



Parliamentary Engagement in OGP Local: Menu of Options





1. Summary

Local parliaments have several options for participating in OGP Local which allows them to advance the open government agenda. The options are:

- Option 1 - Inclusion of a commitment(s) in the local action plan (starting in June 2022)
- Option 2 - Co-creation of a joint action plan (starting in June 2022)
- Option 3 - Submission of a standalone OGP Open Parliament Plan (starting in 2023 through a call for expression of interest)

In addition, Local Parliaments can support the OGP Local action plan in their jurisdiction by:

- Supporting outreach and awareness-raising around the OGP Local action plan co-creation process.
- Engaging in the co-creation process by advising on any legislative process related to a commitment.
- Helping advance the implementation of commitments by enacting necessary legal provisions related to commitments, ensuring budgetary allocation for commitment implementation, or carrying out oversight of commitment implementation.



2. Introduction

Within the framework of the Memorandum on [Parliamentary Engagement](#), adopted by the OGP Steering Committee in November 2021 and complementing the [Parliamentary Engagement in National OGP Processes: Menu of Options](#), this memo lays out in greater detail the options for local parliaments to participate in OGP by co-creating and implementing open government commitments (Section 3). In addition, local parliaments can engage in the promotion of the open government agenda by indirectly supporting the OGP Local action plan (Section 4).

3. Participation in the OGP Local process

Option 1 - Inclusion of a commitment(s) in the local action plan

Local Parliaments can choose to participate in the OGP Local action plan process as an active stakeholder and propose their own commitments as one of the five possible commitments in a local action plan. This option may be preferred in cases where the parliament has limited resources to co-convene a co-creation process with the executive but want to have a few commitments within the action plan. In this case, the Parliament, represented by a member(s) of the local parliament's administration or a local MP/councilor, is an active participant of the OGP Local forum and can co-create a commitment, in the same way other commitments are co-created. These commitments would receive the same treatment as any other commitment in the local action plan, including e-filing, monitoring and assessment, as established in the [OGP Local Handbook](#). The Strategic Vision of the action plan should include the parliament perspective as well related to the parliamentary commitment.

Local parliaments can include a commitment in an action plan starting in June 2022. A local parliament representative can reach out to the OGP Local Point of Contact to identify when new commitments will be co-created. Commitments in OGP Local can be co-created at the start of the action plan period or during the action plan period as long as it does not exceed the maximum limit of 5 commitments at any one time.

Contact information for the Local POC is available in each jurisdiction's [OGP Local page](#).



Option 2 - Co-creation of a joint action plan

A Local executive and parliament may want to co-create a joint action plan. This option is suitable in the case where a parliament and executive have the desire to co-convene a co-creation process and produce an action plan with complementary commitments or to benefit from the economies of scale from a single co-creation and action plan process. A joint action plan is one where two jurisdictions or branches of government agree to develop and implement an action plan together. The purpose of such a coalition is to benefit from working together. Executive / Parliamentary joint action plans must follow these additional guidelines:

- The Executive / Parliament coalition must submit **one (1) action plan** containing the commitments for both institutions. The Strategic Vision of the action plan should include the perspective of both institutions.
- The term of the action plan must coincide with the length of the executive and all commitments must be completed within two (2) months before the end of the administration's term.
- The action plan can have at one point in time up to ten (10) individual commitments: up to five (5) commitments from the executive and (5) commitments from parliament.
- Both jurisdictions must select only one (1) Monitoring Body to carry out the assessment for the action plan and all its commitments.
- It is required that the Executive / Parliament coalition can have a joint co-creation process.
- The Executive / Parliament coalition has to adhere to the rules and procedures established in the [OGP Local Handbook](#).

The Point of Contact for coordination purposes with the OGP Support Unit must be from the Executive who is responsible to liaise and coordinate with the parliament representative(s). The governance of the coalition must be defined by the coalition partners themselves.

Joint action plans are valid for one (1) action plan period. Parliament and the Executive can, if they want, continue to submit joining action plans in subsequent periods.

Local parliaments can co-create a joint action plan starting in June 2022. A local parliament representative can reach out to the OGP Local Point of Contact to identify when a new action plan will be co-created. A joint action plan can only be co-created at the start of an action plan period.



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Option 3 - Submission of a standalone OGP Open Parliament Plan

Submission of local stand alone OGP Open Parliament Plan will only be accepted starting in 2023 through a call for applications process. The date of the call for applications and further guidance will be provided at a future date.

Local Parliaments of OGP member countries may choose to co-create an independent parliamentary action plan through a stand-alone process. This may be the preferred option for local members where it proves difficult for parliaments to work within the confines of the OGP Local action plan process, whether because of conflicting executive and legislative calendars, due to formal and informal protocols governing engagement between the two branches or if the executive is not yet a member of OGP Local.

Stand-alone OGP Open Parliament Plans offer parliaments an opportunity to co-create with civil society, and deliver on commitments that further open up parliamentary processes and systems, and to do so in a way that is fully aligned with their own calendars and strategic objectives.

Parliaments can adapt existing mechanisms and spaces for dialogue for their OGP co-creation process, especially if they have established practices in place. However, parliaments should ensure that the minimum criteria for co-creation are met (see conditions below). Parliament can seek high-level political support for the agenda and explore cross-party collaboration through existing committees or special working groups.

Parliaments are encouraged to establish mechanisms for communication and coordination with their counterparts in the executive-led process. This will allow them to consider inputs emerging from public consultations relevant to parliament, to explore how the open parliament process and actors can support the executive-led plan, and to share information with civil society actors that are likely to have interest in both processes.



Conditions for submission of a stand alone Open Parliament action plan

Parliaments that choose to convene an independent co-creation process bear full responsibility for the process and for the resulting plan. They commit to the following conditions:

- Parliaments considering this option will have to adhere to the rules and procedures established in the [OGP Local Handbook](#). Parliaments must appoint a Parliament Liaison to coordinate the process. The Liaison must send a formal application to the OGP Support Unit at the time of the call, notifying the intent to co-create their own plan, and with the Local Point of Contact, to explore possible opportunities for collaboration.
- Parliaments considering this option will be responsible for the co-creation process, which includes civil society participation, to develop, implement and monitor their action plans. The duration of the action plan must span the period of the parliament and the plan must be submitted within 6 months of notifying intent to co-create their own plan.
- Parliaments considering this option should shape their OGP processes following the OGP Local Handbook, especially following [Section 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 for the co-creation minimum requirements and recommended practices](#).
- Parliaments considering this option will have to identify an independent monitoring body to report on the inclusiveness and participation of their processes and on the results of the commitment implementation in line with [Section 3.5. of the OGP Local Handbook](#) and the [IRM in a Box: A toolkit for Local Monitoring Bodies](#).
- Parliaments must submit their action plan and evaluations using the OGP Local e-filing system.

Parliaments convening their own processes do not have any additional decision-making or voting rights in OGP, which continues to rely on a single country view, coordinated via the official OGP Point of Contact.

Procedural review does not apply to independently co-created Open Parliament Plans under OGP: OGP members will continue to be assessed at the level of the national OGP action plan.



Support provided by the OGP Support Unit

Parliaments that choose to develop their own OGP Open Parliament action plan (option 3 above) will receive the following support from OGP:

- The Support Unit will provide access to the onboarding knowledge products.
- The Support Unit will upload the Parliamentary action plan onto the OGP Local member's page.
- OGP will conduct occasional deep dives on specific themes or overall co-creation.
- Local Parliaments will have access to the OGP Local learning platform and events.

4. Parliamentary support of the local OGP process

In addition to direct participation in the local OGP process, Parliaments can carry out a series of activities to support this process as well as the open government agenda. Parliaments can support the local OGP action plan process by:

- **Supporting outreach and awareness raising around the co-creation** to ensure meaningful participation in the co-creation process. This can be done by carrying out activities with relevant stakeholders to raise awareness of open government, the OGP, and opportunities to get involve, such as:
 - share the details on upcoming co-creation activities with their own (online) networks and community to promote the participation of parliamentary stakeholders and interested civil society organizations,
 - include information on its OGP activities and ambitions across a variety of its communication and education channels: the parliament website, newsletter and social media, visitor tours, and educational material for schools.
- **Engaging in the co-creation process by advising** on the legislative process related to a commitment or identifying areas of opportunity for commitments by the executive through problem identification and solution mapping.



- **Help advance the implementation of commitments by:**
 - enacting legal provisions required for their implementation,
 - leverage its budgeting powers to ensure the allocation of required funds for the implementation of OGP commitments,
 - leveraging its oversight powers to acquire information, ask parliamentary questions, raise issues in relevant committees and/or working groups, and hold the executive to account for implementation.

5. Connect with the Global Network of Open Government Reformers

The OGP Support Unit is available to advise and support where needed and will aim to strengthen the engagement of parliaments in OGP-led activities where possible. For updates on relevant examples, exchanges, and opportunities, please visit the [Parliaments page](#) on the OGP Website.

Open Parliament reformers are also invited to [join the OGP Local Community of Practice](#) through our Slack Workspace.
