

INDEPENDENT REPORTING MECHANISM PROCESS PATHWAY

The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) provides support to Open Government Partnership (OGP) member countries. The new process provides more targeted and timely advice, and the ability for the IRM to share knowledge and international know-how, at moments when country members have identified they need it most.

BLUE IRM process**GREEN** Country OGP Process

ACTORS

Individuals or organizations who may be involved in the process.



IRM team
and researcher
network



OGP Country
Support team



International
Experts Panel
(IEP)



OGP Government
Point of Contact
(POC)



Multi-stakeholder
forum or equivalent



Other country
stakeholders
(includes the public, non-
forum member civil society,
private sector, academia)

STARTS

1

CO-CREATION BRIEF

The brief supports the co-creation process design and helps to strengthen the quality, ambition and feasibility of national action plan commitments.

It provides an overview of the opportunities and challenges for open government in a country context and presents recommendations drawing on lessons and examples from comparative international experience and previous IRM reports.

Moment in OGP cycle: The co-creation brief is delivered within three months before the co-creation process begins.

Link(s): ➔ [Co-Creation Brief Product Explainer](#); [Co-Creation Brief template](#)

1.1

Prepare

The IRM reviews previous IRM reports, action plans, and lessons learned from the OGP member's participation. The International Experts Panel (IEP) members may provide input based on geographic or thematic expertise.

1.2

Share

The IRM shares the recommendations on the co-creation process and action plan commitment design to the multi-stakeholder forum. The aim is to improve the quality and ambition of commitments, support in-country learning and reflection on your open government journey, and inspire discussions on how to strengthen your approach.

1.3

Publish

The co-creation brief is published on the country page of the OGP website.

ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION & IMPLEMENTATION

The member country submits its national action plan to OGP and implementation begins.

Link(s): ➔ [Handbook](#)

ACTORS



CO-CREATION

CONTINUES

2

ACTION PLAN REVIEW

The Action Plan Review is intended to be a concise technical review of the characteristics of your action plan, and its strengths and challenges. This approach allows the IRM to identify the promising commitments in the action plan and provide targeted recommendations to inform implementation.

Moment in OGP cycle: The review phase begins on the delivery of the new action plan.

Link(s): ➔ [Action Plan Review Product Explainer](#); [Action Plan Review template](#)

2.1

Filter, verify, cluster commitments

The IRM conducts an initial assessment and filtering of commitments, as they are presented in the action plan, based on IRM key indicators of verifiability and the open government lens.

Commitments with similar policy objectives may be clustered and assessed as a group.

Link(s): ➔ [Discover our methodology](#)

IRM

2.2

Assess commitments for potential for results

The IRM assesses the expected results of commitments or clustered commitments based on available baseline information and an analysis of the state of play in the relevant policy area. This is an early indicator of the potential the commitment has to yield meaningful results based on its articulation in the action plan.

The Results Report later will contrast potential for results with actual results, especially with an emphasis on the promising commitments identified in the Action Plan Review.

Commitment potential for results are rated as unclear, modest, or substantial.

Link(s): ➔ [Discover our methodology](#)

IRM

2.3

Review & interview

The IRM conducts interviews with in-country stakeholders and the multi-stakeholder forum to gather input and validate initial analysis.

The IRM develops a draft Action Plan Review informed by desk research, interview inputs, and the technical analysis of commitments.

IRM

2.4

Identify promising commitments

The IRM identifies promising commitments by assessing the inclusion of key IRM indicators, particularly commitments with the highest potential for results, the level of priority for country stakeholders, and the priorities in the national open government context.

IRM

2.5

Check compliance with OGP minimum co-creation requirements

The IRM checks if your co-creation process meets the minimum thresholds from the OGP's Participation and Co-Creation Standards:

- 1) a forum exists
- 2) the forum is multi-stakeholder
- 3) reasoned response – the government or multi-stakeholder forum has documentation or is able to demonstrate how they sought and provided feedback during the co-creation process

Link(s): ➔ [IRM guidance on meeting the minimum threshold](#)

IRM

2.6

International Experts Panel review

The draft report is reviewed by the International Expert Panel (IEP) and potentially sent to other expert reviewers for review.

Link(s): ➔ [IEP Membership Information](#)

IRM





2.7

Country review

Country stakeholders have two opportunities to comment on IRM products, including the Action Plan Review.

The first opportunity is known as a ‘pre-publication’ review. The IRM shares the Action Plan Review with your Government Point of Contact, the multi-stakeholder forum, and/or other stakeholders that provided input during the research process.

The IRM promotes and encourages discussion of findings and reflections on recommendations during this time to inform the implementation of the action plan.

The IRM incorporates comments received as needed and provides a final opportunity for comments. At this time, the IRM shares the Action Plan Review more widely and encourages comments from the broader public.

Moment in OGP cycle: three-four months after OGP receives the action plan

Link(s): ➔ [IRM guidance on providing comments](#)

2.8

Publish final review report

The final product is published on the country page of the OGP website.

ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION CONTINUES

3

RESULTS REPORT

The results report produces evidence-based analysis on the level of completion of action plan commitments and the results obtained, and whether meaningful engagement and collaboration with in-country stakeholders has occurred throughout implementation.

The objective is to capture and share how results and change happens and what the enablers or constraints are in implementing promising results, compliance with OGP standards and criteria, and provide lessons for long-term learning and accountability.

Moment in OGP cycle: Results report production begins after the first year of implementation is complete.

Link(s): ➔ [Results Report Product Explainer](#); *Results report template forthcoming - design in progress*



3.1

Ongoing engagement & verification

Analysis begins by reviewing your repository of information about implementation of action plan commitments.

The IRM develops a research plan, including questions based on existing and missing evidence in the repository.

The plan is shared with the multi-stakeholder forum through your Government Point of Contact. It may include requests for comment and further information. In some cases, meetings will be arranged to explore certain commitments.

The IRM periodically checks repository updates and will follow up with your Government Point of Contact to gather new information.

In-country stakeholders are interviewed by the IRM to understand the results of implementation and what has enabled or inhibited progress. These insights will inform the analysis of results in the final report.

Moment in OGP cycle: The end of the first year of implementation.

Link(s): ➔ [IRM Guidance on Repositories](#)

END OF ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION & GOVERNMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

At the conclusion of the action plan implementation, country member governments produce an End-of-Term Self-Assessment Report. The report should focus on the final results of reforms completed in the action plan, consultation during implementation, and lessons learned.

Moment in the OGP cycle: Three months after implementation ends.

Link(s): ➔ [Handbook](#) (page 15)

3.2

Draft report

The IRM drafts the results report focusing on:

- policy-level results and how changes happen
- completion of commitments
- performance on OGP's Participation and Co-creation Standards throughout the OGP Cycle

3.3

International Experts Panel review

The draft report is sent to one member of the International Experts Panel to review (this could include broader pool of expert reviewers). The IRM revises the report as necessary.

3.4

Country review & public comment

The Results Report is shared with your multi-stakeholder forum (or country specific stakeholders) and Government Point of Contact to review the draft report and provide feedback and validation.

The report is revised by the IRM, with comments incorporated as needed.

The draft Results Report is published for public comments. Comments are published and the report is revised as needed to incorporate comments.

Link(s): ➔ [IRM guidance on providing comments](#)

3.5

Publish

The final Results Report is published on the OGP website.

Moment in OGP cycle: four months after action plan implementation ends

ENDS

