during the first year of implementation.[2]

At the midterm, out of 15 commitments, 5 were completed, 4 were implemented to a substantial degree, 5 to a limited degree, and 1 was not yet started. In addition, 10 out of 15 commitments were relevant to OGP values.

Table 1: At a Glance

	Mid-term	***End of term***
Number of Commitments	15	
Level of Completion		
Completed	*5*	*4*
Substantial	*4*	*4*
Limited	*5*	*7*
Not Started	*1*	*0*
Number of Commitments with…		
Clear Relevance to OGP Values	*10*	*10*
Transformative Potential Impact	*0*	*0*
Substantial or Complete Implementation	*9*	*8*
All Three (✪)	*0*	*0*
Did It Open government?		
Major	***2***	
Outstanding	***0***	
Moving Forward		
Number of Commitments Carried Over to Next Action Plan	*3*	

At the end of term, 4 commitments were completed, 4 were implemented to a substantial degree, and 7 to a limited degree. The number of the completed commitments during the end of term is lower compared to the midterm assessment because one commitment was not implemented at all during the second year of the action plan. There is no update of the activity under this commitment since March 2017. All commitments had been started by the end of term. The IRM researcher assessed that two commitments achieved major results in terms of government openness and two achieved marginal results.

The government published a final self-assessment report and developed a new action plan for its second cycle.[3] Three commitments (9, 12, and 13) out of fifteen were carried into the National Action Plan 2018–2020.

[1] Members of the Civil Society Platform include: Social Justice; Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme (LIDHO); Réseau des Jeunes Entrepreneurs (REJECI); Genre Développement et Droits Humains (GDDH); Organisation des Femmes Actives de Côte d'Ivoire (OFACI); Transparency Justice (Transparence dans le milieu judiciaire); Publiez ce que vous payez (PCQVP-CI); Centre de Recherche et de Formation sur le Développement Intégré, afrobaromètre (CREFDI); Mouvement Ivoirien des Droits Humains (MIDH); Réseau des OSC Ivoiriennes pour le Contrôle Citoyen de l'Action Publique (ROSCI-CCAP); Mouvement Pour la Lutte contre la Corruption en Côte d'Ivoire (MPLCI); Lutte contre la Corruption (ALACO); SOS Exclusion (Libre circulation des biens et des personnes); Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire (AFJCI); Aide Assistance et Développement Communautaire (ADCCI); Réseau des Jeunes Leaders pour l'Intégrité (RIJLI); Action pour la Protection des Droits de l'Homme (APDH); Agir pour la Démocratie, la Justice et les Libertés en Côte d'Ivoire (ADJLCI); Centre d'Assistance et de Développement Économique et Social (CADES); and Plateforme des Organisations de la Société Civile pour les Élections en Côte D'ivoire (POECI).

[2] Aïcha Blegbo, *Côte d'Ivoire Mid-term IRM report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://bit.ly/2HmhXGG.

[3] *Côte d'Ivoire Self-Assessment report and Action Plan 2018-2020*, https://bit.ly/2HmhXGG.

Consultation with Civil Society during Implementation

Countries participating in OGP follow a process for consultation during development and implementation of their action plan. The Technical Committee (CT-OGP) chaired by the Minister in charge of Industry is responsible for the commitments made by the government, being the operational body for the implementation of the OGP process in Côte d'Ivoire. The Committee is composed of sixteen members, including 10 representatives of the State, three from the private sector and three from civil society according to the decree of 16 December 2016, on the appointment of members.[1] See the midterm report for further information.[2]

The Technical Committee set up by government included civil society and collaborated with the platform established as part of the OGP process. This platform (PSCI-OGP) was established in 2016 by 20 civil society organizations (CSOs),[3] whose goal was to be a force of reform and relevant to the OGP process. PSCI-OGP then instituted among itself four working groups called Thematic Groups whose objective was the monitoring and evaluation of the commitments in the 2016−2018 national action plan. According to civil society,[4] the idea was to have their own database to serve as an advocacy tool for the Technical Committee and the government. Specifically, the idea was to strengthen the thematic groups to better impact the process; assess the 15 commitments of the action plan with a focus on progress and obstacles to implementation; propose recommendations for the removal of obstacles and the effective implementation of the action plan; and to plan for the development of the future action plan. Each thematic group was assigned to follow up on commitments within their focus. This follow-up consisted mainly of research, meetings and contacts with resource persons or experts, and meetings with competent authorities. The working groups were divided as follows: thematic group I, which focused on government and public action accountability, was responsible for Commitments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 13; thematic group 2, which called for access to public information, was responsible for Commitments 5, 11, 12, and 14; thematic group 3, which called for public/citizen participation, was responsible for Commitments 6, 10, and 15; and thematic group 4, which aimed to foster technological innovation, transparency, and accountability, was responsible for Commitments 7, 8, and 9.[5] However, participation of PSCI-OGP has not been formalized. PSCI-OGP members are not part of the Technical Committee, which meets without PSCI-OGP members, but does invite platform members to public meetings and workshops. However, the government has given PSCI-OGP staff the opportunity to give feedback and comments. Therefore, one may argue that there is a forum. In addition to having three civil society representatives on the Technical Committee, the PSCI-OGP has a pattern of collaboration with the Technical Committee, which did not exist before the OGP process. It was set up to better organize civil society's participation in government and supports exchanges between both entities during commitment implementation. Approximately 18 physical meetings were held since the establishment PSCI-OGP in May 2016, including seven meetings between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018.

Civil society members in the PSCI-OGP and the CT-OGP advocated for several government-organized workshops. According to Mrs. Chantal Angoua, the government's point of contact for the OGP process in the country (i.e., Focal Point),[6] and confirmed by PSCI-OGP representatives,[7] the government organized:

- *A follow-up informational seminar on the implementation of the OGP process (20 July 2017)*. As stated in the midterm review, this seminar provided civil society representatives and others with an update on the 2016−2018 national action plan implementation. According to a report provided by the government, the seminar was also an opportunity to share the experiences of each entity responsible for commitments with other government members. For the government, above all, the seminar allowed consideration of the prospects for a successful execution of the 2016−2018 plan.[8] The government provided the IRM researcher with the seminar's terms of reference, a short report, and an attendance list including civil society organizations representatives. As stated in the midterm review, civil society met with the Technical Committee to assess the action plan three times. Participants had between two to four days to provide comments, a

timeframe considered insufficient by some participants who questioned the government on this matter. The government did a final general assessment without civil society's input.[9]

- *A pre-validation workshop of the midterm self-assessment for the 2016-2018 action plan (31 August through 1 September 2017)*: During this workshop, civil society representatives were allowed to provide comments. The workshop aimed to collect participants' observations and recommendations on the consultation process conducted in 2017, the relevance and ambition of the commitments, and the progress made to date. It also aimed to have a version of the midterm self-assessment ready to be submitted to Cote d'Ivoire OGP for comments and validation before its transmission to the OGP bodies.[10] The government provided the IRM researcher with the workshop's terms of reference, a short report, and an attendance list including civil society organizations representatives.

- *A follow-up workshop on the implementation of the 2016–2018 action plan (26 October 2017) and a workshop on 2017 OGP activities (14 November 2017)*: The workshop's objectives were to outline the midterm self-assessment submitted to OGP; update participants on commitment implementation; identify the difficulties or delays for each commitment's implementation; and inspire progress through sharing implementing bodies' experiences. Also, the workshop aimed to announce to participants the OGP outlook in the short term (2017 activities review) and in the medium term (follow-up on the Action Plan for the preparation of the final report and the elaboration of the second Action Plan for the country).[11] The government provided the IRM researcher with the 26 October workshop's terms of reference, a short report, as well as the list of attendees including many civil society organizations representatives. Regarding the 14 November workshop on the 2017 activities conclusions, the government shared with the IRM researcher the list of participants, which includes civil society representatives.

- *Several public consultations for preparing the 2018–2020 National Action Plan (21 to 27 May 2018 in Odienné, Bongouanou and Gagnoa and from 19 to 21 September 2018 in Dabou)*: According to the government,[12] the objectives of these meetings were to educate the public about the OGP process, foster discussion of issues of public interest, and collect civil society concerns and opinions to form commitments for the second action plan. The government provided the IRM researcher with the consultations' terms of reference, a short report, and an attendance list including CSO representatives. The midterm report includes more information on how civil society perspectives were incorporated into the overall process.[13]

At least 30 PSCI-OGP members attended each workshop. Civil society feedback was communicated to the OGP Focal Point in Côte d'Ivoire and, where appropriate, to the government via a letter to the Council of Ministers.[14] The government also sent PSCI-OGP the following email communications:

- *20 August 2017*: submission of the OGP monitoring matrix for PSCI-OGP feedback;

- *30 August 2017*: submission of the 2016–2018 self-assessment draft; and

- *30 September 2017*: submission of the final self-assessment. (However, unlike the first year of implementation, PSCI-OGP did not evaluate commitment implementation during the study period covered by this report.

Table 2: Consultation during Implementation

Regular Multistakeholder Forum	Midterm	End of Term
1. Did a forum exist?	Yes	Yes
2. Did it meet regularly?	Yes	Yes

Table 3: Level of Public Influence during Implementation

The IRM has adapted the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) "Spectrum of Participation" to apply to OGP.[15] This spectrum shows the potential level of public influence on the contents of the action plan. In the spirit of OGP, most countries should aspire for "collaborative."

Level of Public Influence during Implementation of Action Plan		Midterm	End of Term
Empower	Government handed decision-making power to members of the public.		
Collaborate	There was iterative dialogue AND the public helped set the agenda.		
Involve	Government gave feedback on how public inputs were considered.		
Consult	The public could give inputs.		✔
Inform	Government provided the public with information on the action plan.	✔	
No Consultation	No consultation		

[1] Decree dated 16 December 2016 appointing the members of the Technical Committee for the implementation of the OGP process in Cote d'Ivoire, available as a PDF file, emailed by the government to the researcher.

[2] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/cote-divoire-mid-term-irm-report-2016-2018-year-1/.

[3] *See* note 1, page 2 for a list of these CSOs.

[4] Mr. Julien Tingain, *PSCI Monitoring Activity Report*, PSCI-PGO, November 2017, https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16TyW9UfHRdT7YeaesHWIAICPvI1us3cD.

[5] Id.

[6] Mrs. Chantal Angoua (Technical Advisor, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion and formerly at the Ministry of Industry and Mines during the first year of implementation – government contact for the entire OGP process in general), e-mail to IRM researcher, 5 Oct. 2018.

[7] PSCI-OGP representatives, emails to IRM researcher.

[8] Republic of Cote d'Ivoire Ministry of Industry and Mines, *First Seminar Report*, Ministry of Industry and Mines, 20 Jul. 2017, https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BxNH2cC-sK1e5fiPjU7L1Dk1PK02OJaH.

[9] Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018* at 23.

[10] Terms of Reference, Pre-validation workshop, https://bit.ly/2HmhXGG.

[11] Republic of Cote d'Ivoire Ministry of Industry and Mines, *Second Seminar Report*, Ministry of Industry and Mines, 26 Oct. 2017, https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vKGHxwucbMfEMvcu8cWzQ_V4Ab5UUQ0A

[12] Terms of Reference and report of the consultations, https://bit.ly/2HmhXGG

[13] Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018* at 18–23.

[14] Republic of Cote D'Ivoire, *Mid-Term Self-Assessment Report*, OGP, Sept. 2017, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Cote-Divoire_Mid-Term_Self-Assessment_2016-2018.pdf.

[15] "IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum," IAP2, 2014, http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

About the Assessment

The indicators and method used in the IRM research can be found in the IRM Procedures Manual.[1] One measure, the "starred commitment" (✪), deserves further explanation due to its particular interest to readers and usefulness for encouraging a race to the top among OGP-participating countries. Starred commitments are considered exemplary OGP commitments. To receive a star, a commitment must meet several criteria:

- Starred commitments will have "medium" or "high" specificity. A commitment must lay out clearly defined activities and steps to make a judgment about its potential impact.
- The commitment's language should make clear its relevance to opening government. Specifically, it must relate to at least one of the OGP values of Access to Information, Civic Participation, or Public Accountability.
- The commitment would have a "transformative" potential impact if completely implemented.[2]
- The government must make significant progress on this commitment during the action plan implementation period, receiving an assessment of "substantial" or "complete" implementation.

Starred commitments can lose their starred status if their completion falls short of substantial or full completion at the end of the action plan implementation period.

In the midterm report, Côte d'Ivoire's action plan contained 0 starred commitments. At the end of term, based on the changes in the level of completion, Côte d'Ivoire's action plan contained 0 starred commitments.

Finally, the tables in this section present an excerpt of the wealth of data the IRM collects during its reporting process. For the full dataset for Côte d'Ivoire, see the OGP Explorer at www.opengovpartnership.org/explorer.

About "Did It Open Government?"

To capture changes in government practice, the IRM introduced a new variable, "Did It Open Government?" in end-of-term reports. This variable attempts to move beyond measuring outputs and deliverables to looking at how the government practice has changed as a result of the commitment's implementation.

As written, some OGP commitments are vague and/or not clearly relevant to OGP values but achieve significant policy reforms. In other cases, commitments as written appear relevant and ambitious, but fail to open government as implemented. The "Did It Open Government" variable attempts to capture these subtleties.

The "Did It Open Government?" variable assesses changes in government practice using the following spectrum:

- Worsened: Government openness worsens as a result of the commitment.
- Did not change: No changes in government practice.
- Marginal: Some change, but minor in terms of its effect on level of openness.
- Major: A step forward for government openness in the relevant policy area, but remains limited in scope or scale.
- Outstanding: A reform that has transformed "business as usual" in the relevant policy area by opening government.

To assess this variable, researchers establish the status quo at the outset of the action plan. They then assess outcomes *as implemented* for changes in government openness.

Readers should keep in mind limitations. IRM end-of-term reports are prepared only a few months after the implementation cycle is completed. The variable focuses on outcomes that can be observed in government openness practices at the end of the two-year implementation period. The report and the

variable do not intend to assess impact because of the complex methodological implications and the time frame of the report.

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[1] IRM Procedures Manual, http://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/about-irm.

[2] The International Experts Panel changed this criterion in 2015. For more information, visit http://www.opengovpartnership.org/node/5919.

Commitment Implementation

General Overview of Commitments

As part of OGP, countries are required to make commitments in a two-year action plan. The tables below summarize the completion level at the end of term and progress on the "Did It Open Government?" metric. For commitments that were complete at the midterm, the report will provide a summary of the progress report findings but focus on analysis of the "Did It Open Government?" variable. For further details on these commitments, please see the Côte d'Ivoire IRM progress report 2016–2018.

The *Côte d'Ivoire National Action Plan 2016-2018* focuses on four key areas: more effective management of public resources, public service improvement, public integrity development, and an increase in enterprise responsibility. The *Côte d'Ivoire National Action Plan 2016-2018* contains 15 commitments.

Table 4: Assessment of Progress by Commitment

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion				Mid-term / End of Term				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
1. Publishing the number of carats of diamond exported from Cote d'Ivoire as well as the accompanying Kimberly Process certificates, each year			✔		✔					✔				✔				✔			
														✔							
2. Creation and operationalize 5 Local Mining Development Committees (CDLM)			✔			✔					✔			✔						✔	
														✔							
3. Release all tax and customs regulations			✔		✔			✔			✔					✔		✔			
																✔					
4. Release the Communications to the Councils of Ministers on the quarterly implementation of the budget (45 days after the end of the quarter)			✔		✔			✔								✔					
									✔					✔				✔			

5. Publish Communications to the Council of Ministers on contracting process on a quarterly basis (45 days after the end of the quarter)			✔		✔			✔			✔					✔				✔			
6. Interconnect public five (05) public universities and two (02) Business Schools			✔		Unclear						✔			✔					✔			
7. Set up virtual university of Côte d'Ivoire			✔		Unclear						✔				✔				✔			
8. Install a virtual single window for public service request and receipt in order to facilitate access to public information			✔		✔			✔		✔				✔				✔				
9. Create and operationalize an Open Data portal for Côte d'Ivoire		✔			✔			✔		✔				✔				✔				
10. Set up and operationalize a national competitiveness monitoring body			✔		Unclear					✔			✔					✔				
11. Promote Access to Public information Act n° 2013-867 of December 23, 2013		✔			✔		✔				✔					✔			✔			
12. Ensure the freedom the press and plurality of expression		✔			Unclear					✔						✔			✔			
13. Set up five municipal committees to fight against racketeering			✔			✔					✔				✔				✔			
14. Promote participatory budget in five communes			✔			✔					✔				✔					✔		
15. Establish and operationalize a National Monitoring body for the quality of financial services			✔		Unclear						✔				✔				✔			

Commitment 1: Publishing the number of carats of diamond exported from Cote d'Ivoire as well as the accompanying Kimberly Process certificates, each year

Brief description of the commitment
- Accompany all parcels of exported diamonds by a certificate of origin
- Issue cards for various actors
- Record productions and sales in the sales and production books
- Release the number of carats exported and the Kimberley certificates accompanying them on the website of the Ministry in charge of Mines

Verifiable and measurable steps to achieve the commitment
1.1. A road-map has been established with the support of countries of Côte d'Ivoire's friends Group
1.2. Strengthening of the governance framework (institutional, regulatory)
1.3. Capacity building in assessment
1.4. Establishment of legally incorporated purchasing offices
1.5. Implementation and development of measures to fight against fraud
1.6. Regional harmonization

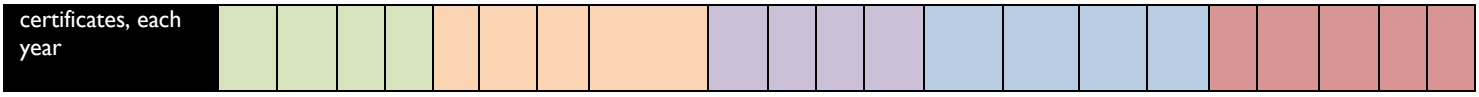
Editorial note: In the national action plan, three milestones (1.1, 1.3, and 1.4) out of six were completed before the implementation period. This assessment will therefore focus on the remaining (Milestones 1.2, 1.5, and 1.6). In addition, the IRM researcher added four components in order to reflect the "brief description and ambition of the commitment" as indicated in the action plan. These components are: 1. Accompany all parcels of exported diamonds by a certificate of origin; 3. Issue cards for various actors; 3. Record productions and sales in the sales and production books; and 4. Release the number of carats exported and the Kimberley certificates accompanying them on the website of the Ministry in charge of Mines.

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry of Industry and Mines
Supporting Institution(s): Permanent Secretariat of the Kimberley Process representation in Côte d'Ivoire /Cote D'Ivoire Mining Development Company / General Directorate of Customs

Start Date: 2013 **End Date:** Continuous

Action Plan is available here:

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Midterm / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
1. Publishing the number of carats of diamond exported from Cote d'Ivoire as well as the accompanying Kimberly Process			✔		✔					✔				✔				✔			
														✔							



Commitment Aim:

The government's aim throughout this commitment is to be transparent by informing citizens about the commercialization of Ivorian diamonds. Specifically, it is a matter of providing citizens with a tool that allows traceability of raw diamonds produced in Côte d'Ivoire, and especially, of controlling the production chains, registration, and traceability of diamonds. According to the government, reaching this objective requires, among others, the delivery of both the charts and Kimberley Process Certificates to various production actors.

The Kimberley Process is a framework for sharing and exchanging questions and concerns regarding the fight against diamond-related conflicts. As a United Nations ratified Certification, the Kimberley Process' Scheme thus defines the conditions regulating the production control and trade of rough diamonds.[1] Consequently, by publication of information on diamond exports, the government intends to bring more transparency and credit to this process and avoid all forms of corruption and conflict.

Status

Midterm: Limited

By the midterm, this commitment had a limited level of completion. The only progress made was the publication of information about the production and sales of diamonds on the Kimberley Process' website.[2] A number of civil society representatives on the PSCI-OGP forum[3] explained that the information was not published on a regular basis and consequently, did not enable real-time monitoring. Moreover, as indicated by representatives of the Ministry of Mines,[4] the government has had no feedback from citizens concerning the traceability of diamonds and the certification system. For more information, please see the 2016-2018 IRM midterm report.[5]

End of term: Limited

The government provided no further information on the implementation of any of the commitment's milestones, despite requests from the IRM researcher.[6] The government's self-assessment report was not available at the time this report was being drafted. As indicated by Mrs. Chantal Angoua,[7] the government OGP contact, the government planned workshops for 9 and 16 October 2018, after which, it will be possible for the government to provide more information to the IRM researcher. Mrs. Angoua added that a request for information regarding this commitment had been sent to the relevant authorities. Similarly, despite outreach between July and October 2018, the IRM researcher could also not obtain any information from civil society regarding the remaining activities for this commitment. Both the volume and value of diamond production and exportation are available online dating back to 2017. In addition, the last publication of the number of carats and certificates on the website of the Kimberley Process[8] was made in 2017 and indicates 10933.33 carats and two export certificates for Côte d'Ivoire (Milestone 1.7. Release the number of carats exported and the Kimberley certificates accompanying them on the website of the Ministry in charge of Mines). However, this is insufficient to change the level of completion of this commitment for lack of information and evidence.

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Did not change

This commitment did not contribute to an improvement in access to information, and thus to open government in Côte d'Ivoire. Recognizing that producers could exploit diamonds to incite conflict, the government had already registered as a participant of the Kimberly Process prior to this commitment. Although limited measures were taken through this commitment to publish some information on the Kimberley Process website, stakeholders confirmed that this information was of inadequate quality and published in an irregular manner, which did not facilitate traceability or public access to information.

Carried Forward?

The commitment was not carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020.

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[1] Permanent Secretariat of the Representation of the Kimberley Process in Côte d'Ivoire, *Practical Guide to the Kimberley Process*, Permanent Secretariat, 7 May 2013, physical copy submitted to IRM researcher by Permanent Secretariat representative.

[2] "Annual Rough Diamond Summary: 2016" in "Côte d'Ivoire," Kimberley Process, 2019, https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/côte-divoire-0#2016.

[3] Representative of PSCI-OGP, meeting with IRM researcher, followed by several phone conversations and email exchanged.

[4] Mrs. Fatoumata Thes Olemou (Permanent Secretary of the Kimberley Process Representation in Côte d'Ivoire (SPRPK-CI) and Ministry of Industry and Mines), meeting with IRM researcher, 15 Feb. 2018.

[5] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[6] IRM researcher, attempts to contact the government, five emails dated 11, 13, 18, Sept. and 4 Oct. 2018, and a phone call 11 Sept. 2018.

[7] Email, 5 Oct. 2018. Mrs. Angoua is the Technical Advisor at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion and was formerly at the Ministry of Industry and Mines during the first year of implementation. She is the government contact for the OGP process.

[8] "Cote d'Ivoire," Kimberley Process, 2019, https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/c%C3%B4te-divoire-0.

Commitment 2: Creation and operationalize 5 Local Mining Development Committees (CDLM)

Brief description of the commitment:
- Issue for each mining company a departmental order on establishment of a local mining development committee (CDLM);
- Set up the CDLM made up with:
- *The Department Prefect (Committee Chairman) ;*
- *The President of the Regional Council (Vice-Chairman);*
- *The sub prefects, Members of Parliament, Mayors of impacted localities;*
- *The representatives of the impacted localities;*
- *The Mining Administration (Technical Secretariat);*
- *The representative of the mining company*

- Opening a specific bank account for the Fund (0.5%) of the turnover by the mining company;
- Monitor the implementation of the community development projects.

Verifiable and measurable steps to achieve the commitment
2.1- *Issue a departmental order on establishment of local mining development committee for each mining company;*
2.2- *Set up the CDLM;*
2.3- *Open the bank account for the Fund (0.5%) of the turnover by the mining company;*
2.4- *Implement community development projects*
2.5- *Monitor the implementation of the projects.*

Responsible institution(s): Ministry of Industry and Mines
Supporting institution(s): General Directorate of Mines and Geology (DGMG)/Directorate of Mine Development

Start Date: 2016 **End Date:** May 2018
Action Plan is available here:

	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
Commitment Overview	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
2. Creation and operationalize 5 Local Mining Development Committees (CDLM)			✔			✔					✔			✔						✔	
														✔							

Commitment Aim:
This commitment aims to involve local populations at exploited mine sites in the process of choosing which socio-economic projects should be implemented with the funds allocated by the mining company.

Specifically, the commitment intends to create Local Mining Development Committees (CDLM) that will be in charge of the management of the local mining development plans created by the companies, in partnership with the local communities as well as administrative and territorial authorities.

Status

Midterm: Limited

Implementation of this commitment was limited by the midterm. The Ministry of Mines created several CDLMs by ministerial decree, including two during the first year of implementation. However, some CDLMs were not operational and had not opened any bank account. Moreover, the committees had not implemented any community development projects. For more information, please see the 2016–2018 IRM midterm report.[1]

End of term: Limited

The CDLM in Lagnonkaha (Korhogo/Dikodougou) was created by a ministerial decree on 20 June 2017 and was set up on 10 November 2017.[2] However, this CDLM was still not operational at the end of term. Provisional minutes dated 30 November 2017 showed the approval of the construction of a building for the Bondoukou CDLM. The government also sent the IRM researcher minutes of a 7 February 2018 meeting of the Bondoukou CDLM,[3] which aimed to inform villagers of the mining research permits granted to ETRUSCAN.[4] The official constitutions of the Foungbesso, Moyango and Viala nickel mines in Touba and Biankouman were presented at a public meeting organized by the regional and department prefects.[5] The government issued a ministerial decree creating this CDLM on 29 December 2017.[6] However, according to reports, "in west-central Côte d'Ivoire, the populations that are directly impacted by the gold mines of Bonikro and Hiré are unanimous on the fact that no achievement has hitherto been made by their Mining Local Development Committee."[7]

The IRM researcher could not find evidence to confirm the implementation of remaining milestones – i.e. the introduction of three new CDLMs, the opening of CDLM accounts, or the implementation of any community development projects. Therefore, the completion of this commitment remains limited.

Did It Open Government?

Civic Participation: Major

This commitment is a major step forward for government openness in terms of civic participation, but remains limited in scope. For instance, through the introduction of CDLMs, mining companies and the relevant administrative and territorial authorities now consult, or have a framework for consulting, local populations on topics relating to the local mining development plan.[8] As a result, communities are now more involved in mining projects, including in managing the mining local development plans. This, in turn decreases the chances of conflicts between the mining operators and the local communities.[9]

Before creating CDLMs, populations around the operational mining sites were not involved in choosing the socio-economic projects funded by mining companies.[10] Although this is an important improvement in citizen participation, an anonymous mining expert confirmed that there is a problem of governance at the committees' level.[11] According to this expert, benefits are not always distributed at the local level. For example, in committees chaired by prefects, the benefits dedicated to villagers are not necessarily distributed to local development projects.[12] This is the case in Bondoukou and in some localities in the north of the country, where people complain that in addition to unkept promises, they're told financial figures that are not accurate.[13] Communities located close to a mining site are still awaiting the benefits due to them.[14] Residents near a mine in Lauzoua are exposed to hazardous dust from the mining operation and have no electricity despite their proximity to the electrified mine.[15]

Despite this limitations, citizens are clearly playing a greater role, not only in identifying development plans that are useful to them, but also in influencing what is happening in relation to mining-related governance. According to a civil society representative on the PCSI forum,[16] there are some localities where there is no local development plan yet, but citizens have already developed funded activities. Even though some CDLMs do not yet have their development plans—which is normally a condition for

obtaining funding—this commitment has served as an opportunity for civil society to stimulate the debate and allow citizens to participate effectively.[17]

Carried Forward?

The commitment was not carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020.

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[1] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[2] Republic of Cote d'Ivoire Ministry of Industry and Mines, "Local Mining and Development Committees (CDML) Installed and Functional" CDML, 18 Jun. 2019, provided to IRM researcher by the government, https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m97ViZGn9km98v8NVesLIq-DzoK5QIaB.

[3] Id.

[4] Republic of Cote d'Ivoire Ministry of Industry and Mines, "DDM FEV 12-18" (CDLM, 18 Jun. 2019), shared by the government, https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m97ViZGn9km98v8NVesLIq-DzoK5QIaB.

[5] "Ivory Coast / Foungbesso nickel mine CDLM, Moyango and Viala set up in Touba," Agence Ivoirienne de Presse, 19 Apr. 2018, http://aip.ci/cote-divoire-le-cdlm-de-la-mine-de-nickel-de-foungbesso-moyango-mis-en-place-a-touba/.

[6] Id.

[7] Guy-Assane Yapy, "Community Development: When Gold Money Creates Controversy," Fratmat.info, 5 Jun. 2018, https://www.fratmat.info/index.php/focus/enquete/developpement-communautaire-quand-l-argent-de-l-or-cree-la-polemique.

[8] Expert in mining (wishes to remain anonymous), telephone conversation with IRM researcher, 6 Oct. 2018.

[9] Id.

[10] Marc Mahi (explosive expert (mines), telephone conversation with IRM researcher, 6 Oct. 2018.

[11] Expert in mining (wishes to remain anonymous).

[12] Id.

[13] Id.

[14] AIP, "Employees of a mining company share their dismay (Inquiry)," Atoo.ci, 26 May, 2018, http://www.atoo.ci/2018/05/26/des-employes-dune-entreprise-miniere-partagent-leur-desarroi-enquete/.

[15] Id.

[16] Civil society representative, member PSCI, phone call with IRM researcher, 14 Oct. 2019.

[17] Id.

Commitment 3, 4, 5:

Commitment 3: Release all tax and customs regulations

Commitment 4: Release the communications to the Councils of Ministers on the quarterly implementation of the budget (45 days after the end of the quarter)

Commitment 5: Publish communications to the Council of Ministers on contracting process on a quarterly basis (45 days after the end of the quarter)

Brief Description of the Commitments:
3. Online posting of all tax and customs regulations such as, Schedule to Finance Act, Tax and Customs Codes, etc.
4. Make the quarterly situation of State budget implementation available online.
5. online posting of the quarterly state of contracting operations

Verifiable and measurable steps to achieve the commitments:
3. Online posting of all tax and customs regulations
4. Issue and make available on ine Communications to the Council of Ministers on State budget implementation on a quarterly basis (45 days after the end of the quarter)
5. Issue and post online Communications to the Council of Ministers on contracting process on a quarterly basis (45 days after the end of the quarter)

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry in charge of Budget and Government Account, under authority of the Prime Minister
Supporting Institution(s): Minister Office in charge of Budget and Government Account, under authority of the Prime Minister

Start Date: December 2016 **End Date:** Continuous

Action Plan is available here:

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
3. Release all tax and customs regulations			✔		✔			✔			✔					✔		✔			
																✔					
4. Release the communications to the Councils of Ministers on the quarterly implementation of the budget (45 days after the end of the quarter)			✔		✔			✔	✔							✔		✔			
														✔							

5. Publish communications to the Council of Ministers on contracting process on a quarterly basis (45 days after the end of the quarter)			✔		✔						✔					✔	✔						

Commitment Aim:

These commitments aim to regularly inform the public about tax and customs regulations, the implementation of the government budget, and execution of public procurement contracts. The commitments highlight the government's desire to bring more transparency to the management of public finances. More precisely, the commitments propose the online publication of all tax and customs regulations, as well as communications from the Council of Ministers.

Status

Midterm:

Commitment 3: Complete

Commitment 4: Complete

Commitment 5: Complete

These commitments were completed by the midterm. Fiscal and customs documents were available for free on the websites of both the Ministry of Budget and Government's Account under authority of the Prime Minister[1] and the General Directorate of Taxes.[2] The government published the budget and the entire annexes every quarter on the website of the Ministry of Economy and Finances. As far as the initial finance law is concerned, the government published it on the website of the General Directorate of Budget and Finances and the Constitution states that this should continue until December. The same law for the year 2018 was already available online.[3] Finally, communications between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017 from the Councils of Ministers concerning public procurement contracts were published and up to date on the website of the Public Procurement Directorate in March, June, September, and December of each year.[4] For more information, please see the IRM midterm report 2016–2018.[5]

End of term:

Commitment 3: Complete

Commitment 4: Limited

Commitment 5: Complete

Commitments 3 and 5 remained completed at the end of term. However, despite being marked as completed at the midterm, the Councils of Ministers' communications on budget implementation were not updated since March 2017.[6] This means that the government published communications for three out of four quarters during the first year of implementation and none during the second year.

All other documents associated with Commitments 3 and 5 remain available, online, and up-to-date.

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Did not change

These commitments aimed to provide the public with information regarding tax and customs regulations, the implementation of the government budget, and procurement operations in the implementation of the budget. However, the text of the regulations of tax and customs, as well as communications in the Council of Ministers on the execution of the budget and public procurement were already available online prior to the introduction of these commitments. As a result, these commitments did not change government practice with respect to access to information.

Carried Forward?

Commitments 3, 4, and 5 were not carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020. A related commitment, Commitment 1, aims to develop and publish a citizen's budget in 2019, to make budget information more easily understandable and accessible.

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[1] Ministry in charge of Budget and Government Account website, http://budget.gouv.ci/douanes/textes.

[2] General Directorate of Taxes website, http://www.dgi.cgici.com/indexs.htm.

[3] "Initial 2018 Finance Law, Budget, General Directorate of Budget and Finances," Website of the Government Secretariat in charge of Budget and Government Account under authority of the Prime Minister, 2018, http://dgbf.gouv.ci/loi-%20de-finances-initiales/.

[4] "Communications in Council of Ministers 2016," Directorate of Public Procurements, https://marchespublics.ci/fr/communication2.php?AN=2016; "Communications in Council of Ministers 2017," Directorate of Public Procurements, https://marchespublics.ci/fr/communication2.php?AN=2017.

[5] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[6] "Budget Execution," Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2017, http://www.finances.gouv.ci/finances/execution-du-budget.

Commitment 6, 7:

Commitment 6: Interconnect public five (05) public universities and two (02) Business Schools

Commitment 7: Set up virtual university of Côte d'Ivoire

Verifiable and measurable steps to achieve the commitments:
6.1. Construction of a data center
6.2. Interconnection of 3 universities (2 in Abidjan and 1 in Bouake)
6.3. Interconnection of the 2 other universities and 1 Business School (Korhogo, Daloa, INPHB)
6.4. Users' training in Korhogo, Daloa, INPHB
6.5. Interconnection of the African ICT Higher School
6.6. Strengthening of the local Intranet and Internet connectivity of public universities and business schools

7.1. Create the legal framework of Côte d'Ivoire Virtual University (UVCI) which is a national public body (EPN) by Decree n° 2015-775 of December 9, 2015
7.2. Establish the physical platform UVCI: acquisition and development office
7.3. Set up the digital platform: virtual library and educational resources
7.4 Establish the physical platform UVCI: arrange 4 recording studios (MOOC) and three labs (FabLab)
7.5. Organize the accompaniment of Man University: production of educational resources (in 2016 L1, L2 and L3 in 2017 in 2018)

Editorial Note: The IRM researcher abbreviated the commitment text. For full text, please refer to the national action plan. The government completed two milestones (6.1 and 6.2) out of six in the national action plan before the implementation period for Commitment 6. Regarding Commitment 7, one milestone (7.1) out of five was also completed. Following OGP rules, this evaluation will therefore focus on the 4 remaining milestones in each commitment that was pursued during the implementation period concerned. In addition, the IRM researcher added additional milestones to reflect the brief description and ambition of the commitment. These milestones are: 6.7. Installation and equipping of several data centers in order to host services; 6.8. Equipping of amphitheaters for distance education; 7.6 Establish monitoring system (tutoring social and technical); 7.7. Promote open distance training programs (FOAD); 7.8. Provide students, teachers and administrative and technical staff with appropriate internet and produced digital resources access.

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry of Digital Economy and Posting - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Supporting Institution(s): National Agency for Universal Telecommunications Service (ANSUT) / Directorate of Scientific and Technological Information

Start Date: January 2015 **End Date:** June 2018

Action Plan is available here:

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
6. Interconnect public five (05) public universities and two (02) Business Schools			✔		Unclear						✔			✔				✔			
														✔							
7. Set up virtual university of Côte d'Ivoire			✔		Unclear						✔				✔			✔			
															✔						

Commitment Aim:

Commitments 6 and 7 aim to improve public university students' access to the internet and also make educational resources available online.

Status

Midterm:

Commitment 6: Limited

Commitment 7: Substantial

The IRM's progress report found that the government had implemented Commitment 6 to a limited degree at the midterm. While the researcher found that data centers had been established (milestone 6.7) and that milestones 6.3, 6.6, and 6.8 had achieved limited completion, the IRM researcher could not find further evidence verifying the completion of the other milestones at the mideterm.

Commitment 7 was substantially implemented at the mid-term because the physical and digital platforms of UVCI, a students' assistance system, as well as three recording studios and a digital platform had all been created. UVCI had also promoted open distance-learning programs through several teacher-training workshops. Nevertheless, one recording studio and two digital platforms had not yet been built at the University Felix Houphouet Boigny. The University of Man still had not received assistance in the production of pedagogical materials. For more information, please see the 2016–2018 IRM midterm report.[1]

End of term:

Commitment 6: Limited

Commitment 7: Substantial

The IRM researcher received[2] no evidence of any activities under either commitment conducted since the progress report.[3] Therefore, the completion levels of both commitments remain unchanged.

The IRM researcher was unable to independently verify either the creation and equipping of three recording studios in Bouaké, Daloa, and the National Institute of Statistics or the digital platform at University Felix Houphouet Boigny (Milestone 7.4). Similarly, the IRM researcher could not find any information concerning assistance to the University of Man (Milestone 7.5).

Online classes are held as provided by Commitment 7. However, internet connections are very expensive and not fast enough according to a civil society expert[4] who revealed that he had no information concerning the creation of a recording studio and digital spaces since the midterm report.

Did It Open Government?

Commitment 6:
Access to information Did not change
Civic participation: Did not change
Public accountability: Did not change

Commitment 7:
Access to information: Did not change
Civic participation: Did not change
Public accountability: Did not change

UVCI made many educational resources available online. However, the commitment did not change government practice with respect to access to information, civic participation, or public accountability.

According to Mr. Romaric N'Dri,[5] an educational and entrepreneurship expert, it is good to digitalize universities and colleges. Nevertheless, Mr. N'Dri highlighted several practical and feasibility challenges. Students still do not have access to laptop computers, the internet is expensive, and teachers and staff have limited knowledge in computer science. Despite this, the creation of the National Agency of Universal Telecommunication Services (ANSUT) and a ministry in charge of the digital economy is strong evidence of the political will to improve the quality of education.[6]

In addition, these commitments also did not contribute to notable improvements in OGP values as the distribution of teachers across the territory remains uneven; the lecture rooms are still over crowded; and the digitization of universities is not yet effective.[7] Indeed, as indicated in the midterm report,[8] Commitment 6 was pursued for 3 reasons: (i) the State cannot rapidly build universities for the population; (ii) teachers are not uniformly distributed throughout the country, imposing a huge cost for their relocation; and (iii) the university was not digitized at all. The government wanted to improve the quality of teaching by improving increasing the availability of teachers and wanted to incrementally move toward educational digitization through this commitment.

Carried Forward?

The commitments were not carried into the next action plan. A related commitment regarding education, Commitment 2 in the next action plan, focuses on preschools.

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[1] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[2] IRM researcher, e-mail to the Ministry of Industry and Mines, 11 Sept. 2018; Chantal Angoua, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Industry and Mines, the government's focal point for the OGP process, emails and phone calls with IRM researcher 11, 13, and 18 Sept, 4 and 5 Oct. 2018.

[3] The Technical Advisor within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion acknowledged receiving a report from the agency in charge of Commitment 7 but did not share it with IRM researcher.

[4] M. Affré Dany Romaric N'dri (President of the association Very Small Business Administration (VSBA), expert in education and entrepreneurship), conversations with IRM researcher, 1, 2, and 5 Oct. 2018.

[5] Id.

[6] Id.

[7] Id.

[8] Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*.

Commitment 8: Install a virtual single window for public service request and receipt in order to facilitate access to public information

Brief Description of the Commitment:
- Users will request and receive services online;
- The pilot project addresses 40 procedures from four (04) ministries: Tourism, Agriculture, Health and National Education.

Verifiable and measurable steps to achieve the commitment
- Implementation of the management tool of the "administrative procedures portal"
- Pilot phase study of online posting of 40 administrative procedures of 4 departments
- Issuing the call for tenders for pilot procedures dematerialization
- Development of the first e-service of the pilot phase
- Development of the last e-service of the pilot phase

Editorial note: The government completed one milestone out of five prior to the implementation period of the commitment. This evaluation will therefore focus on the four remaining milestones that took place during the implementation period concerned.

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry of Public Service and Administration Modernization
Supporting Institution(s): General Directorate of Administration Modernization

Start Date: 2015 **End Date:** 2017

Action Plan is available here:

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
8. Facilitating Access to Public Administration Information			✔		✔			✔		✔				✔					✔		
														✔							

Commitment Aim:

This commitment aims to facilitate citizens access to public administration services through the creation of a single virtual platform for public service requests and reception. The idea is that access to information will increase by centralizing service information on a single website that is always accessible to anyone with internet access.

Status

Midterm: Limited

Completion of this commitment was limited by midterm. The portal was online and it included a series of links for several administrative procedures, but none of the pages under the specified links were operational. Implementation of the first and last e-services during the pilot phase had not yet started. Nevertheless, the government completed the milestone related to public procurement for achieving the paperless pilot procedures. As such, a few paperless procedures were available online, though they were not all in force. For more information, please see the 2016–2018 IRM midterm report.[1]

End of term: Limited

The IRM researcher received no evidence of activities carried out since the progress report; therefore, completion remains limited.[2] The portal is still online (Milestone 8.2) but contains empty sections.[3] According to a digital transformation expert,[4] there is no database of information on different actors. In other words, each service addresses one or more different administrative entities, in different localities. To date, there is no database of all their data. Additionally, paper records from town hall registers remain un-digitized.[5]

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Marginal

In Cote d'Ivoire, citizens are obliged to go to Abidjan when they need administrative documents for civil status, transport, health, education, etc. because over 30 per cent of public officials are based in Adijan and thus most public requests are processed here. This portal aimed to make information like conditions, document lists, costs, modalities, deadlines, and service contacts permanently available no matter the time and place. However, as implemented at the end of term, the commitment only marginally changed government practices, because while some information is available online (health, social protection, justice, and security), the content of some sections (papers, education, training, housing, sports, leisure, communication, press, etc.) is still missing.

The available information includes answers to a number of questions, for example: who to ask, what are the documents that need to be provided, what are the associated costs, what is the delivery time, what is the validity period of the document, where can citizens go to find out more and what can they do in case of loss or theft. The portal also offers seven tele-services to citizens.[6]

An expert in digital transformation[7] concluded that the government clearly wanted to be more open with information availability to citizens. Nonetheless, the services indicated in the action plan and those that had been implemented were not completely operational at the end of term.[8] In addition, the unavailability of internet infrastructure in some areas is a hindrance to achieving this commitment. The expert also identified a lack of public servant computer training as an additional constraint.[9]

Carried Forward?

The commitment was not carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020.

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[1] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[2] IRM researcher, email to the Ministry of Public Service and Administration Modernization, 11 Sept. 2018; Government focal point for OGP process, emails and phone calls with IRM researcher, 11, 13, and 18 Sept. 2018 and 4 and 5 Oct. 2018.

[3] Ivorian administration portal, http://www.servicepublic.gouv.ci/.

[4] Digital transformation expert working in the private sector, meeting with IRM researcher, 5 Oct. 2018.

[5] Id.

[6] "Teleservices," Ivorian administration portal, 8 Nov. 2016, http://www.servicepublic.gouv.ci/accueil/teleservice/1.

[7] Digital transformation expert working in the private sector, 5 Oct. 2018.

[8] Id.

[9] Id.

Commitment 9: Create and operationalize an Open Data portal for Cote d'Ivoire

Brief Description of the Commitment:
Operationally, this commitment has three (3) phases as follows:
- Design and online post an "open data" web platform
- Sensitize, train and mobilize public, private structures and the civil society with a view to:
- *inform and sensitize overall public structures which will take part in Open data process by making public documents available in reusable formats;*
- *train focal points established by public structures to manage the platform;*
- *work on capacity building among civil society in order to improve their participation in the platform enhancement;*
- *disclose the platform to citizens, NGO, international organizations, technical and financial partners (TFP);*

- Promote the open data platform by launching a national and international communication campaign to popularize the tool.

Measurable and verifiable steps to achieve the commitment:
9.1. Develop an online Open Data platform
9.2. Sensitize, train and mobilize public, private structures and the Civil Society
9.3. Promote open data platform

Editorial Note: In the National Action Plan, the government completed the first milestone prior to the commitment implementation period. This evaluation will therefore concern the remaining two milestones (Milestones 9.2 and 9.3).

Responsible Institution(s): Prime Minister's Office
Supporting Institution(s): Government Information and Communication Center (CICG)

Start Date: October 2015 **End Date:** December 2017
Action Plan is available here:

	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
Commitment Overview	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
9. Côte d'Ivoire Open Data		✔			✔			✔		✔				✔				✔			
														✔							

Commitment Aim:

This commitment aims to create a single web platform to centralize all public documents. Another objective is to enable citizens to access, share, and reuse the data to improve data openness. Specifically, the idea is to encourage and enable public bodies to disseminate spontaneously and structured documents and public data via a dynamic and interactive platform, searchable by any citizen.

Status

Midterm: Limited

This commitment had a limited implementation by the midterm. While the government claimed that it was conducting sensitization workshops, trainings, and mobilization for the Open Data portal (9.2), the government provided no evidence of such to the IRM researcher at the midterm. There was also no official inauguration or promotion of the platform (9.3) because, according to a government representative,[1] the topics to be addressed were reduced from around 35 initially planned to 17. The number of government staff working on the portal was also reduced. However, the CICG met with bloggers to sensitize different social media actors on their impact on open data in Côte d'Ivoire. For more information, please see the 2016–2018 IRM midterm report.[2]

End of term: Limited

Milestone 9.2 remains not started and the Milestone 9.3 is limited. The IRM researcher found no evidence of any activity of awareness raising, training, or mobilization of civil society and public and private structures (9.2) during the second year of implementation. The IRM researcher also did not find any promotion of the open data platform (9.3). In addition, there is no increase in the number of thematic areas on the open data platform, compared to the 17 at the midterm assessment.[3]

Between September and October 2018, the portal was unavailable.[4] It became available again in November 2018.

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Did not change

This commitment did not change government openness regarding access to information because the open data portal was initiated in 2014, not under the OGP process. The government did not disclose additional information or improve the quality of already disclosed information during the implementation period.

Carried Forward?

The commitment was carried forward into the new national action plan for 2018–2020 (Commitment 9). In the new action plan, the government acknowledges that while it implemented a government portal, it lacks contributions from a significant number of public entities. In addition, data was not always published in reusable formats, and available data was not necessarily being utilized. The new Commitment 9 seeks to remedy these shortcomings.

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[1] Mr. Michel Behe (representative of the Director of Government Information and Communication Center of Information (CICG) Prime Minister's office), meeting with IRM researcher, 2 Feb. 2018.

[2] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[3] Côte d'Ivoire, Ivorian Open Data Initiative, 28 Nov. 2018, http://data.gouv.ci/.

[4] Côte d'Ivoire, Ivorian Open Data Initiative, 5 Oct. 2018, https://data.gouv.ci/opendata/open_data/cte-d-ivoire746.

Commitment 10: Set up and operationalize a national competitiveness monitoring body

Brief Description of the commitment:
The purpose of the competitiveness Monitoring body is to:
- define the indicators of the competitiveness of enterprises in Côte d'Ivoire;
- collect data and information;
- analyze variances and changes;
- ensure the centralization, the processing, the analysis and the competitiveness data control;
- ensure the provision of information on Côte d'Ivoire's competitiveness indicators;
- Carry out necessary studies to enable the government to provide appropriate solutions to Private Sector's request in line with competitiveness;
- propose to the government measures to strengthen the competitiveness of the Ivoirian economy.

Verifiable and measurable steps to achieve the commitment
10.1. Drafting of the technical note on the Monitoring body/Benchmarking on competitiveness Monitoring bodies in the world
10.2. Preparation of a draft decree on competitiveness Monitoring body
10.3. Adoption of the decree on the Monitoring body
10.4. The work of the ad hoc Committee on the definition of the operational framework of the Monitoring body on competitiveness/feasibility study
10.5. Establishment and initial operation of the Monitoring body

Editorial Note: In the action plan, the government completed Milestones 10.1 and 10.2 prior to the commitment implementation period. This evaluation will therefore focus on the remaining three milestones.

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry in charge of Economy and Finance, under the authority of Prime Minister
Supporting Institution(s): Government/Private Sector Concert Committee (CCESP)

Start Date: March 2016 **End Date:** June 2017
Action Plan is available here:

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
10. Set up and operationalize a national competitiveness monitoring body			✔		Unclear					✔			✔	✔				✔			

Commitment Aim:

This commitment aims to ensure the availability of indicators on the evolution of competitiveness that enable an assessment of Côte d'Ivoire's competitive position. If implemented, a monitoring body (the "observatory") will create indicators that can instruct the government on key challenges to business competitiveness so that the government can then remedy deficiencies.

Status

Midterm: Not Started

The government did not start the implementation of this commitment by midterm. The decree on the creation, attribution, organization and functioning of the National Business Competitiveness Observatory had not been adopted during the first year of implementation. As a result, the observatory was neither established nor operational. For more information, please see the 2016–2018 IRM midterm report.[1]

End of term: Limited

The decree on the creation, attribution, organization and functioning of the National Business Competitiveness Observatory was adopted on 4 October 2017 (Milestone 10.1, which is therefore complete). The government did not provide it to the IRM researcher, who could not find it online. Nevertheless, the researcher found several articles discussing the adoption of the decree.[2] The government did not provide any evidence on the operation of the observatory (Milestone 10.2).[3]

The government contact for OGP, Mrs. Chantal Angoua,[4] indicated that the government held an operationalization seminar on 4 October 2018. The IRM researcher found some articles related to another operationalization seminar held earlier on 27 September 2018,[5] but as the implementation period ended on 30 August 2018, these fell outside of the period under consideration.

However, since the observatory was not yet operational by the end of the implementation period, the IRM assessed Milestone 10.3 (implementation and start of observatory activities) as not yet started. This resulted in overall limited completion of this commitment. Moreover, representatives of the State and Private Sector Consultation Committee (Comité de Concertation de l'État et du Secteur Privé – CCESP)[6] explained that the inclusion of civil society, which was initially supposed to be a full member of the observatory, is not mentioned in the decree.

Did It Open Government?

Access to information: Did Not Change
Civic participation: Did Not Change
Public accountability: Did Not Change

This commitment recognizes the importance of competition for businesses. However, due to limited implementation, the commitment did not result in more information being disclosed, participation opportunities, or making the government more accountable to the public. In addition, since this commitment is coded as being of unclear relevance to OGP values, it is doubtful it would make government more accountable to the public, even if fully implemented.

Carried Forward?

The commitment was not carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020.

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[1] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018* at 18-23, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[2] "Côte d'Ivoire: Creation of a National Business Competitiveness Observatory," Koaci.com, 4 Oct. 2017, http://koaci.com/cote-divoire-observatoire-national-competitivite-entreprises-cree-113637.html; Marc Assoumou, "National Business Competitiveness Observatory, a tool for promoting good governance for companies?" Réseau Red Research, 7 Jan. 2018, https://reseau-red.com/2018/01/07/lobservatoire-national-sur-la-competitivite-des-entreprises-un-outil-de-promotion-de-la-bonne-gouvernance-des-entreprises/;"Côte d'Ivoire creates the National Business Competitiveness Observatory," Agence

Ivoirienne de Presse, 4 Oct. 2017, http://aip.ci/la-cote-divoire-met-en-place-un-observatoire-national-de-la-competitivite-de-ses-entreprises/.

[3] IRM researcher, email to the Ministry in charge of Economy and Finance, 11 Sept. 2018; Mrs. Chantal Angoua (Government focal point for OGP process), emails and phone calls with IRM researcher, 11, 13, and 18 Sept. 2018 and 4 and 5 Oct. 2018.

[4] Mrs. Chantal Angoua (Technical Advisor, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion – formerly at the Ministry of Industry and Mines during the first year of implementation – Government contact point for the OGP process), e-mail to IRM researcher, 5 Oct. 2018.

[5] "Operationalization seminar on the National Business Competitiveness Observatory: speech of Minister Koné Adama," Abidjan.net, 27 Sept. 2018, https://news.abidjan.net/h/645368.html; Sercom Mef, "Business Competitiveness: Minister Adama Koné reveals the agenda of the ONCE," Economy and Finance Portal, 1 Oct. 2018, http://www.finances.gouv.ci/65-contenu-dynamique/actualite/576-competitivite-des-entreprises-le-ministre-adama-kone-devoile-la-feuille-de-route-de-l-once.

[6] Mr. Ismael Coulibaly, Mr. Georges Copre and Mr. Serge Esso (Government-Private Sector Discussion Committee (CCESP), Ministry of Economy and Finance), meeting with IRM researcher, 16 Feb. 2018.

Commitment 11: Promote access to Public Information Act n° 2013-867 of December 23, 2013

Brief Description of the commitment:
- Popularize the Act concerning access to Public interest Information
- Get public bodies to make public interest information available
- Sensitize on the role of the Commission for Access to Public Interest Information and Public Documents (CAIDP) in access to information process

Measurable and verifiable steps to achieve the commitment:
11.1. Sensitization on the Act (several ownership seminars on the Act have already been held and others are planned to make the Act known)

Editorial note: The IRM researcher added an additional milestone (11.2 Sensitize on the role of the Commission for Access to Public Interest Information and Public Documents (CAIDP) in access to information process) to reflect the brief description and ambition, as indicated in the National Action Plan.

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry of Communication
Supporting Institution(s): Ministry of Communication

Start Date: December 2015 **End Date:** Continuous
Action Plan is available here:

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
11. Promoting Information Access Law		✔			✔		✔				✔					✔			✔		
																✔					

Commitment Aim:

This commitment aims to promote Law No. 2013-867 of 23 December 2013 on access to public interest information by informing citizens of the existence of the Commission for Access to Information of Public Interest and Public Documents (CAIDP). The CAIDP is a regulatory institution that ensures access to public interest information. Its objective is to make sure that public institutions respect citizens' right to access public interest documents and information.

Status

Midterm: Complete

The government completely implemented this commitment by midterm. The CAIDP had conducted several public seminars and trainings on the law, including sessions for civil society representatives. The

CAIDP also organized many radio and TV programs for promoting the law. One recommendation from civil society was that the CAIDP cover all regions with more training for populations. Additionally, as stated in the progress report and according to the civil society representatives, while the trainings were useful, CAIDP staff were unmotivated to conduct trainings for citizens outside Abidjan.[1]

According to CSO representatives, awareness efforts started in 2015, prior to the action plan's implementation. They recommended that the CAIDP should cover all 31 regions, and increase public awareness of the CAIDP is as well as its decentralized structures.[2]

For more information, please see the 2016–2018 IRM midterm report.[3]

End of term: Complete

The government completely implemented all milestones by midterm.

Did It Open Government?

Access to Information: Marginal

This commitment set the stage to raise citizen awareness of the law on access to information, and to encourage its use. It also aimed to increase public awareness regarding the existence of the CAIDP. It marginally changed government practice with respect to access to information. The CAIDP website now provides information such as a fact sheet on "how to access information or documents of public interest"[4] and an article on "the typology of documents of public interest to be distributed proactively."[5]

According to a journalist,[6] the CAIDP held its first sensitization activities in regions across the country. Nevertheless, he has doubts about the scope of the commitment as the CAIDP administration has no archives or point people responsible for information. Additionally, only journalists and researchers access CAIDP and information; it is not a standard practice for the general public to use the data.[7]

Carried Forward?

The commitment was not carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020.

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[1] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[2] Id.

[3] Id.

[4] CAIDP website, http://www.caidp.ci/accueil/caidp/comment-accder-linformation-ou-documents-dintrt-public.

[5] "Access to Information: The Typology of Documents of Public Interest to be Proactively Distributed," CAIDP, 6 Jul. 2018, http://www.caidp.ci/accueil/details_actualite/acces-a-linformation-la-typologie-des-documents-dinteret-public-a-diffuser-de-maniere-proactive.

[6] Journalist wishing to remain anonymous, phone call with IRM researcher, 6 Oct. 2018.

[7] Id.

Commitment 12: Ensure the freedom the press and plurality of expression

Brief Description of the commitment:
- Liberalization of the television sector
- Financial and material support to print media

Measurable and verifiable steps to achieve the commitment
12.1. Grant-making
12.2. Liberalization of the television sector

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry of Communication
Supporting Institution(s): Ministry of Communication

Start Date: 2009 **End Date:** Continuous
Action Plan is available here:

	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
Commitment Overview	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
12. Ensure the freedom the press and plurality of expression		✔			Unclear					✔						✔		✔			
																✔					

Commitment Aim:

The objective of this commitment is to optimize press freedom and plurality of expression. More specifically, the commitment sets out to: (i) award grants to written press so as to allow wider distribution of newspapers; and (ii) open the television space.

Status

Midterm: Complete

The government completely implemented this commitment by midterm. A decree determines conditions for awarding newspaper printing grants. The Fund of Assistance to Press Development distributes this grant, which acts more or less as a guarantee fund. According to a government spokesperson,[1] this fund amounted to FCFA 700 million in 2015, FCFA 1.7 billion in 2017, and is expected to increase this year again. During 2017, a six-month newspaper grant of FCFA 701 million was distributed to 22 private press companies regardless of the publication style. With respect to the commitment's aim to open the television space, three additional satellite channels were added, four licenses were granted, and two channel operators were identified. For more information, please see the 2016-2018 IRM midterm report.[2]

End of term: Complete

The government completely implemented both milestones by midterm.

Did It Open Government?

Access to information: Did not change
Civic participation: Did not change
Public accountability: Did not change

This commitment addresses the free circulation of information in society but, as written, it does not have clear relevance to OGP core values and did not change government practices in access to information, civic participation, or public accountability. Through this commitment, the government disbursed grants to the written press and opened television space. The government's objective was to allow a greater distribution of quality newspapers, in response to the reputation of Ivorian newspapers generally being highly politicized, poorly distributed, and lacking professionalism.[3]

According to a journalist,[4] however, the government plans to suspend newspaper grants after the implementation period because the new minister of communication and media has decided to shift financial assistance from printing companies to a paper distribution company in Côte d'Ivoire. The press community planned various demonstrations, namely a "no press" day as well as a strike of press actors.[5] The press community ultimately cancelled these events due to ongoing mediation between the government and the Association of Press Editors in Côte d'Ivoire (GEPCI). The same journalist indicated that the government should go further in press liberalization by assisting the press' digitization.

Carried Forward?

The commitment was, in part, carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020. As recommended by the IRM researcher in the progress report, Commitment 10 in the new action plan aims to open television space. Support for print media was not carried forward.

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[1] Mr. Ahmed Sako (Deputy Director of the Minister of Communication, Digital Economy and Post's office) interview with IRM researcher, 5 Feb. 2018.

[2] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018* at 18-23, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[3] Sako, interview.

[4] Journalist wishing to remain anonymous, phone call with IRM researcher, 6 Oct. 2018.

[5] Id.

Commitment 13: Set up five municipal committee to fight against racketeering

Brief Description of the commitment:
This activity consists in a local ownership of the fight against racketeering in all of its aspects through establishing local Monitoring and control mechanisms which are local anti-racketeering committees;
These local committees emanate from civil society organizations and local public administrations, chaired by the local elected representative or his or her representative and established by municipal decree of the local elected representative.
They meet periodically to analyze the situation about racketeering in the light of missions they carry out in the administrations or of the populations complaints in order to make proposals to local authorities.
Their role is to sensitize, denounce and monitor: The service bulletin, an official document which deploys policemen will be popularized, in their specific case.
A sensitization campaign will be carried out with the heads of the other local public administrations so that the payable costs of actions can be posted and their issuance time limit known.

Measurable and verifiable steps to achieve the commitment:
13.1. The local elected representatives take ownership of racketeering-fighting strategy
13.2. Five (5) Municipal anti-racketeering committees are set up and their operational capacities are built
13.3. The Civil society is involved and actually participates in decision-making processes in line with fight against racketeering
13.4. A local integrity improvement policy is drafted
13.5. Public servants and private sector workers are sensitized on dangers associated with corruption and potential penalties
13.6. Policemen on mission have their mission order: the service bulletin

Editorial Note: In addition to the six milestones indicated, the IRM researcher added four additional milestones to reflect the brief description and ambition of the commitment as indicated by the National Action Plan. These included:

- posting sensitization messages in public places to raise awareness on the drawbacks of racketeering and the applicable sanctions (13.7);
- organizing timely meetings with all the relevant protagonists (public, private, local elected representatives, CSOs) (13.8);
- creating a local fraud technique directory (13.9); and
- educating public servants and their families on the dangers of corruption and the penalties they face (13.10).

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry of State, Ministry of Interior and Security
Supporting Institution(s): Ministry of State, Ministry of Interior and Security's Office

Start Date: April 2016 **End Date:** May 2018
Action Plan is available here:

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
13. Set up five municipal committee to fight against racketeering			✔			✔					✔				✔			✔			

Commitment Aim:

The aim of this commitment is to fight racketeering in the public administration. To this end, community committees, led by elected local or regional representatives, are in charge of educating and denouncing corruption. Their mission mainly consists of raising awareness about racketeering and officially establishing the committees.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

The government substantially implemented this commitment by midterm. While Milestones 13.4, 13.9, and 13.10 were not started, 13.1, 13.6, and 13.7 were implemented to a limited degree, 13.2 was substantially implemented, and 13.3, 13.5, and 13.8 were completed.

Civil society was involved in the fight against racketeering through their representation in local public administration committees (13.3). The government conducted awareness activities regarding the drawbacks of corruption and the sanctions applicable and held various periodic meetings (13.8) with stakeholders (public, private, community leaders and civil society). Five Anti-Racketeering Community Committees (CCLR) were created during the investigation period (13.2), though the researcher received no evidence on capacity-building activities of these committees.

However, verification and assessment remain difficult to achieve. The government has to draft a local integrity improvement policy (13.4), create a technical fraud directory (13.9), and sensitize public service agents and their families on the dangers of corruption and the applicable sanctions (13.10). For more information please see the 2016-2018 IRM midterm report.[1]

End of term: Substantial

According to the government, local elected officials appropriated the strategy to fight racketeering by adopting municipal bylaws.[2] The government has provided the IRM researcher with several municipal bylaws establishing committees against racketing in different localities, during the second year of implementation (13.1). Apart from this milestone, the government did not provide the IRM researcher any additional evidence of implementation of the remaining incomplete milestones.[3]

Did It Open Government?

Civic Participation: Did not change

The effective creation of the anti-racketeering committees promotes civic participation. Indeed, as a result of this commitment, local populations have the opportunity to give their perceptions about corruption in general and racketeering, and to make proposals to the government. This is positive for improving governance and citizen participation in the country. However, in practice, as confirmed by a civil society representative,[4] the fight against racketeering is currently being conducted by the anti-racket unit. He also confirmed that racketeering continues, and the feeling of impunity grows daily. There is a lack of communication about committee activities, which is contrary to what the commitment initially planned, and activities of the anti-racketeering committees and their activity reports are not sufficiently popularized.[5] Therefore, the government's practice with respect to civic participation did not change.

Additionally, according to a journalist[6] who investigated this issue, the effectiveness of the CCLR is limited as racketeering occurs in all sectors, not just public administration.

Carried Forward?

The commitment was carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020. Commitment 7 focuses on fighting corruption and racketeering in local communities. Following a recommendation in the midterm report,[7] the government specified the budget allocated to this commitment and mentioned civil society involvement. However, the government did not expand the scope beyond the local level nor did it clarify the level of public transparency regarding documents created for the commitment. The government adopted another IRM recommendation, creating additional protection for whistleblowers, in a separate commitment (Commitment 3).

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[1] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[2] Chantal Angoua (Technical Advisor, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion, Government contact point for the OGP process), comments from the midterm report transmitted on 18 Jun. 2018.

[3] IRM researcher, email request to Chantal Angoua (Technical Advisor, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion, Government contact point for the OGP process), 5 Oct. 2018.

[4] Civil society representative, member of the PCSI forum, email with IRM researcher, Mar. 30, 2019.

[5] Id.

[6] Journalist wishing to remain anonymous, phone call with IRM researcher, 6 Oct. 2018.

[7] Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*.

Commitment 14: Promote participatory budget in 5 communities

Brief Description of the commitment:
Create conditions to ensure the participation of all local players in decentralized authorities budget development and implementation.

Measurable and verifiable steps to achieve the commitment
14.1. Promote an active and participative citizenship
14.2. Strengthen the operational capacities of civil society organizations in terms of participative approach and commitment in public interest actions
14.3. Strengthen the capacities of women's groups in the target collectivities in planning and budgeting processes at local level
14.4. Initiate and propose exchange and consultation mechanisms about gender planning and budgeting performance
14.5. Five (05) communes are experimenting with participatory budgeting[1]

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry of State, Ministry of Interior and Security
Supporting Institution(s): Ministry of State, Ministry of Interior and Security's office, General Directorate on Decentralization and Local Development

Start Date: May 2016 **End Date:** June 2018
Action Plan is available here:

	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Mid-term / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
Commitment Overview	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
14. Promote participatory budget in 5 communities			✔			✔					✔				✔					✔	
															✔						

Commitment Aim:
This commitment aims to encourage local authorities to pilot participatory budgets. Specifically, the objective is to enable citizens to take the initiative in their own development by being both the agents and the recipients. It is about improving governance at the local level and boosting people's participation in decision-making. This commitment also promotes budget transparency at the local level while increasing available resources in regions in such a way that it favors, according to government, research and improved local resource contributions for community budgets.

Status
Midterm: Substantial

The government substantially implemented this commitment by midterm. From January to December 2017, the government offered capacity-building opportunities to 300 opinion leaders and 50 facilitators

on topics such as social accountability tools, facilitation techniques, and prioritization of community projects. Moreover, several community forums were held to promote participatory budgets in ten communities. Several municipalities experimented with participatory budgets, which was promoted in a few cities, though its effectiveness remained difficult to measure. The government held a gender budgeting module during a workshop but there were no details regarding the content of this module. Milestones 14.2, 14.3, and 14.5 were completed by the midterm. Milestone 14.1 was substantially completed and Milestone 14.4 was not started yet. For more information, please see the 2016-2018 IRM midterm report.[2]

End of term: Substantial

The IRM researcher was unable to obtain further evidence of implementation on this commitment from the government at the end of term.[3] Instead, an article[4] dated July 2018 indicated "[p]articipatory budget[ing] is being implemented in six communes in Côte d'Ivoire" (Milestone 14.5). Another article[5] dated October 2017 announced the official launch of the first participatory budget in Daloa. The IRM researcher found no additional information concerning promotion of an active and participatory citizenship (Milestone 14.1) or exchanges and consultations on gender responsive planning and budgeting (Milestone 14.4).

Did It Open Government?

Civic Participation: Major

Participatory budgets contribute to improving governance and accountability through an inclusive process of communal budgeting. Not only does it allow people to express their real needs, but it also provides an opportunity for citizens to be part of project governance. The website of the "Participative budget Project" details ten municipalities to date that participated in the participatory budget process. [6] According to this website, the Participative Budget Project's beneficiaries are 350 opinion leaders from CSOs, traditional chiefdoms, religious groups, and the media as well as at least 2,000,000 people from the local communities.[7]

According to a civil society representative,[8] municipal counselors lead the process of drawing up the budget in communities. Currently, nine decentralized communities plan to test their participatory budgets. However, at the time of this report, a civil society representative confirmed that civil society does not have yet answers on this progress or any early results of the priorities addressed.[9]

The IRM researcher considers this commitment a step forward for government openness in the relevant policy area, even if it remains limited in scope or scale.

The process has limitations because it is not mandatory. Instead, municipalities volunteer to implement a participatory budget. As a result of this commitment, citizens in ten municipalities can now control part of their local authority budget, which usually goes to investment projects.[10] They debate and decide on priorities in public policies.[11] As such, this commitment is considered as having marginally opened government with respect to civic participation. According to civil society,[12] the real limits to implementing this commitment as written are the fact that it is based on the will of elected officials and is not backed by any legal measure.

The IRM researcher was unable to interview a member of the civil society who is an expert in relation to this commitment. The IRM researcher made several unanswered requests.[13]

Carried Forward?

The commitment was not carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020.

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[1] This milestone exists in the French version of the action plan, but is not mentioned in the English version.

[2] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[3] IRM researcher, unanswered emails and phone calls to the OGP focal point, 11 Sept.–5 Oct. 2018.

[4] Pressecotedivoire.ci, "Six (6) communes of Cote d'Ivoire implement participatory budget," International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (IOPD) Africa, Jul. 2018, https://oidp-afrique.org/2018/07/six-6-communes-de-cote-divoire-appliquent-budget-participatif/?v=3ba0f40775d6.

[5] Casimir Boh, "Côte d'Ivoire: The first edition of the implementation of participatory budget in Daloa officially launched; populations are invited to reflect on realistic and inclusive projects," Koaci, 25 Oct. 2017, http://koaci.com/cote-divoire-daloa-premiere-edition-budget-participatif-lancee-populations-appelees-apporter-projets-viables-inclusifs-114288.html.

[6] Projet Budget Participatif Côte d'Ivoire website, https://www.budgetparticipatif.ci/index.php?pg=pbp.

[7] Id.

[8] Civil society representative (member of PSCI-OGP), email to IRM researcher, 30 Mar. 30, 2019.

[9] Id.

[10] Projet Budget Participatif Côte d'Ivoire website.

[11] Id.

[12] Civil society representative (member of PSCI-OGP), email to IRM researcher, 30 Mar. 2019.

[13] IRM researcher, email and phone requests to PSCI-OGP, 11 Sept.–5 Oct. 2018.

Commitment 15: Establish and operationalize a national monitoring body for the quality of financial services

Brief Description of the commitment:
- The purpose of the Monitoring body of the Quality of Financial Services is to:
- Inform the public on financial services and their costs;
- Ensure mediation between financial institutions and their clients in case of dispute; and
- Promote financial education.

Measurable and verifiable steps to achieve the commitment
15.1. Preparation of technical notes and implementation of studies
15.2. Preparation of the institutional legal framework of the monitoring body
15.3. Adoption of the decree establishing the monitoring body
15.4. Implementation of the monitoring body
15.5. Operationalization of the monitoring body

Editorial Note: In the National Action Plan, the government completed Milestone 15.1 prior to the commitment implementation period. This evaluation will therefore focus on the three remaining milestones that took place during the concerned implementation period.

Responsible Institution(s): Ministry in charge of Economy and Finance, under the authority of the Prime Minister.
Supporting Institution(s): Financial Sector Development Programme

Start Date: May 2016 **End Date:** Continuous
Action Plan is available here:

Commitment Overview	Specificity				OGP Value Relevance (as written)				Potential Impact				Completion		Midterm / End of Term		Did It Open Government?				
	None	Low	Medium	High	Access to Information	Civic Participation	Public Accountability	Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability	None	Minor	Moderate	Transformative	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed	Worsened	Did Not Change	Marginal	Major	Outstanding
15. Establish and operationalize a national monitoring body for the quality of financial services			✔		Unclear						✔				✔			✔			
															✔						

Commitment Aim:

This commitment aims to protect financial services consumers through improved consideration and diligent response to their complaints. Specifically, the objective is to improve financial service providers' image concerning customer relations. In addition to protecting consumers, this commitment also aims to make financial services information available to them.

Status

Midterm: Substantial

The government created the institutional and legal framework for the monitoring through ("the observatory"). It adopted the Decree No. 2016-1136 for the creation, organization, and operation of the National Monitoring Body for the Quality of Financial Services in Côte d'Ivoire (OQSF-CI) on 21 December 2016 although the IRM researcher was unable to obtain evidence of its existence. The government did not establish and operationalize the observatory. For more information, please see the 2016-2018 IRM midterm report.[1]

End of term: Substantial

The government provided the IRM researcher with the Decree for the creation, organization, and operation of the OQSF-CI (Milestone 15.2)[2]. According to a report[3] provided by the government on this commitment, a ministerial decree appointed the members of the Orientation Council (Milestone 15.3). The government did not provide the said decree to the IRM researcher and it was not found online.

Based on the report received, the Council adopted the key texts (rules of procedure, management of the service comparison tool, management of financial mediation, etc.) (Milestone 15.1). According to the same report, the government recruited the executive secretary of the observatory through a public procurement notice, and a ministerial decree appointed him afterward. The government did not provide the decree to the IRM researcher.[4] Based on the report received, the operation of the observatory (acquisition and equipping of offices, staff recruitment, etc.) is in progress (Milestone 15.4). In an article dated May 2018,[5] the Minister of Economy and Finance launched the activities of the OQSF. The government is also working on a website for the observatory.[6]

The observatory is effective and this commitment is still under way in accordance with the action plan. However, because the provided report is neither official nor public, the commitment is only substantially complete.

Did It Open Government?

Access to information: Did not change
Civic participation: Did not change
Public accountability: Did not change

There are several problems relating to the protection of financial service consumers and this commitment aims to tackle them. However, in addition to the unclear relevance of this commitment to the OGP core values, there is no positive change in opening government as a result of this commitment. The IRM researcher was unable to interview a member of civil society who is an expert regarding this commitment, despite several unanswered requests.[7]

Carried Forward?

The commitment was not carried into the new national action plan for 2018–2020.

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[1] Aïcha Blegbo, *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Côte d'Ivoire Progress Report 2016–2018*, OGP, 2018, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Cote-dIvoire_Mid-Term_IRM-Report_2016-2018_EN.pdf.

[2] Décret n°2016-1136, 21 December 2016, https://bit.ly/2HmhXGG.

[3] OQSF, "OQSF-CI: Elements of Evaluation on 14/09/2018 In Report to the Open Govenrment Partnership," OQSF, 14 Sep. 2018, https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LyBkeF8FmCiTgvZICFwf8XFYmZBE9e9x

[4] IRM researcher, emails and phone calls to PSCI, 11 Sept. –5 Oct. 2018.

[5] "Quality of Financial services in Côte d'Ivoire: Minister Adama KONE officially launches the Observatory's activities," Economy and Finance Portal, 26 May 2018, http://www.finances.gouv.ci/actualites/65-contenu-dynamique/actualite/475-lancement-des-travaux-de-observatoire.

[6] OQSF-CI, website, http://oqsf-ci.org/.

[7] IRM researcher, emails and phone calls to PSCI, 11 Sept.–5 Oct. 2018.

Methodological Note

The end-of-term report is based on desk research and interviews with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders. The IRM report builds on the findings of the government's self-assessment report; other assessments of progress put out by civil society, the private sector, or international organizations; and the previous IRM progress report.

The following people contributed to this report:

1. Chantal Angoua, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and SME Promotion – formerly at the Ministry of Industry and Mines – Government focal point for the entire OGP process
   Date: 11 September to 5 October 2018
   Other participants: Mr. Coulibaly, Research Officer at the Ministry of Industry and Mines; Mr. Ferdinand Kablan Kouame, Computer Scientist, IT Service, Documentation and Archives, Ministry of Industry and Mines
   Interaction format: e-mail and telephone conversations
   Summary of the exchanges: exchanges concerning the status of implementation of the commitments for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, as well as the consultation process for the development of the 2018–2020 action plan.

2. Mr. Moussa Mamadou, Executive Secretary, National Observatory on the Quality of Financial Services
   Date: 11 and 14 September 2018
   Interaction format: E-mail exchange
   Summary of the exchange: exchanges concerning the status of implementation of Commitment 15 for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

3. Several civil society representatives, internal and external to PSCI, wishing to remain anonymous
   Date: between 11 September and 5 October, 2018; and on March 30, 2019.
   Interaction format: e-mail and telephone conversations
   Summary of exchanges: numerous exchanges concerning the implementation status of the commitments for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, as well as the consultation process during this second year of implementation, and during the development of the 2018–2020 action plan.

4. Mr. Affré Dany Romaric N'dri, President of the Very Small Business Administration (VSBA), expert in education and entrepreneurship
   Date: 1, 2, and 5 October2018
   Interaction format: e-mail exchanges and telephone conversations
   Summary of the exchanges: exchanges concerning the status of implementation of Commitments 6 and 7 for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, as well as their effect on government practice, as implemented to date.

5. A digital transformation expert working in the private sector who wished to remain anonymous
   Date: 20 and 24 September, 1, 5, and 6 October 2018
   Interaction format: e-mail exchanges, telephone exchanges and physical meeting
   Summary of exchanges: exchanges concerning the status of implementation of Commitments 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9 for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, as well as their effect on government practice, as implemented to date.

6. Journalist wishing to remain anonymous who researched various fields addressed by the commitments

Date: 6 October 2018
Interaction format: telephone conversation
Summary of exchanges: exchanges concerning the status of implementation of several commitments for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, as well as their effect on government practice, as implemented to date.

7. Mr. Marc Mahi, expert in explosives (mining sector)
Date: 6October 2018
Interaction format: telephone conversation
Summary of Exchanges: Exchanges regarding the status of implementation of Commitment 2 for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, as well as its effect on government practice, as implemented to date.

Aïcha Blegbo has experience in international development research, participative development, gender, fund and project management, as well as governance and transparency and an interest in women economic empowerment. She was lead researcher for Cote d'Ivoire for Global Integrity's *Africa Integrity Indicators Report 2018 for Cote d'Ivoire* (April 2018).

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, to empower citizens, to fight corruption, and to harness new technologies to strengthen governance. OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism assesses development and implementation of national action plans to foster dialogue among stakeholders and to improve accountability.