



**REPUBLIC OF GHANA
OPEN GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIP**

4TH NATIONAL ACTION

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ghana signed on to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in September 2011; and as an obligation under the Partnership, developed and implemented three action plans. The government also provided the necessary reports like the self-assessment reports, end of term reports and three action plans to the OGP Support Unit. This Fourth National Action Plan is the continuation of Ghana's efforts to meet all the requirements under the partnership.

The Open Government Partnership is an international initiative that seeks to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, enhance citizen's participation, promote accountability and adopt new technologies to enhance good governance. Within the framework of promoting state-civil society collaboration, the OGP is governed by a Global Steering Committee comprising representatives of government and civil society organizations.

Ghana's commitment to developing and implementing OGP activities is strong as ever. This is because the Government of Ghana considers OGP as one of many important mediums for shaping concrete and effective policies to positively impact the quality of life of the citizenry. By the OGP criteria, Action Plans are developed every two years. To sustainably foster government-civil society relationship as well as deepening and bringing governance to the doorstep of citizens, the Office of the Senior Minister, (OSM) now Office of the Senior Presidential Advisor (OSPA) collaborated with CSOs to organize the necessary meetings to develop the action plan. The Government of Ghana and the OSPA greatly acknowledge the contribution of the CSOs in sponsoring the initial workshops and meetings for putting together this Action Plan. The initial meeting was a consultative workshop held in June 2021 at Accra where stakeholders from government, quasi-governmental institutions, and civil society organizations were invited to a one-day consultative meeting to contribute issues openly and freely to be included in the Fourth National Action Plan (NAP). The Fourth Action Plan was also reviewed and emerging issues relating to OGP values were discussed at the meeting. Another virtual consultative workshop was held in June 2021 in Accra to further consult and engage on the draft action plan. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic the two national consultations held were, one virtual and the other in-person. All COVID-19 protocols were strictly observed

Issues gathered from the consultative meetings; findings and recommendations from OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism's (IRMs) review reports; findings from the self-assessment

reports; inputs submitted by civil society organizations (CSOs) who were not part of the consultative meeting; and the review of key national legal documents to identify some outstanding issues regarding transparency, accountability and participation led to the formulation of commitments in this action plan. The draft action plan was also submitted to both civil society and government stakeholders for validation on 23rd June 2021. Having completed the implementation of the third Action Plan in 2019, Ghana developed this Fourth Action Plan which will span the period 2022 and 2023.

This Action Plan builds on the successes and lessons learnt from the implementation of the previous action plans. The commitments represent the aspirations of both government and civil society and the two shall work closely together to ensure the implementation of the commitments for the benefit of the people.

1.1 The National Context of Ghana Open Government Partnership (OGP) Fourth National Action Plan (NAP-4)

Ghana's Fourth OGP National Action Plan has been prepared in a national context characterized by the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The context of the Action Plan has influenced to a considerable extent the process of preparation and content and may, in the end even exert some impact on the implementation which is key to the realization of OGP objectives. The context should therefore require of all stakeholders, government and non-governmental agencies, extra determination, and innovation to ensure that whatever the contextual challenges the targets of the Plan are satisfactorily attained. In all this, learning from previous experience will go a long way to overcome existing and emerging challenges.

1.2 Co-Creation Process

Deliberate measures were employed to ensure that the COVID-19 context did not pose any hindrance to the process of co-creation of the NAP-4 by all relevant stakeholders - State, CSOs and private sector actors. Towards an effective co-creation process, three national meetings were held to formulate the NAP.¹

¹ Evidence of the National Stakeholders Consultative meeting in terms of reports and relevant documents can be found here <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kzcbjjX7n6PIkdFgCEVGyzlpaezgZlIX?usp=sharing>

- i. In-person National Stakeholders Consultative Meeting for the development of the Fourth OGP National Action Plan held Wednesday, 19th May 2021 at Tomreik Hotel, Accra.
- ii. Virtual National Stakeholders Consultative Meeting for the development of the Fourth OGP National Action Plan which took place on 15th June 2021.
- iii. National Stakeholders Validation Meeting for the development of the Fourth National OGP Action Plan held on Wednesday, 23rd June 2021 at Tomreik Hotel, Accra²

Each meeting involved State, Civil Society and Private Sector Organizations. In terms of gender balance, female participation averaged approximately thirty percent across all meetings. The qualitative participation of persons with disabilities was impressive. State and Civil Society representatives were the dominant groups with the private sector representing less than ten percent.

Specific co-creation mechanisms at the meetings included syndicate group discussion based on each OGP thematic area-accountability, transparency, civic participation, technology and innovation. Every syndicate group comprised state, CSO and private sector representatives.

The Office of the Senior Presidential Advisor has as one of its mandates, the exercise of oversight of OGP Ghana activities. In this role, the Senior Presidential Advisor did not only actively participate in the OGP Fourth Action Plan consultations and validation meetings but also in early August 2021 presented written comments and inputs for the NAP-4. Equally important is the contribution of the Open Parliament Ghana Chapter to the NAP-4 commitments. Parliamentary representatives consistently and actively participated in the NAP-4 consultation and validation meetings. Parliament went even further to submit written inputs for inclusion in NAP-4.

Subsequent to the meetings, all participating organizations were afforded the opportunity, after studying draft meeting reports, to submit comments, inputs and clarifications of the commitments. Final approval of the NAP-4 was given at a meeting of the National OGP Steering Committee, consisting of equal numbers of CSO and government representatives.

² Evidence of feedback given to stakeholders regarding their inputs at the National Stakeholders Validation meeting can be found in this link
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kzcbjjX7n6PIkdFgCEVGyzlpaezgZlIX?usp=sharing>

1.3 COVID-19 Context

On 12th March 2020, Ghana's Ministry of Health confirmed the first two cases of COVID-19 in the country. The affected individuals returned to Ghana from Norway and Turkey. The rapid spread of infection across the country particularly in the large urban conglomerates convinced the authorities to announce on 20th March 2020, a lock-down of Greater Accra Metropolitan Area and Greater Kumasi Metropolitan Area. The lock-down of these two major urban settlements sparked a flight of some residents to their hometowns in other parts of the country carrying the disease along with them.

The President, deriving powers from the Imposition of Restriction Act 2020, had announced a raft of restrictions on freedom of assembly. This affected major cultural and social events such as funeral and church attendance as well as other public gatherings. Educational institutions were closed, bars and restaurants temporarily stopped from operating. Many businesses were hit hard by the pandemic but, especially those in the hospitality and catering industry as well as operation of private schools.

The government adopted a timely and targeted response which included the setting up of a COVID-19 Alleviation Programme (CAP) supported by a COVID-19 Alleviation Fund (CAF) and emergency IMF one-billion-dollar credit line under the Fund's Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) These measures focused on increasing health and social spending to bring relief to affected households and businesses.

1.4 COVID-19 and the Economy

No aspect of life in Ghana remained unaffected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic but the most devastating impact has occurred in the economy. In 2019, Ghana successfully concluded a programme under the IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) and the macro-economic indicators were all pointing in the right direction. The economy was poised for even better performance in 2020 provided the perennial proclivity towards excessive election year spending could be curbed. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic completely changed this positive outlook for 2020.

Ghana began the year 2020 projecting an economic growth of around 6.8 percent but ended with just under one percent. At the same time, the fiscal deficit which was expected to be around 4.9 percent in 2020 spiraled out of control to 11.4 percent. The debt distress was equally

alarming estimated to have hit 76.67 percent of GDP in 2020. All this is the result of the COVID-19 pandemic which has sparked lower government revenues in the face of higher spending required to save lives, protect livelihoods, and support businesses as well as retain jobs.

From the economic point of view, the implementation of the Fourth National Action Plan will be very challenging under COVID-19 conditions. The priority of government will understandably remain on saving lives and protecting livelihoods and at the same time, committing resources to support the macro-economic stability.

1.5 The December 2020 Elections and the Aftermath

The period before, during and after the December 2020 elections witnessed a marked deterioration in the relations between the two major parties NPP and NDC. The soured relations arising from incidents around the 2020 elections had the effect of eroding the conducive conditions for cooperation between the parties vital for securing the targets under the OGP NAP-4.

1.6 Presidential and Parliamentary Election Results

The official election results declared by the EC of Ghana indicated that the incumbent President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the NPP candidate won the presidency with a total valid vote cast for him standing at 6,730,587 representing 51.3 percent as against his closest opponent John Mahama of the NDC who polled 6,213,182 or 47.36 percent of total votes cast. In the parliamentary election the NPP and NDC won 137 seats each which for the NPP represented a decrease of 32 seats from the 169 seats it won in the 2016 election. This has produced a split or hung parliament in which the NPP is able to hang on to the status of majority side by virtue of the fact that the only independent candidate has, in accordance with parliamentary practice, opted to associate with the ruling party. The petition challenging the Presidential election results was unanimously dismissed by the Supreme Court.

The election outcome could impinge the implementation of OGP NAP-4 in several ways. The split parliament could open the door to effective collaboration in the house as no side enjoys a clear majority. The amendment of a non-entrenched provision of the constitution requires two-thirds vote of Parliament which no side can command. On the other hand, it could generate decisional stalemates which could obstruct the programme of the Executive. Civil Society

intervention will be critical in encouraging more collaboration otherwise more confrontations could push the clock of progress back for the implementation of NAP-4.

2.0 NAP-4 CONTEXT

The specific context for the preparation of the NAP-4 is characterized by important progress in opening government with some challenges that pose uncertainties for the future. Some initiatives taken thematic areas undoubtedly point open government in the right direction. Other developments raise serious concerns.

2.1 Accountability

The major initiative taken in this thematic area is the decision in 2017 by President Akufo-Addo to implement a significant anti-corruption pledge in the NPP 2016 election manifesto.

2.1.2 Creation of the Office of the Special Prosecutor

The first year of the Akufo-Addo government saw the enactment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor Act 2017 (Act 959) which established the Office of the Special Prosecutor. The Office was designed as a specialized independent investigating, prosecutorial and asset retrieving anti-corruption body.

On 11th January 2018, to the joy and excitement of Civil Society Organizations, Mr. Martin Amidu a popular anti-corruption campaigner was appointed the first Special Prosecutor of Ghana.

By 16th November 2020, barely three years after his appointment, the Special Prosecutor resigned from the position alleging unacceptable executive interference in the work of his office.

The President accepted his resignation and appointed his deputy as the Special Prosecutor in an acting capacity. Effectively, Martin Amidu's resignation represented a challenge in the national fight against corruption.

2.1.3 Exit of the Auditor General

The circumstances surrounding the exit of the Auditor General Mr. Daniel Yao Domelevo in March 2021 generated some controversy. The Office of the Auditor General, is enshrined in Ghana's 1992 constitution as a frontline state accountability institution. The Constitution Article 187(2) expressly provides that the public accounts of Ghana, all public offices and any

other body or organization established by an act of Parliament shall be audited and reported on by the Auditor General.

Despite the crucial importance of the office for the accountability of public officers and protection of the public purse, Daniel Domelevo exited office in circumstances vehemently opposed by Civil Society Organizations. He was initially ordered to proceed on accumulated leave that took him out of his office for nine (9) months i.e., 1st July 2020, to 3rd March 2021. On resumption of duty after the prolonged leave he was immediately asked to proceed on retirement. The justification for the compulsory retirement by the Board of the Audit Service was that Domelevo's actual date of birth as per his social security records is 1st June 1960, and not 1st June 1961, as he claimed. Accordingly, he was deemed to have retired from public service in June 2020.

Civil Society Organizations in Ghana with one voice rejected the circumstances of his exit.

2.1.4 Accountability: Asset Declaration by Public Officers

NAP-3 specifically committed to ensure the amendment and enactment of the Public Office Holders Bill to include thorough declaration and verification of assets by public office holders by December 2018. The relevant legal provisions are Articles 286 and 287 of the 1992 constitution of Ghana and Public Office holders (Declaration of Assets and Disqualification) Act, 1998 (Act 550). There are three major issues with the declaration of Assets by public office holders in Ghana. These are the confidentiality and non-verifiability of the declaration, the non-compliance by many public office holders and the specific time frame for the declaration of assets.

- i. Assets declared are unverified by any officer.
- ii. Many officers legally obliged to declare their assets are in default.
- iii. Article 286 (A) requires the declaration of assets to be made before taking office but Act 550 requires the declaration to be made within six months of assuming office. There is a conflict between the statute and the constitution.

2.2 Transparency

Four major issues from NAP-3 under this thematic area remain relevant under NAP-4. This is because even where commitments were attained by legislation, the hard work of implementation is on-going. There is therefore the need to look again at the beneficial

ownership of companies, information on public investments, fiscal responsibility and the right to information.

2.2.1 Transparency: Beneficial Ownership (BO)

In 2003, Ghana acceded to the EITI which enjoins member states to commit to transparent and accountable management of natural resources for the benefit of citizens. In 2016, the EITI Global conference passed a resolution which made beneficial ownership disclosure mandatory for all implementing countries, giving countries up to 2020 to fully operationalize the disclosure regime.

Accordingly, NAP-3 made the disclosure of beneficial ownership a major commitment.

The legal framework for the beneficial ownership regime, however, was non-existent. The enactment in 2019 of the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) removed this impediment. The Registrar-General's Department (RGD) began implementing a beneficial ownership regime based on the Act following the completion of the upgrade of its electronic register to enable it receive data.

Currently, the RGD's BO electronic register has gone live to enable companies file their respective beneficial ownership data to the Department. In this regard, the RGD has designed three (3) specific forms to facilitate the collection of BO data namely, limited liability companies, companies limited by guarantee and external companies.

One area of particular interest to stakeholders is Politically Exposed Persons (PEP) which has been duly incorporated. Companies have been tasked to provide details on such persons and indicate the nature of their connection to the company.

Effective implementation of the BO regime will require that three specific issues being addressed, namely, data quality and accuracy, data accessibility and availability as well as effective use of data by relevant stakeholders.

2.2.2 Transparency: Comprehensive Information on Public Investments

Under the NAP-3, to enhance Transparency and Accountability of all entities in which the state had significant investments, the Public Investment Division (PID) of the Ministry of Finance was required to provide comprehensive monitoring information on Public Private Partnerships

(PPP) by 2018. By 2019, commitments had already been complied with through the enactment of the State Interests and Governance Authority Act (Act 990). The main purpose of SIGA is to ensure that the activities of all State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) were monitored to ensure that aspects of their operations were streamlined. By the time SIGA was established, the government's public investment portfolio comprised 86 entities in which state resources had been invested and were required under the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) to submit reports for inclusion in the annual State Ownership Report. As at the time SIGA came into being, many enterprises were not submitting the required report and therefore their activities were shut from public scrutiny. This was in clear contravention of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921). It is expected that with the establishment of the Authority, this should improve the reporting requirements of SOEs, JVCs and other entities in which the state has interests. It is further noted that the Authority is to work closely with the Ministry of Finance and sector ministries in the administration and supervision of the entities.

2.2.3 Fiscal Transparency

A characteristic problem with macro-economic management in Ghana is that the fiscal deficit has been persistently high, typically in election years. After years of persistent fiscal deficits, Ghana under the IMF sponsored Extended Credit Facility (ECF) in 2015-2018 period committed to promote fiscal discipline and transparency by the passage in December 2018 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982).

The Act capped the annual deficit to no more than 5 percent of GDP and prescribed related censure of the Minister of Finance in the event of breaches.

The Fiscal Risk Unit (FRU) was established in the Ministry of Finance with responsibility for fiscal risk management. This was followed with the creation in 2020 of the Fiscal Responsibility Advisory Council to offer independent advice on fiscal responsibility and ensure the stability of the entire financial system across all the sectors.

In August 2020, the Parliament of Ghana, at the request of the Minister of Finance, approved the suspension of the Fiscal Responsibility Rules for the 2020 financial year in accordance with the constitution of Ghana. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in unanticipated

increase in the expenditure and sharply reduced revenues which rendered scrupulous adherence to the fiscal responsibility rules contained in the Fiscal Responsibility Act unrealistic.

2.3 The Right to Information

The Right to Information Bill (RTI), which under NAP-3 was expected to be passed by Parliament of Ghana by September 2018, was eventually passed in March 2019, and became operational in January 2020. The law is intended to give effect to Article 21(1) of the 1992 constitution of Ghana which provides that “All persons shall have the right to information subject to such qualifications and laws as are necessary in a democratic society” The RTI Act requires that a Commission be established and accordingly the President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in October 2020 inaugurated the seven-member Governing Board chaired by Justice K. A. Ofori Atta a retired High Court Judge. Mr. Yaw Sarpong a distinguished lawyer was also appointed the Executive Secretary to the Commission with responsibility for coordinating the administrative activities of the Commission.

The RTI is an important instrument for the promotion of transparency and accountability. It obligates public institutions to voluntarily make information accessible to those who require it. It will also ensure that people can hold public bodies accountable for their actions.

2.4 Citizens Participation

NAP-3 and previous Action Plans, in advancing the attainment of commitments under this thematic area overly focused on Client Service Units (CSU) and their integration with Social Accountability (SA) Units. The Local Government Level Client Service Units (CSUs) have been largely implemented but the opportunity to link the SDG 5 on gender equality to the thematic area has been consistently missed under OGP commitments. This has drawn strong criticism from researchers on Ghana’s OGP commitments to the effect that Ghana has not deliberately sought to include women in OGP processes and commitments. This is despite strong advocacy for close to a decade by Ghana’s Civil Society Organizations for the enactment of The Affirmative Action Bill which would substantially improve the representation of women at all levels of government.

In October 2016, the Bill had been gazetted ready to go to Parliament, but the election campaign took precedence over the improvement of women’s representation. The 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary elections similarly passed without action on the Bill. At long last the President

Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in the first State of Nation Address (SONA) of his second Presidential term assured the nation of the passage of the Bill within the first year (i.e., 2021) of his mandate.

Similarly, the OGP commitments on Civic participation consistently overlooked a burning issue of political participation which has remained a popular subject for public debate since November 2011 when the Constitutional Review Commission issued its report. This is the issue of whether the people should be allowed to directly elect their own District Chief Executives or district political heads as against the current constitutional position which vests the president with power to appoint Chief Executives under article 243 (1). In its 2016 election manifesto, the NPP pledged to undertake the constitutional amendment necessary to enable the people to directly elect chief executives. The President later promised that the direct election by the people should be along party lines. This would require the amendment of the entrenched provision under Article 55(3) which prohibits the participation of political parties in local government. Though the bills for the amendment of the articles were duly prepared by Parliament the government at the very last minute caused their withdrawal. A referendum slated for a popular vote on the entrenched Article 55(3) was canceled when the opposition NDC openly opposed it. In its 2020 election manifesto the ruling NPP promised to reintroduce the amendment of Article 55(3) to enable the election of Chief Executives on party lines subject to building the necessary bi-partisan consensus. The NDC on the other hand pledged to implement some form of direct election of chief executives but certainly not along party lines. The will to have District Chief Executives directly elected by the people is strong but the desire for parties to work together to achieve the goal is not so strong.

2.5 Technology and Innovation

In 2017, when NAP-3 was drawn up, a major commitment under this thematic area was for the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization (MoCD) and related ministries and agencies to finalize the Ghana Open Data Policy by 2018. Today, Ghana is considered a significant player in Africa in Open Data Initiative.

The Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI) is under the leadership of the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) under the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization (MoCD). The GODI Secretariat has since 2010 been located at NITA which functions to coordinate the initiative and respond to enquiries from data users. The importance of Open data

for opening up government derives from the fact that it promotes better governance and delivery of public services through increased accountability and transparency of public officials.

The GODI Secretariat is seriously engaged in Open Data Academic Outreach to ensure the serious involvement of the academic community in Ghana's Open Data Agenda. The Secretariat is at the same time encouraging Ministries, or data consuming public, Departments and Agencies to upload relevant data sets.

3.0 PLANNED ACTIONS AND TARGETS

Lessons from the Three Previous National Action Plans

Since Ghana signed up to the Open Government Partnership Initiative, Plans have been consistently implemented with modest success in the attainment of commitments. The lessons learnt over the past years should therefore be identified and inform formulation and implementation of subsequent Action Plans. A critical review of the three National Action Plans implemented to date points to several key lessons which should be factored into the plans going forward. These may be summed up as follows:

- i. Previous Action Plans have not been strong on gender equity and social inclusion. Therefore, despite the persistent effort by civil society groups to have gender issues addressed in Ghana's governance agenda, little or no effort has been made to incorporate them into the previous action plans.
- ii. Another lesson learnt relates to the failure to ensure that commitments made in Action Plans become integrated into the priority plans and strategies of the government and civil society advocacy. However valuable the commitments that find their way into Action Plans they have very little chance of being implemented unless they also become recognized as part and parcel of the government's own short to medium term goals.
- iii. There had been issues also regarding the specificity of commitments and their relevance for opening up government. If a commitment is cast in broad and general terms with little or no relevance for opening up government, it poses a crucial challenge. It is hard to determine whether the commitment has been attained or if attained the real value of its contribution to opening government up to the people.
- iv. Last, but by no means the least, is the problem of overloading commitments. It is better to have a few OGP relevant specific commitments that can be effectively implemented than to have a tall list that in the end will not see the light of day.

Going forward, these lessons should serve as useful signposts that guide Ghana and Ghanaians in terms of where they want to be in running a government that is open to the people in whom national sovereignty resides. Following up on the brief review of the context for NAP-4 the government now commits to implement these undertakings in the 2022-2023 plan period.

4.0 ACCOUNTABILITY

4.1 Accountability: Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Audit Report Implementation

The Public Accounts Committee of the Ghana Parliament has persistently complained of lack of action on the implementation of recommendations contained in its reports by Ministries, Departments, Agencies and District Assemblies. The problem is particularly serious at the District Assembly level. Most District Assemblies report having no record of PAC recommendations though all MDAs and District Assemblies have Audit Committees charged with the responsibility to implement audit recommendations. The lack of records primarily stems from the fact that the Audit Committees previously known as Audit Report Implementation Committees (ARIC) fail to hold regular meetings on the recommendations affecting them with properly compiled minutes to serve as a constant reminder. Some committees simply lack understanding of the language in which audit reports are couched.

Further, local Civil Society Organizations consistently engage District Assemblies with the intention of participating in local governance but without much success. Their involvement could help Audit Committees to be alive to their responsibilities.

Audit reports have consistently shown that Ghana is losing huge sums of money through corruption and weak financial management systems. This issue persists as audit recommendations are largely not implemented

- Government commits to ensure effective implementation of recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in the Auditor-General's Report by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), State Owned Enterprises (SoEs) and Independent Constitutional Bodies (ICBs).

Responsible Institutions

Internal Audit Agency (IAA), Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)

Collaborating Institutions

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)

4.2 Accountability: Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)

In May 2020, the EU Commission blacklisted Ghana and 11 other countries on account of serious lapses they found in the country's AML/CTF regimes. From the EU's perspective this posed significant threat to their financial systems. This was the second time in less than a decade that Ghana found itself on a blacklist for AML/CTF lapses.

Ghana responded to the EU blacklisting by the prompt passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044).

The Act establishes the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) to assist in combating money laundering and terrorism financing among others. This, among other actions, convinced the EU to promise removing Ghana from the blacklist by June 2021. For this to happen the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) the global money laundering and terrorism financing watchdog will have to formally announce that Ghana has been taken off its list of countries with loopholes in their AML/CTF. This is the announcement which was anxiously awaited and has been made since 25th June 2021 leading to Ghana's removal from the blacklist.

- The commitment is to effectively implement the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044) to ensure that Ghana does not get blacklisted again for lapses in the country's AML/CTF regime.

Responsible Institutions:

Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), Ghana Audit Service.

Collaborating Institutions:

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD). Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI).

4.3 Accountability: Witness Protection Act

In NAP-3, the government committed to the passage of Witness Protection Act. State Prosecutors at the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice lamented the difficulty of getting witnesses to testify for fear of victimization and this had the tendency of slowing down trials.

During implementation of NAP-3, the commitment was fulfilled when the Parliament of Ghana enacted on 30th August 2018, the Witness Protection Act, 2018 (Act 975). The Act establishes the Witness Protection Agency to provide protection and assistance to persons exposed to severe danger from witnessing in court proceedings for criminal offences. It is three years since the Act was passed and there is no information about the establishment and operation of the Witness Protection Agency.

- Therefore, the government commits to provide effective protection for persons who are exposed to danger for witnessing in criminal prosecutions and make these measures and mechanisms more accessible to all citizens.

Responsible Institutions:

Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service, Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), National Investigation Bureau (NIB), Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

Collaborating Institutions:

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC).

4.4 Accountability-Asset Declaration by Public Officers

The assets declaration regime in Ghana has been a commitment of Ghana's Open Government Initiative for some time. The three main challenges associated with the asset declaration regime in Ghana, relate to the confidentiality of the declaration, the non-compliance with the law and the time frame for compliance. Assets are declared in sealed envelopes not verified by any officer and as it turns out only a small percentage of officers eligible to declare comply. A new Conduct of Public Officers' Bill is expected to be passed to ensure an open and transparent assets declaration by public officers.

- Government commits to the passage of the Conduct of Public Officers Bill that provides for a transparent and verifiable assets declaration regime.

Responsible Institutions:

The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, Parliament, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

Collaborating Institutions:

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD). Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG).

4.5 Accountability –Office of The Special Prosecutor

The Office of the Special Prosecutor of Ghana is a flagship anti-corruption institution. The Office was created in 2018 with Mr. Martin Amidu, a nationally recognized anti-corruption crusader, as the first appointee to the Office but he resigned unexpectedly a few years later. With the nomination of a new Special Prosecutor, the Office is now ready for operation, but will require several government actions and assurances.

- The Government commits to ensure that the Office of the Special Prosecutor is adequately supplied with the necessary human, financial and other resources with its independence strengthened and safeguarded by allowing full freedom in recruitment of staff and conduct of investigations.

Responsible Institutions:

The Presidency, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice and the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

Collaborating Institutions.

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG).,

5.0 TRANSPARENCY

5.1 Citizens' Complaints Centre

The quest for transparency and accountability in public service delivery as hallmark of good governance has been of concern to governments since post-independent Ghana. The 1969 and 1979 Constitutions provided for the Ombudsman institution as an oversight body to check administrative injustice or maladministration. In particular, the Ombudsman Act, 1980 (Act 400) empowered the Ombudsman, among others, to investigate all acts of commission and omission through investigation of complaints about injustice and maladministration against government agencies and officials from aggrieved persons or individuals. The role of the Ombudsman has become critical given the ever-increasing role of the State and the emergent bureaucracy imbued with the responsibility to provide and manage essential services (often termed 'public goods') particularly in the areas of education, health, water as well as basic infrastructure such as electricity, roads, railways, etc.

In pursuit of their multifaceted roles, political executives and public servants have acquired enormous discretionary powers and authority that give opportunities for abuse of power in the nature of corruption and unethical activities necessitating the need for a grievance redress and complaint mechanism enabling aggrieved individuals to hold power accountable (ibid). The preamble to Ghana's 1992 Constitution (the Constitution) extols the ethos of freedom, justice, probity and accountability. Article 23 of the Constitution provides that:

Administrative bodies and administrative officials shall act fairly and reasonably and comply with the requirements imposed on them by law and persons aggrieved by the exercise of such acts and decisions shall have the right to seek redress before a court or other tribunal

Similarly, article 296(a) and (b) of the Constitution seeks to control abuse of power occasioned by unbridled exercise of discretionary power by public officials and administrative bodies by imposing on them the duty to be fair, candid and, in the conduct of their official duties, to avoid acts of arbitrariness, caprice or bias or resentment.

In Ghana, the exercise of oversight responsibility over public officials and public/administrative bodies hinging on unfair and poor service delivery is constitutionally vested in the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). In other words, CHRAJ is empowered to check maladministration arising from commissions and

omissions of public/administrative bodies and officials envisaged under articles 23 and 296 of the Constitution. Specifically, under section 7(1) of its enabling legislation, Act 456, the functions of CHRAJ include: investigating complaints of injustice, corruption, abuse of power and unfair treatment of persons by a public officer in the exercise of his official duties; and investigating complaints regarding the functioning of the Public Services Commission, the administrative organs of the State, the offices of the Regional Coordinating Council and the District Assembly, the Armed Forces, the Police Service and the Prisons Service in so far as the complaints relate to the failure to achieve a balanced structuring or equal access to by all to those services or fair administration in relation to those services.

Even though CHRAJ has made strides in addressing administrative injustices through investigations and public education on its administrative justice mandate, there are still operational challenges; investigators at the various levels (regional and district offices) face challenges in the assessment of administrative justice-related complaints. These challenges include the lack of a comprehensive assessment and review of CHRAJ's current grievance redress and complaint handling procedures and processes to ensure efficient discharge of this mandate.

- Government commits to strengthen CHRAJ to discharge its administrative justice delivery mandate in accordance with law and internationally recognized obligations, principles and commitments by reviewing the grievance redress and complaint handling policies, procedures and actual practices of CHRAJ by June 2023.

Responsible Institutions:

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice

Collaborating Institutions:

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG).

5.2 Transparency. Open and Transparent Tracking of Public Investment

The government of Ghana has huge investments in some 86 entities comprising some 45 wholly state-owned enterprises and 41 partially owned entities also usually referred to as Joint Venture Companies (JVCs). To ensure open and transparent tracking of entities in the state ownership portfolio, entities are legally required under the Public Finance Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) to submit information to be included in the annual State Ownership Report. Over 40 percent of entities fail to submit the required information and were therefore in clear breach of the law in 2019.

The creation of the State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA) is demonstration of the commitment of government to ensure that investments made in various companies yield positive returns to the citizens.

The government commits that:

- SIGA will publish, beginning December 2022, register of specified entities i.e. State owned enterprises, joint venture companies and other entities in which the state has interest.
- SIGA will publish evaluation reports of entities by December 2022.
- Develop a Code of corporate governance by December 2022.

Responsible Institutions:

Ministry of Finance and State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA).

Collaborating Institutions:

Center for Budget Advocacy (CBA) Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA) Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) Center for Democratic Development (CDD) and Ghana Anti-Corruption Initiative (GAI).

5.3 Transparency. The Fiscal Responsibility Act.

The enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility Act has remained one of Ghana's OGP commitment for some years. In 2018, Parliament passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982) to establish a clear pathway for restoring fiscal discipline and ending persistently high fiscal deficits especially during election years. However, before the Act could be put to the crucial

litmus test in 2020 election year, COVID-19 had driven the economy into tight corners where vastly increased public expenditures far exceeded dwindling revenues. The ceiling of five percent maximum deficit imposed by the Act was no longer sustainable. At the request of the Minister of Finance the Fiscal Responsibility Act was suspended by Parliament.

- Government commits to ensure that the Fiscal Responsibility Act which was suspended July 2020 is restored by June 2023

Responsible Institutions:

Ministry of Finance, Economic Management Team, Fiscal Responsibility Council.

Collaborating Institutions: Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA), ISSER University of Ghana, the Department of Economics, University of Ghana, Center for Democratic Development (CDD) and Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG).

5.4 Transparency in the Extractive Industry. Beneficial Ownership

The provision of information on beneficial ownership of companies especially in the extractive industries has been a long-standing commitment under previous NAPs. The key impediment to realizing the commitment was the absence of the appropriate legal framework. The Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) has now provided the much-needed legal framework for the beneficial ownership regime. The Registrar-General's Department (RGD) has now deployed the requisite electronic register to receive data on beneficial ownership. The government therefore commits to:

- Improve the comprehensive quality and accuracy of data at the Registrar-General's Department.
- Facilitate greater access and availability of data.
- Encourage greater data use and build the capacity of data users in government, civil society and among investigative journalists

Responsible Institutions:

The Registrar-General's Department (RGD), Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Petroleum Commission, Minerals Commission and Ministry of Energy.

Collaborating Institutions:

Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) Public Interest Accountability Committee (PIAC).

5.5 Transparency- Extractive Sector, Petroleum Sales

A large portion of Ghana's revenue comes from petroleum, the country having made \$5.2 billion from the product between 2011 and end of 2020 but the sector is highly opaque and trading activities are not subject to oversight by any other body.

Most of the petroleum revenue comes from Ghana's two long term sales contract with Russian Trader Litasco and Chinese owned Unipeac Asia. In 2019, revenue from these two sales contracts alone equaled six (6) percent of government revenue and the two deals alone generated 59 percent of government total petroleum revenue for 2019.

Therefore, the government commits to:

- Make public these long-term sales contract by December 2022

Responsible Institutions:

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy, Ghana National Petroleum Commission (GNPC).

Collaborating Institutions:

Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GHEITI), Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), Public Interest Accountability Committee (PIAC)

6.0 RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Previous NAPs included the commitment to have a law to operationalize the citizens right to information. This right is already guaranteed by Article 21 (1) of Ghana's 1992 constitution. Yet during the implementation of the three previous NAPs the law was not enacted. In 2019, the Right to Information Act was finally passed. The Act will enable journalists and citizens to effectively engage in the fight against corruption by holding duty bearers to account and promoting accountability.

The Act is now operational but the roll-out of the requisite infrastructure and administrative machinery is still on going. A Right to Information Commission has now been established and an Executive Secretary appointed. Offices must now be established in all 16 regions of Ghana.

The government commits to:

- Complete the roll-out of the administrative structure in all regions of Ghana by end of 2022

Responsible Institutions:

Ministry of Information, RTI Commission, Public Records and Archives Administration Department (PRAAD), Parliament.

Collaborating Institutions:

National Media Commission (NMC), Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), The Right to Information Coalition, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

7.0 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Under this thematic area of NAPs, the under representation of women, political participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and direct participation of people and political parties in the election of Chief Executives have been consistently overlooked. These issues of participation have been the target of civil society advocacy over several years. At long last the government has signaled its intention to accelerate actions on these issues.

- Government commits to ensure progressive increase in women’s political participation at all levels of government, review the Constitution to allow election of MMDCEs in District level elections (either on partisan basis or non-partisan basis) and provide opportunities for the political participation of Persons with Disabilities.

Responsible Institutions:

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, National Council on Persons with Disabilities, National Identification Authority, Ghana Revenue Authority, National Information Technology Agency.

Collaborating Institutions:

Coalition on Affirmative Action, The Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFDO) Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Center for Democratic Development (CDD) Centre for Local Government Advocacy, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.

7.1 Parliamentary Engagements and Open Parliament Commitments in Ghana’s OGP NAP-4

Introduction

An independent and effective oversight mechanism, coupled with strong legislative arrangements, are important contributions by Parliament to the delivery of sustainable open government reforms. The Open Government Partnership (OGP) have described Parliaments as critical partners for the open government agenda.

[A recent article jointly authored by Maria Baron \(Global Civil Society Co-Chair for OGP\), Paul Maassen \(OGP’s Chief of Country Support\) and Lotte Genius \(OGP’s Open Parliament Consultant\),](#) identified four promising strategies for parliamentary engagements in OGP to

make the legislative arm instrumental in the delivery on open government ambitions. These include:

1. Proactively engaging parliaments to facilitate the support required to translate commitments into legislative actions at country level,
2. Inviting Parliaments to monitor/provide oversight to Open Government Reforms and OGP Commitments to help hold governments accountable,
3. Engaging OGP champions in Parliament to help advance priority themes by creating space for political dialogue,
4. And supporting parliaments to adopt the open government principles (transparency, accountability, participation, and inclusion) in their own work and practice.

Ghana's last three National Action Plans (NAPs) cycles saw parliamentary involvement in legislative actions and the engagement of MPs as OGP champions. However, Parliamentary Oversight of OGP commitments and having Parliament itself commit to open government principles as a co-equal branch of government have been missing.

Recognizing the benefits of regularizing parliamentary engagement in OGP, the OGP Steering Committee in 2017, adopted a [Parliamentary Engagement Policy Guideline](#) to facilitate and encourage parliamentary engagement within OGP. The Policy Guidance outlines that Parliaments in OGP countries that wish to develop open parliament commitments should do so either integrated as part of the NAP **or** as a separate parliamentary chapter of the NAP.

The Context of Ghana

With the support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the Parliament of Ghana in early 2020 announced an Open Parliament Task Team, made up of staff of Parliament from its various Departments, to coordinate internal efforts at developing an Open Parliament Action Plan. This Task Team met with Ghanaian CSOs under the auspices of WFD and Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) in March 2020, and one of the key points that was noted was OGP's Guidelines that state that "If parliaments opt to develop a separate chapter of the NAP, they should do so in a way that is consistent with OGP principles and participation requirements (e.g., IRM, self-assessment and co-creation)."

The Parliamentary Task Team and WFD were then charged to consult with the Clerk of Parliament to see to the formation of an Open Parliament co-creation team that will have equal

representation from Parliament (MPs and staff) and CSOs. These processes, although started, was not concluded before WFD's Ghana Office was closed in the last quarter of 2020. The closure stalled the process, as WFD remained the funder of the process.

Considering that the timelines for the submission of NAP-4 is due, it has been proposed by parliamentary actors³ that the easier and most realistic route to get Parliamentary Commitments in NAP-4, in fulfilment of the new global trend in OGP commitments, cannot be to have a separate parliamentary Chapter of the NAP, as that process cannot be concluded before the deadline for submission of NAP-4, but to integrate specific Open Parliament commitments in the NAP-4, and commit the institution of Parliament to same, as Parliament's representatives are already part of the co-creation and consultation processes ongoing.

Proposed Open Parliament Commitment

To this end, the focus group on 'Citizens Participation' during the National Stakeholders Consultative Meeting and the Validation Meeting held on 19th May and 23rd June 2021 respectively, framed the following Open Parliament Commitments to be added to the NAP-4 Commitments.

- The Ghana Parliament commits to effectively participate in the OGP Ghana activities by December 2022

Parliament's Role in OGP Monitoring & Resourcing

One of the key deliverables identified during the Consultative and Validation Meetings for NAP-4, was to identify viable and sustainable ways of Monitoring OGP Commitments throughout the implementation period. The issue of under resourcing for OGP Actions in Ghana, was also highlighted.

Although Parliament as an Arm of Government, is required to commit to Open Government Actions, it was also identified that its constitutional mandates of oversight and power-of-purse

³ An Open Parliament Conversation held on 20th May 2021 as part of the Year's OpenGov Week, brought together Hon. Emmanuel Bedzrah and Ms. Kate Addo of the Open Parliament Task team, and some civil society members of the OGP National Steering Committee together with the Ghana's OGP POC, after the National OGP Secretariat have help its consultative meeting on drafting NAP 4. This event was facilitated by GII and PNAfrica.

functions placed that Institution in a strategic position to support the general open government efforts in the country through the following means:

- *Oversight of National Action Plans:* Although the Independent Reporting Mechanism provides valuable feedback on the implementation of NAP commitments, parliamentary oversight helps increase the likelihood that actions are taken in response to that feedback, providing valuable accountability to encourage full implementation of NAP commitments. This is a crucial need to overcome the implementation gap. For instance, public hearings that review the Independent Reporting Mechanism report may be a valuable addition to the review process, particularly if parliaments are supported to ensure that hearings are conducted in a professional, constructive manner.
- *Resourcing National OGP Actions:* Budgetary resources help ensure that executive branch OGP commitments are sustainable and effectively implemented. A productive role for the legislature helps ensure the institutionalization and effective implementation of open government commitments.

Responsible Institutions:

The Ghana Parliament

Collaborating Institutions:

PNAfrica, Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Penplusbyte and Odikro.

8.0 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Ghana is one of the leading countries in Open Data Initiative in Africa. A Secretariat is now operational at the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization. To strengthen the Open Data Initiative and improve its contribution to opening government to the people, a further improvement will need to be urgently implemented.

- The government commits to ensure that the delivery of public services is improved through the sustained implementation of the Ghana Open Data Initiative

Responsible Institutions

Ministry of Communications and Digitalization

Collaborating Institutions,

KNUST, University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA), Ashesi University, Ghana Open Data Alliance, Ghana Academic and Research Network, National Council on Persons with Disability.

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The Public Sector Reform Secretariat (PSRS) under the Office of the Senior Presidential Advisor (OSPA), the Government Agency responsible for OGP remains the coordinating and facilitating agency for the purpose of implementing the Ghana National Action Plan. The PSRS/OSPA and the OGP National Steering Committee shall provide coordinating and facilitating leadership to give effect to the translation of the Fourth Action Plan into concrete actions.

The commitments will be implemented by designated Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) whose operations reflect the commitments. These MDAs are described as Responsible Institutions. Civil Society Organizations and other Government Agencies whose activities are related to the specific commitments will collaborate with the lead agencies to implement the commitments.

The commitments in this plan fall within the broader goals of the Responsible Institutions. The Institutions which are all government agencies are encouraged, for the purpose of implementing the commitments, to have a budget line for the implementation of OGP activities. Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations interested in any of the commitments are encouraged to pool resources to help implement the commitments to bring about improved service delivery.

9.1 OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat Implementation Strategy

Based on lessons learned from implementing previous action plans, measures were taken to ensure effective implementation by preparing an elaborate list of activities outlined in the appendix below for the OGP National Steering Committee and the Secretariat to implement. The activities include among others extensive collaborations and engagements with key stakeholders, funding and reporting.

9.2 Conclusion

Ghana has learnt a lot of lessons during the implementation of the three OGP Action Plans. This Fourth Action Plan has taken measures to address the shortcomings during the implementation of the previous plans and build on the progress and achievements of the earlier plans. Ghana is still committed to the principle of the Open Government Partnership and that it is only through strong collaboration between government and civil society organizations that

effective policies can be made, and concrete steps taken to implement them for the improvement of the quality of life of Ghanaians. In this regard, conscious and consistent efforts will be made to sustain the productive partnership between government and civil society organizations in the interest of Ghana and Open Government Partnership.

10 ACRONYMS

1. ACEP- Africa Centre for Energy Policy
2. AML/CTF- Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Terrorism Financing
3. ARIC- Audit Report Implementation Committee
4. BO- Beneficiary Ownership
5. CBA-Centre for Budget Advocacy
6. CCC-Citizens Complaints Centre
7. CDD-Center for Democratic Development
8. CHRAJ-Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice
9. CHRI-Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
10. CID-Criminal Investigation Department
11. CSU-Client Service Unit
12. EC-Electoral Commission
13. ECF-Extended Credit Facility
14. EITI-Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
15. EOCO-Economic and Organized Crime Office
16. EU- European Union
17. FATF-Financial Action Task Force
18. FIC-Financial Intelligence Centre
19. FRU-Fiscal Risk Unit
20. GACC-Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition
21. GAI-Ghana Anti-Corruption Initiative
22. GHEITI-Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
23. GII-Ghana Integrity Initiative
24. GJA-Ghana Journalist Association
25. GNPC-Ghana National Petroleum Commission
26. IDEG-Institute for Democratic Governance
27. IEA-Institute of Economic Affairs
28. IFS-Institute for Fiscal Studies
29. IRM-Independent Reporting Mechanism
30. JVC-Joint Venture Companies
31. KNUST-Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
32. LI-Legislative Instrument
33. MDA-Ministries, Departments and Agencies

34. MFWA-Media Foundation for West Africa
35. MMDCE-Metropolitan Municipal and District Chief Executives
36. MoE-Ministry of Energy
37. NAP-National Action Plan
38. NDC-National Democratic Congress
39. NIB-National Investigation Bureau
40. NITA-National Information Technology Agency
41. NMC-National Media Commission
42. NPP-New Patriotic Party
43. NRG-I-Natural Resource Governance Institute
44. OSPA-Office of Senior Presidential Advisor
45. PAC-Public Accounts Committee
46. PFMA-Public Financial Management Act
47. PIAC-Public Interest Accountability Committee
48. PID-Public Investment Division
49. PNAfrica – Parliamentary Network Africa
50. PRAAD-Public Records and Archives Administration Department
51. PRMA-Petroleum Revenue Management Act
52. PSRS – Public Sector Reform Secretariat
53. PWD-Persons with Disabilities
54. RGD-Registrar General’s Department
55. RTI-Right to Information
56. SA-Social Accountability
57. SC-Supreme Court
58. SDG-Sustainable Development Goals
59. SIGA-State Interests and Governance Authority
60. SOE-State Owned Enterprise
61. SONA-State of the Nation Address
62. UPSA-University of Professional Studies Accra
63. WACSI-West African Civil Society Institute

APPENDIX

Commitment Template	
4.1 Public Accounts Committee and Audit Report	
Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023	
New commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Internal Audit Agency
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has observed that some Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) fail to implement recommendations contained in its report. This is due to the weak implementation capacity of MDAs</i> • <i>Audit reports have consistently shown that Ghana is losing huge sums of money through corruption and weak financial management systems. This issue persists as audit recommendations are largely not implemented</i>
The commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government to ensure effective implementation of recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in the Auditor-General's Report by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), State Owned Enterprises (SoEs) and Independent Constitutional Bodies (ICBs).
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The commitment, if implemented, will help to protect the public purse.</i> • <i>It is expected that during the life of this NAP-4, Ghana will continue to strengthen its capacity building framework for all Internal Audit Units, Audit Committees and Management of MDAs/MMDA, SoEs and ICBs who have a role in the process by providing training, capacity building and appropriate support measures in the areas of Enterprise Risk Management, Risk-Based Internal Auditing (RBIA), Public Financial Management Laws, IPSAS etc aimed at capacitating them to promote compliance with implementation of recommendations</i>

	<p><i>contained in the Auditor-General's Report and recommended by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Again, resource and support Statutory Audit Committees of the MDAs/MMDAs, SoEs, ICBs established under sections 86-88 of the PFM Act 2016(Act 921) to pursue management in the implementation of sound internal control and administrative systems leading to implementing of at least 70% findings contained in the Auditor-General's Report and recommendations of the PAC.</i> • <i>Finally, civil society carry out monitor and evaluate activities of Audit Committees, Internal Audit Units (IAUs) and conduct at least an assessment of the level of compliance with recommendations made in Internal and External Audit Reports in at least 30% of MMDAs (Across about 8 regions), 50% of MDAs and 80% of ICBs during the NAP4.</i> 		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The commitment will strengthen enforcement of existing rules and regulations on implementation of PAC recommendations.</i> • <i>The commitment is critical to the realization of OGP values of accountability and anti-corruption</i> • <i>The commitment is relevant to public accountability</i> 		
Additional information			
	Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Agency build the capacity through training and support measures of at least 70% of Audit Committees of MDAs, MMDAs, SoEs and ICBs to implement PAC recommendations 	Nov.2021	June 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Agency trains 70% of Audit Committees of MDAs, MMDAs, SoEs, ICBs in Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Risk-based Internal Audit (RBIA), Corporate Governance, Meeting Procedures and Report Writing as well as training on Audit Committee Reporting Templates 	Nov. 2021	June 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Agency collaborate with selected CSOs working on this commitment to carry out at least an 	Sept. 2022	June 2023

assessment of the level of compliance with the various recommendations in sampled 30% of MDAs, MMDAs, SoEs, ICBs during the span of the NAP-4.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Audit Committees to work with management to implement Audit findings in specific trust areas identified by the Auditor-General and Internal Auditors such as Cash, Procurement, Contract, Recoverable debts, Loans and outstanding, Tax Irregularities, advances unpaid or unretired , unpaid rent etc. 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Dr. Eric Oduro Osae	
Title, Department		Director General, Internal Audit Agency	
Email and Phone		info@iaa.gov.gh +233-20-700-1062	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Public Accounts Committee, (PAC) Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)	

Commitment Template

4. 2 Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)

Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023

New commitment

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC)

Commitment description

Problem to be addressed

- *Ghana was blacklisted by the EU in May 2020 for lapses in the country's AML /CTF regimes. Ghana responded to the blacklisting by enacting the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044). Ghana was subsequently removed from the blacklist. The task now is to sustain the removal from the blacklist.*

What is the commitment?

- The commitment is to effectively implement the *Anti-Money Laundering Act 2020* to ensure that Ghana does not get blacklisted again for lapses in the country's AML/CTF regime.

Contribution of commitment
to solving problem

- *In past years Ghana has been on and off the blacklist of the EU. The commitment will prevent further blacklisting.*

Relevance of commitment to
OGP values

- *Commitment will ensure implementation of Ghana's international obligations relating to Anti-Money Laundering and terrorism financing.*
- *Accountability and fighting impunity will be sustained*

Additional information

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable

Start Date:

End Date:

- Government to establish the Board and committees of FIC

Nov. 2021

June 2023

- Parliament to pass Legislative Instrument for Anti- Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044)

Nov. 2021

June 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIC to publish annually report on the implementation of the Act 		Jan. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIC to engage CSOs and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Act 		Jan. 2022	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr. Kwaku Dua	
Title, Department		Chief Executive Officer FIC,	
Email and Phone		Info@fic.gov.gh +233-302-665-252	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO) Ghana Audit Service Bank of Ghana National Investigation Bureau Ghana Revenue Authority Securities and Exchange Commission Ghana Immigration Service, National Insurance Commission	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Center for Democratic Development (CDD)	

Commitment Template

4.3. Witness Protection Act

Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023

On-going commitment

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice

Commitment description

Problem to be addressed

- *Lack of protection and assistance to persons exposed to severe danger from witnessing in court proceeding for criminal offences*

The commitment

- To provide effective protection for persons who are exposed to danger for witnessing in criminal prosecutions and make these measures and mechanisms more accessible to all citizens

Contribution of commitment to solving problem

- *Commitment will ensure that witnesses in criminal trials especially corruption trials feel safe to testify*

Relevance of commitment to OGP values

- *Will strengthen rule of law and the fight against corruption*

Additional information

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable

Start Date:

End Date:

- Advocate for the establishment of the Witness Protection Agency after by 2023. The country has a witness protection law - Witness Protection Act, 2018 (Act 975)

Nov. 2021

June 2023

- Carry out nationwide education and awareness raising activities to promote the establishment of the Witness Protection Agency and its utilisation through selected radio and TV stations.

Nov. 2021

June 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Agency with human, financial and logistical support through the annual budgets of the Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens informed and aware of the existence of the Law and the creation of the Witness Protection Agency 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training conducted for all stakeholders within the value chain of the Witness Protection architecture on the application of law. 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr. Godfred Yeboah Dame	
Title, Department		Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice	
Email and Phone		info@mojagd.gov.gh +233-030-266-7609	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII),	

Commitment Template

4.4. Asset Declaration by Public Officers

Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023

On-going commitment

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice

Commitment description

Problem to be addressed

- *Non-transparent and unverifiable declaration of assets by Public Office holders and non-compliance with asset declaration law.*

The commitment

- Government commits to the passage of the Conduct of Public Officers Bill that provides for a transparent and verifiable assets declaration regime.

Contribution of commitment to solving problem

- *The law will ensure that assets declared by public officers are verified and public officers do comply with the law.*
- *This new law is expected to cater for issues related to public officers' Declaration of Assets, Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct for public officers with the intention of creating accountability in the public sector.*

Relevance of commitment to OGP values

- *Commitment will advance transparency in assets declaration and the anti-corruption fight by providing new rules,*

Additional information

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable

Start Date:

End Date:

- Cabinet to approve new Conduct of Public Officers Bill engagement on the new draft Bill by end 2022

Nov. 2021

June 2023

- Bill submitted to Cabinet for consideration by December 2022

Dec. 2022

June 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament creates platforms for stakeholders including private sector, civil society and citizens to make submissions to ensure a strong regime when passed by 2023 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive media campaigns to sensitise and educate citizens on the relevance of the Asset declaration regime that provides for verification and how they can make complaints 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHRAJ and the OSP promote mechanisms for citizens to bring their complaints related to Asset Declaration 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament to pass the Bill before December 2023 		Jan. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Auditor General authorized to verify the assets declared. 		Jan. 2022	June. 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr. Godfred Yeboah Dame	
Title, Department		Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice	
Email and Phone		info@mojagd.gov.gh +233-030-266-7609	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Parliament, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) Office of the Special Prosecutor	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD). Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)	

Commitment Template

4.5. Office of the Special Prosecutor

Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023

New commitment

Lead implementing
agency/actor

The Presidency

Commitment description

Problem to be addressed

- *Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) was established in 2017 by The Office of the Special Prosecutor Act. The OSP. was intended to function as a specialized independent, investigating prosecutorial and asset retrieving anti-corruption body. The first Special Prosecutor appointed in January 2018 resigned from his office in November 2020 citing undue executive interference and inadequate resources. The office is key to fighting corruption.*

The commitment

- The government is to ensure that the Office of the Special Prosecutor is adequately supplied with the necessary human, financial and other resources with its independence strengthened and safeguarded by allowing full freedom in recruitment of staff and conduct of investigations.

Contribution of commitment
to solving problem

- *Will help The Special Prosecutor to investigate and prosecute corruption cases independently.*

Relevance of commitment to
OGP values

- *It is a key anti-corruption institution which will serve as a major deterrent to corruption in high places.*

Additional information

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable

Start Date:

End Date:

- Increase in budgetary allocation to the OSP.

Nov. 2021

June 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent recruitment of needed personnel to fill any existing vacancies. 		Nov. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End to complaint about executive interference. 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo	
Title, Department		The President of the Republic	
Email and Phone		Info@mopp.gov.gh +233-302-904-419, +233-302-904-889	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)	

Commitment Template

5.1. Citizens' Complaints Centre

Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023

New commitment

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Ministry of Information

Commitment description

Problem to be addressed

- *CHRAJ has made strides in addressing administrative injustices through investigations and public education on its administrative justice mandate. There are still operational challenges; investigators at the various levels (regional and district offices) face challenges in the assessment of administrative justice-related complaints. The lack of a comprehensive assessment and review of CHRAJ's current grievance redress and complaint handling procedures and processes to ensure efficient discharge of this mandate.*

What is the commitment?

- Government to strengthen CHRAJ to discharge its administrative justice delivery mandate in accordance with law and internationally recognized obligations, principles and commitments by reviewing the grievance redress and complaint handling policies, procedures and actual practices of CHRAJ by June, 2023.

Contribution of commitment
to solving problem

- *The review will strengthen CHRAJ's organizational efficiency and effectiveness to carry out its mandate and renew confidence of citizens to submit complaints about corruption*

Relevance of commitment to
OGP values

- *Commitment is relevant to OGP values in that it offers opportunities for effective participation by citizens in the fight against corruption*

Additional information

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable

Start Date:

End Date:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHRAJ to develop a New Legal and Institutional Framework for the Complaint Handling and Grievance Redress Mechanism for the Intake, Filing, Processing and Resolution of Administrative Services Related Complaints 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHRAJ to Institute a monitoring and evaluation system for the Complaint Handling and Grievance system. 		Sept. 2022	June. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and develop a new Client Service Charter and Client Service Standard. 		Sept. 2022	June. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design all forms and processes to contain fields to enable all relevant data from the entries made. 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a baseline survey of the public sector to examine the extent of Ghana's administrative state. 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and update the Commission's public education policies and processes. 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an electronic case management system (internal to the Commission and an online system) 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign the Commission's Website for Public Education Purposes. 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure ICT infrastructural support for the Commission (both hard and soft support). 		Sept. 2022	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Joseph A. Whittal	
Title, Department		Commissioner of Human Rights and Administrative Justice	
Email and Phone		Josephwhittal09@gmail.com +233244599916	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Public Sector Reform Secretariat	

	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Center for Democratic Development (CDD)

Commitment Template	
5.2. Open and Transparent Tracking of Public Investments	
Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023	
On-going commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA)
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Difficulty of tracking all entities in the state ownership portfolio</i> • <i>The state has invested the taxpayer's resources in some 86 entities. Not all were submitting regular reports as required by law. In 2019 SIGA was established to exercise oversight of all these.</i>

The commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commitment is for SIGA to publish by December 2022 the register of specified entities in which the state has interest. • Publish evaluation reports; • Develop code of corporate governance. 		
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commitment will make it difficult for entities in which public resource has been invested to evade public scrutiny and accountability.</i> 		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commitment will change the way in which entities in which the state has invested huge amounts will be held accountable under a new framework.</i> 		
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of entities in which state has interest published by December 2022 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation reports of public entities published by January 2023 		Jan. 2022	June. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of corporate governance developed January 2023 		Jan.2022	June. 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Ambassador Edward Boateng	
Title, Department		Director General SIGA, State Interests and Governance Authority	
Email and Phone		info@sig.gov.gh +233-302-266-6799	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Finance	

	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Centre for Budget Advocacy Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG),

Commitment Template	
5.3. The Fiscal Responsibility Act 2018	
Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023	
On-going commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Finance
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In 2018 a Fiscal Responsibility Act was passed to restrain budgetary over-runs especially in election years by capping the fiscal deficit at not more than 5% of GDP. In the wake of COVID 19 the Ghana Parliament suspended the Act in July 2020 and is therefore not operational.</i>
The commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to ensure that the Fiscal Responsibility Act which was suspended July 2020 is restored by June 2023⁴
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Since the Act remains suspended, there is nothing to check the government from incurring high budgetary</i>

⁴ Government's restoration plan as stated in the 2021/2022 Budget Statement is by 2024.

	<i>deficits. The restoration will provide the needed restraint.</i>		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The commitment will guarantee open, transparent and accountable management of public finances.</i> 		
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to announce at annual budget readings progress towards restoration of the Act. 		Nov. 2021	June. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of full restoration of the Act before the end of December 2023. 		Nov. 2022	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta	
Title, Department		Minister of State, Ministry of Finance	
Email and Phone		Info @mofep.gov.gh- +233-302-747-197	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Parliament of Ghana Economic Management Team, Fiscal Responsibility Council	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA), University of Ghana, Institute of Social Statistical and Economic Research (ISSER) Department of Economics University of Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD).	

		Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)
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Commitment Template	
5.4. Beneficial Ownership	
Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023	
On-going Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Registrar-General's Department
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Beneficiary Ownership regime in Ghana has been operational since the enactment of The Companies Act 2019 (Act 992) and the completion of the upgrade of the Registrar-General's Department's electronic register to enable the department receive data on beneficiary ownership. What is required now is to ensure data quality and accuracy, data accessibility and availability as well as effective use of data</i>
The commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the comprehensive quality and accuracy of data at The Registrar-General's Department Enable greater access and availability of data Encourage greater data use and build the capacity of data users in government, civil society and among investigative journalists.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The commitment will ensure that the BOT regime which has become operational does actually advance transparency in business ownership which Ghana has aspired to in all previous commitments.</i>
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	<i>Commitment will promote transparency in business ownership in Ghana.</i>

Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising and sensitization on quality of BO data submission, requirements organized for industry stakeholders. 		Nov. 2021	June. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms to verify the accuracy of data submitted to RGD and a system to flag suspicious submission for further investigation, 		Nov. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms for sanctions for filing non-compliance in place 		Nov. 2021	June. 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial data is published to meet BO data standards. 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Data is made available in bulk format for competent authorities and other designated persons and agencies.		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Roadmap and risk assessment developed on the policies towards wider public availability of BO data.		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Publish annually data on the number of persons accessing information on BO of companies.		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Capacity building and training sessions for government and non-government stakeholders (NGOs, Investigative Journalists, OGP and GHEITI) through opening extractive programme on using BO data		Nov 2021	June 2023
Pilot use of BO data in the due diligence process before awarding a mining license to avoid conflict of interest		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mrs. Jemima Mamaa Oware	
Title, Department		The Registrar-General, The Registrar-General's Department	
Email and Phone		Info@rgd.gov.gh +233-30-266-4691	

Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Petroleum Commission, Minerals Commission Ministry of Energy
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) Public Interest Accountability Committee (PIAC)

Commitment Template	
5.5. Petroleum Sales	
Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023	
New commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Finance
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of Ghana's petroleum revenue comes from two long-term sales contracts with Russian Trader Litasco and Chinese owned Unipecc Asia.
The commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government commits to make these long-term sales contracts open by December 2022.

Contribution of commitment to solving problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will make available to the Ghanaian public the terms and condition under which this vital resource of Ghana is sold abroad. 		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Commitment will further improve transparency in a sector of the Ghanaian economy.</i> 		
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Finance and Minister of Energy to engage Ghana National Petroleum Cooperation on modalities for making sales contract public 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Finance makes sales contract public after necessary consultations 		Nov 2022	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta	
Title, Department		Minister of State, Ministry of Finance	
Email and Phone		info@mofep.gov.gh +233-302-747-197	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Energy, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC).	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GHEITI) Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP)	

		Public Interest Accountability Committee (PIAC)
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Commitment Template		
6.0. RIGHT TO INFORMATION		
Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023		
On-going commitment		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Information,	
Commitment description		
Problem to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Right to Information Law which was a major commitment under NAP 3 was eventually passed by the Parliament of Ghana in March 2019. The Right to Information Commission has been established to oversee its implementation. The main challenge now is how to roll-out the administrative machinery for its implementation throughout the country.</i> 	
The commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To complete the roll-out of the administrative structure in all regions of Ghana by end of 2022 	
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Effective implementation will ensure citizen's right to information guaranteed in the constitution of Ghana Article 21(1)</i> 	
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The commitment is crucial to the realization of the OGP value of well-informed citizenry</i> 	
Additional information		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train and build capacity of information officers to handle applications for information 	Nov. 2021	June 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct intensive public education and sensitization on RTI law 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build effective records management systems in public institutions to ease information request and accessibility. 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate funding and timely release of RTI Commission budget 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid over application of exception provisions in the RTI law 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon Kojo Opong Nkrumah	
Title, Department		Minister of State, Ministry of Information	
Email and Phone		info@moi.gov.gh +233-302-666-465	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	RTI Commission, Public Records and Archives Administration Department (PRAAD) National Media Commission, (NMC) Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) The Right to Information Coalition,	

Commitment Template

7.0. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023

On-going commitment

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development,

Commitment description

Problem to be addressed

- *The main problems to be solved are the continuing underrepresentation of women in political decision making, weak political participation of persons with disability and non-involvement of citizens and political parties in the selection of District chief executives who head local government in Ghana.*

The commitment

- Government to ensure progressive increase in women's political participation at all levels of government, review the Constitution to allow election of MMDCEs in district level elections (either on partisan basis or non-partisan basis) and provide opportunities for the political participation of Persons with Disabilities

Contribution of commitment to solving problem

- This commitment will bring closure to several long-standing issues*
- *The problem of the underrepresentation of women in government, inadequate political participation of PWDs and associated problems.*
 - *The non-involvement of political parties and citizens in the selection of district political heads which have been the target of civil society advocacy for years.*

Relevance of commitment to OGP values

- *This commitment will deepen political participation for segments of society that have been marginalized and excluded from decision making for years*

Additional information

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable

Start Date:

End Date:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to engage the leadership of the legislature, and all political parties to arrive at a decision as to whether to elect MMDCEs on partisan or non-partisan basis by end of June, 2023 	Sept. 2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend Articles 243 (1) and 55(3) based on outcome of engagement to enable citizens and political parties to participate in the election of Chief Executives and Assembly members. 	Nov.2022	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Affirmative Action Bill in Parliament for its consideration. 	Jan. 2023	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament refers the Affirmative Action Bill to the Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of Parliament for deliberation and citizen engagements on the Bill. 	Jan. 2023	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament considers the final processes towards the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill into Law and its Legislative Instrument for implementation by June 2023 to increase women's representation in decision-making spaces such as Parliament, District Assemblies, Ministerial and Ambassadorial appointments and other areas of governance in Ghana. 	Mar. 2023	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President accented to the Affirmative Action Bill by June 2023. 	April 2023	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with Political Parties to review their internal constitution and electoral rules to save some safe seats in their strongholds for only women aspirants to contest. 	May 2023	June, 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Re-enactment and its accompanying Legislative Instrument to Parliament by January 2023. 	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament passes the Re-enactment by June 2023 to enable PWDs enjoy all their rights, including full participation in national and local level decision making without discrimination. 	May 2023	June 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decentralize the National Council for Persons with Disability in 8 regions of Ghana by end of June 2023. 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link the disaggregated data base platform of the National Council for Persons with Disability with the National Identification Authority data base and the Open Data Platform for tax purposes and reliable data on persons with disability to inform policy formulation and implementation. 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Lariba Zuweira Abudu and Hon Daniel Kweku Botwe	
Title, Department		Ministers of State Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development	
Email and Phone		info@mogcsp.gov.gh +233-302-688-181 info@molgrd.gov.gh +233-302-908-224	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, National Council on Persons with Disabilities. National Identification Authority, Ghana Revenue Authority, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Coalition on Affirmative Action, The Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFDO) Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) Center for Democratic Development (CDD) Centre for Local Government Advocacy, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities	

Commitment Template

7.1 Open Parliament Engagement

Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023

New commitment

Lead implementing
agency/actor

The Ghana Parliament

Commitment description

Problem to be addressed

- *The Ghana Parliament has been an active member of the Global Open Parliament Partnership Initiative but has never submitted commitments in any of the previous action plans and now feels the need to contribute to the National Action Plan.*

The commitment

- The Ghana Parliament shall effectively participate in the OGP Ghana activities by December 2022

Contribution of commitment
to solving problem

- *This commitment will strengthen Ghana Parliament's active engagement with the Global Open Parliament Partnership.*

Relevance of commitment to
OGP values

- *Commitment will bring the Ghana Parliament in line with the Ghana OGPs commitments on the principles of accountability, transparency, citizen's participation and the people's right to know*

Additional information

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable

Start Date:

End Date:

- Adopt an Open Parliament Action Plan by the end of December 2022 to ensure that the Open Government values of transparency, accountability, citizens participation are integrated into Parliamentary work and practices

Nov. 2021

June 2023

- Establish an OGP caucus in the House by the end of 2022 to create space for political dialogue on Open governance.

Nov. 2021

June 2023

Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		The Right Honorable Alban Kingsford Sumana Bagbin
Title, Department		The Speaker, The Parliament of Ghana
Email and Phone		Info@parliament.gh +233-302-633-030, +233-302-664-530
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	The Parliament of Ghana
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Parliamentary Network Africa PNAfrica, Center for Democratic Development (CDD). Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)

Commitment Template

8. 0 Technology and Innovation

Commitment Starts November 2021 and Ends June 2023

On-going commitment

Lead implementing
agency/actor

Ministry of Communications and Digitalization

Commitment description

Problem to be addressed

- *How to improve service delivery to Ghanaian citizens through technology and innovation*

The commitment

- The government to ensure that the delivery of public services is improved through the sustained implementation of the Ghana Open Data Initiative

Contribution of commitment
to solving problem

- *Commitment will make accessible to citizens relevant open information on activities of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies*

Relevance of commitment to
OGP values

- *Will position technology and innovation at the center of the process of delivering quality services to the citizens*

Additional information

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable

Start Date:

End Date:

- Engage in public awareness activities about the open data portal with all key stakeholders and make portals accessible to persons with disability.

Nov. 2021

June 2023

- Ensure that data from critical sectors of the economy such as agriculture and industry are regularly provided on their portals. Regularly update the uploaded data and present them in disaggregated format that is more useful to the data consuming public.

Nov. 2021

June 2023

- Support regulatory agencies and licensing authorities to develop data collection /data set standard for their agencies

Nov. 2021

June 2023

and build an interoperable digital system.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train personnel to manage the various data systems • And direct research statistics and information management directorate of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies to lead data set /data collection teams 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide specific annual budgetary allocation to Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI) and support the GODI secretariat to secure the active involvement of the academic and research community in GODI 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the National Open Data sharing policy is implemented, and NITA will be involved in the design, identification and procurement of digital platform 		Nov. 2021	June 2023
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful	
Title, Department		Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Digitalization	
Email and Phone		info@moc.gov.gh +233-302-666-465	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Communications and Digitalization	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA), Ashesi University. Ghana Open Data Alliance, Ghana Academic and Research Network, National Council on Persons with Disability	

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