

THE 6TH PH-OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

2023-2027

**Institutionalizing open government
through enhanced public participation
and digital transformation**

December 2023



**Open
Government
Partnership**





THE 6TH PH-OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN REPORT PREPARED BY THE PH-OGP SECRETARIAT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD

- i Message from the Chairperson
- iii Message from the Co-chairperson

ACRONYMS

- iv List of acronyms

INTRODUCTION

- 3 Embedding open government principles in all branches and levels of government
- 5 Shaping new frontiers and strengthening the open government cause

ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- 11 The 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan Co-Creation Framework
- 11 Building and re-building in times of transition
- 12 Harmonizing government and non-government priorities
- 14 Forging new alliances and leveraging on existing partnerships
- 16 Strengthening actions towards a more felt and responsive government

THE 6TH PH-OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS

- Commitment 1: Localization of the Freedom of Information Program**
- 22 Freedom of Information Program
- Commitment 2: Enhanced administration of justice at the local levels**
- 41 Establishment of more justice zones and enhancement of existing ones
- 52 Improved public access to quality, free, or affordable legal service
- Commitment 3: Establishment of an efficient and effective technology-enabled participatory validation and reporting mechanism for selected government infrastructure projects**
- 60 Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) Project

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE 6TH PH-OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS

Commitment 4: Building trust in the electoral system and mitigating voter disenfranchisement

- 75 Institutionalizing the Participation of Accredited Citizens' Arms in the Verification and Certification of List of Voters
- 84 Conduct more Overseas and Local Field Registration Activities for Overseas Voters

Commitment 5: Transparent, accountable, and participatory public procurement

- 91 Procurement Diagnostics Hub

Commitment 6: Safeguard civic space and strengthen social accountability

- 101 Driving Responsive and Innovative Participation of Vulnerable Sectors towards Empowerment in Local Governance (DRIVE)

Commitment 7: Subnationalizing transparency, accountability, and participatory governance mechanisms in the extractives sector

- 123 Subnationalizing extractives transparency ushering participatory governance (SET-UP-Go)

Commitment 8: Strengthening collaboration in the acceleration of progress in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 141 Stakeholders' Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals

ANNEXES

- 156 **Annex A:** Executive Order No. 31, s. 2023
- 161 **Annex B:** Steering Committee Directory
- 178 **Annex C:** OGP Citizens Agenda
- 184 **Annex D:** Action Plan Development Workshop Toolkit
- 192 **Annex E:** Waitlisted Commitments
- 195 **Annex F:** Steering Committee Review of Shortlisted Commitments
- 208 **Annex G:** Co-creation Process and Timeline
- 212 **Annex H:** Reasoned Response Form

FOREWORD

Bouncing Back Better, Building on Gains, and Turning the Open Government Promise into Reality

Assalamu alaikum wa Raḥmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

The Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) is proud to present to you our 6th National Action Plan (NAP).

PH-OGP was established in 2011, as the Philippines was a founding member of the OGP. Through the years, we have upheld our commitment to open government, producing five national action plans with several commitments that were acknowledged internationally—the last one adopting a bottom-up approach that reflected broad stakeholder input in the co-creation process, according to the latest Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) Results.

This 2023, we strived harder and achieved even greater milestones.

While it has been a decade since we co-founded the OGP movement with seven other countries, this year, for the first time, we have institutionalized open government in the Philippines through Executive Order (EO) No. 31, signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. last June. This paves the way for the synchronization of all three branches of the government towards promoting transparency, strengthening social accountability, and empowering citizens. We hope this will also inspire fellow OGP members to institutionalize open government in their countries.

We have also accelerated our efforts in digitalization, resulting in the full adoption of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) through EO 29. This envisions the digitalization of the Public Financial Management processes, with the Budget and Treasury Management System serving as a centralized database for all government financial operations, allowing real-time transaction monitoring.

We have likewise introduced amendments to the Government Procurement Reform Act, promoting open government, including the mainstreaming of public participation in the procurement process by inviting at least two observers—one from a duly recognized private sector and another from our Civil Society—to sit in all procurement proceedings, ensuring transparency and equal access to information at all stages of procurement.

With all these developments, we were able to showcase our structural reforms on the budget process, digitalization, and procurement at the 2023 OGP Global Summit held in Tallinn, Estonia last September where the Philippines was lauded by no less than the Chief Executive Officer of OGP, Mr. Sanjay Pradhan, as "a country with open government in its DNA."

FOREWORD

Following the summit, we successfully launched the OGPinas! National Advocacy Campaign, engaging hundreds of Filipinos across different regions in the country to strengthen public participation in governance.

As we worked on the 6th NAP, we realized that this must go beyond the usual and transcend into a pact –a pledge of open governance for and with the Filipino people. Hence, we hereby also present to you the country's first-ever medium-term action plan. This responds to the call for the sustainability of our commitments, with a regular monitoring and review mechanism, to ensure that the PH-OGP stays on track.

We are determined to strengthen and stay true to our commitments to mainstream public participation in all aspects of governance in the country through our increased localization, digitalization, and public participation efforts.

Among the approved commitments in this action plan are the establishment of more justice zones; improved access to quality, free, or affordable legal services; localization of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program; Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) Project; verification and certification of voters' list; conduct of more overseas and field registration activities for overseas voters; procurement diagnostics hub; sub-nationalizing Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) ushering participatory governance; Stakeholders Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals; and driving responsive and innovative participation of vulnerable sectors towards empowerment in local governance.

Given all these, I am optimistic that we will continue to grow in OGP: bouncing back better, building on gains, and turning the open government promise into reality. We will continue to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and public participation to realize a truly open government that will allow us to work together toward our Agenda for Prosperity.

Finally, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to everyone who has made this National Action Plan possible. Your passion and dedication to the open government cause makes me confident that we will remain committed to faithfully implementing this National Action Plan and turning the Open Government Promise into Reality.

Maraming salamat po at mabuhay ang Philippine Open Government Partnership! Wabillahi Tawfiq Wal Hidayah, Wasalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.



Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman

Department of Budget and Management
PH-OGP Chairperson

FOREWORD

The Philippine OGP, and the entire nation, faced an unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 Pandemic at the start of 2020. In terms of the fifth National Action Plan for 2019-2021, the pandemic came right in the middle of the implementation phase. The OGP needed to respond to the challenges first arising from the pandemic. The 5th NAP would then be extended until middle of 2022. Now, the journey of the PH-OGP shall reach a milestone with the completion of the co-creation of the 6th National Action Plan.

The Steering Committee and the Secretariats of government and non-government worked to the best of their ability in forging the National Action Plan together with the implementing national government agencies. The 6th NAP shall be the first one to have a 4-year term, as opposed to the previous NAPs which have 2-year terms. This NAP is also novel in the way that more government agencies are interested to participate in the co-creation process, including the Supreme Court and the Philippine National Police.

This national action plan will be coming at a crucial time since we will be needing robust commitments that will effectively respond to post-pandemic norms in governance, as well as emergent challenges on devolution, climate change, disinformation, corruption and impunity.

The Citizen's Agenda crafted by the non-government sector expressed the importance of the civic spaces, gender mainstreaming and responsible digital citizenship as equally important as the OGP principles. The Agenda became the bedrock of the commitments and the work that was done to improve these commitments in the NAP. Beyond the NAP, this new Citizens' Agenda shall be the guide for non-government sector engagement with government partners.

To the civil society organizations, academe, business groups, and public sector unions, your efforts do not go unrecognized. Your contributions give meaning to the OGP principles that should be promoted in the NAP commitments. To the implementing agencies, thank you for trusting the process of co-creation of your NAP commitments. For both government and non-government actors, this NAP, in the end, shall now look for outcomes. We'll take time during the different moments in the 6th NAP implementation to take stock, improve, and move forward towards solutions to our defined problems.

While this new chapter for the Open Government Partnership will be taking place in a time that is far different from what we faced four years ago, rest assured of the continuing support of our non-government sector as we carve out a new future for our advocacy.

Padayon lang gihapon. Daghang salamat!

Andrea Maria Patricia M. Sarenas

Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks
Incumbent PH-OGP Co-chairperson



Acronyms

BOC	Bureau of Customs	ILS	Institute of Labor Studies
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	IRM	Independent Reporting Mechanism
COMELEC	Commission on Election	LGU	Local Government Unit
Community GARDENPH	Community Generative Action towards Reformative Development and Ending Poverty and Hunger	MINCODE	Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks
CSO	Civil Society Organizations	NAP	National Action Plan
CWC	Commission on the Welfare of Children	NAPC	National Anti-Poverty Commission
DBM	Department of Budget and Management	NCR	National Capital Region
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government	NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
DILG-SLGP	Department of the Interior and Local Government – Support to Local Governance Project Management Office	NWPC	National Wage and Productivity Commission
DIME	Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation	OES	Office of the Executive Secretary
DLSU-LSIG	De La Salle University Institute of Governance	OGP	Open Government Partnership
DOF	Department of Finance	PCAF	Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries
DOH	Department of Health	PCCI	Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development	PCO	Presidential Communications Office
EO	Executive Order	PCUP	Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor
EU	European Union	PDP	Philippine Development Plan
GIFT	Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency	PH-OGP	Philippine Open Government Partnership
HoR	House of Representatives	PNP	Philippine National Police
IBP	International Budget Partnership	PPSC	Philippine Public Safety College
IEC	Information, Education, and Advocacy Campaign	PSLINK	Public Sector Labor Independent Confederation

Acronyms

PS-PHILGEPS	Procurement Service - Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System	SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
PYDN	Positive Youth Development Network	TOR	Terms of Reference
RDC	Regional Development Councils	UHF	Unang Hakbang Foundation
RRF	Reasoned Response Forms	ULAP	Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
SC	Supreme Court	UN SDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SP	Solo Parent	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SPJI	Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations	WB	World Bank
STANCE	Sectoral Transparency Alliance on Natural Resource Governance in Cebu, Inc.		

CHAPTER 1

Introduction



Photo by the Department of Budget and Management

PH-OGP Chairperson, DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman, led the participants of the OGPinas! Nationwide Advocacy Campaign held at the University of Southeastern Philippines to a cheer. Present in the photo are Associate Justice Japar Dimaampao (Center); (L-R) Davao City Councilor Myrna Dalodo-Ortiz, PH-OGP Co-Chairperson Ms. Andrea Maria Patricia M. Sarenas, and DBM Undersecretary Wilford Will L. Wong. Also present are PH-OGP Head Secretariat Asec. Rolando U. Toledo, DBM ROXI Dir. Gary R. Martel, DBM ROXII Dir. Akmad J. Usman, Non-Government Steering Committee Members Ms. Catherine Ruiz, Ms. Aurora Chavez and Mr. Ian Jason Hecita (second row), among others.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a multi-stakeholder initiative founded by innovators and democratic players who believe that a government whose doors are open to its people is a government that is trustworthy and is responsive to the needs of its people. The OGP holds a prominent position in the open government landscape having grown from an initial coalition of eight (8) founding governments and nine (9) civil society organizations to 76 member countries and thousands of civil society organizations under its umbrella as of date. With its vast network, OGP offers a structure for international networking, exclusive resources, and cross-country learnings and benchmarking to implement more ambitious open government reforms.

The Philippines, as one of the founding members of the OGP, sustains the engagement of government and civil society reformers in co-creating impactful commitments intended to improve service delivery. This is evidenced by its action plans which were built from the country's eagerness to improve public services and uphold public integrity anchored on a paradigm that seeks to widen the spaces for citizens in their very own government, hold public leaders to account, and ensure that the benefits of governance reach the grassroots in an immediate manner. Over the years, these programs on improving transparency, civic participation, accountability, and the use of digital technology have contributed to strengthening governance both at the national and local levels. Because of PH-OGP's contribution to the Philippine governance processes, it is identified as a key strategy for deepening participatory governance under Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 Chapter 14: Promote Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency.

During its tenure in the OGP, the Philippines has successfully co-created and implemented five (5) national action plans with 65 commitments which respond to a broad range of national and local issues. These commitments and efforts coupled with the strong dedication and support of the PH-OGP Steering Committee and champions and reformers local governance landscapes—from high-level political leaders, career officials, civil servants, and civil society actors—pivoted our country to be recognized as a global leader in the open government community.



The PH-OGP Steering Committee during the Fourth Quarter meeting held in Davao City on November 23, 2023. (L-R first row): DBM RO XI Dir. Gary Martel, DBM Asec. Rolando U. Toledo, DBM Usec. Wilford Will L. Wong, PH-OGP Co-Chairperson Andrea Maria Patricia M. Sarenas (MINCODE), PH-OGP Chairperson Sec. Amenah F. Pangandaman, OES Usec. Leonardo Roy Cervantes, DILG Asec. Ester Aldana, Aurora R. Chavez (CBD), (R-L second row) DSWD representative Ms. Nolibelyn Macabagdal, DOF Asec. Karlo Fermin Adriano, Ian Jayson Hecita (LSIG), Catherine M. A. Ruiz (KSSFI), Dr. Annie Geron (PSLINK-PUBLIK), NEDA Asst. Dir. Judith Gondra, Supreme Court representatives Attys. Nico Robert Martin and Bettina Melchor, Jimmy Viliganilao (STANCE) and DBM RO XI Adir. Antonio Faunillan, Jr. (Photo by DBM)

This initiative enabled reformers from inside and outside of the government to consolidate their influence and work together, making OGP a vehicle for getting things done. Its processes foster new political experiences, giving government officials and civil society actors the opportunity to collaborate, engage in joint-decision making, and advocate reform. It also provides a verifiable means of a government's reform credentials especially when commitments by high-level leaders demonstrate changes on the ground.

Embedding open government principles in all branches and levels of government

After over a decade of consistent efforts at opening government, the Philippines has institutionalized PH-OGP through the issuance of Executive Order (EO) No. 31, s. 2023. Recognizing the need to further strengthen the engagement of government and non-government champions for more effective and sustainable actions to address social concerns, the EO leverages on how PH-OGP has evolved into a vital platform for introducing governance reforms both at the national and local levels.

The EO institutionalizes PH-OGP as a multi-stakeholder partnership responsible for overseeing and implementing the country's commitments to OGP. It provides for the membership and functions of the PH-OGP Steering Committee, as well as the support from the Point of Contact (PoC) and the establishment of a Secretariat composed of government and non-government members.

As stated in the EO, the PH-OGP Steering Committee Chairperson is the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) while the Co-Chairperson will be elected by the Non-Government Steering Committee from among its members.

From a membership of sixteen (16), seats in the Steering Committee expanded to twenty (20) members to provide stronger representation government and non-government champions based on emerging global and national open government priorities.

On the other hand, the non-government sector follows its own process of nomination and election of members to the Steering Committee. This independent process involves a broad network of civil society actors that are convened to nominate and elect the members of the PH-OGP Steering Committee from the non-government sector. From among the elected members, the Non-Government Steering Committee will nominate the Co-Chairperson. They will also choose the CSO that will serve as the non-government Secretariat.

Currently, the nomination process for the new non-government members of the Steering Committee is on-going with the election process concluding on January 11, 2024. Meantime, the non-government membership is still composed of the incumbent members of the previous term.

Table 1: The Members of the PH-OGP Steering Committee

Sector	Representative/s
National Government (permanent)	1. Department of Budget and Management (DBM) – <i>Chairperson</i> 2. Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) 3. National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) 4. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) 5. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
National Government (non-permanent)	6. Department of Finance (DOF) 7. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Local Government (permanent)	8. Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
The Judiciary (non-permanent)	9. Supreme Court
Congress (non-permanent)	10. House of Representatives (HOR)
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (permanent)	11. Luzon Representative 12. Visayas Representative 13. Mindanao Representative
Private Sector (permanent)	14. Business Sector Representative
Academe (permanent)	15. Academic Institution Representative
Public Sector Union (permanent)	16. Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK)
Youth (permanent)	17. Youth and Children Demographic Representative
Women (permanent)	18. Women Sector Representative
CSOs working in specific sector (non-permanent)	19. CSO Representative working in the Justice Sector 20. CSO Representative working in the Environment and Climate Sector

Last August 18, 2023, the government members of the PH-OGP Steering Committee convened for an organizational meeting in Bonifacio Hall, Malacañang Palace where a discussion of plans succeeding the institutionalization of PH-OGP took place, particularly establishing a technical working group (TWG) to draft the PH-OGP Steering Committee Terms of Reference for 2023-2027 which shall define the identified functions of the Steering Committee under Section 3 of EO No. 31.



Government members and representatives of the PH-OGP Steering Committee (L-R): DBM Asec. Rolando U. Toledo, DSWD Usec. Adonis P. Sulit, DBM Usec. Margaux V. Salcedo, DILG Usec. Marlo L. Iringan, DENR Sec. Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, DBM Sec. Amenah F. Pangandaman, OES Sec. Lucas G. Bersamin, Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel H. Gaerlan, Supreme Court Associate Justice Maria Filomena D. Singh, NEDA Sec. Arsenio M. Balisacan, (former) DOF Usec. Maria Cielo D. Magno, and Senate President Chief-of-Staff Davidson Torres (Photo by DBM)

Shaping new frontiers and strengthening the open government cause

In another historic feat, the Judiciary headed by the Supreme Court of the Philippines Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo expressed its full support for the PH-OGP in a meeting held last May 31, 2023. The Chief Justice recognized the interface of the principles of open government and the Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations (SPJI) 2022-2027. For the first



DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman and Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo exchanged tokens during the harmonization meeting held at the Session Hall, Supreme Court of the Philippines last May 31, 2023. (Photo by DBM)

time, the PH-OGP and the Judiciary will align the outcomes of the SPJI 2022-2027 with the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan for the overall realization of opening justice—one of the key OGP policy areas for reform.

This harmonization meeting is premised to the OGP Global Summit which was held in Tallinn, Estonia on September 6-7, 2023.

The Philippines brought the biggest delegation to the Global

Summit with representatives from the different levels and branches of government and the civil society sector headed by the PH-OGP Chairperson and Department of Budget and Management Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman.

During the Summit, the country's position as a global leader in opening government is recognized in various peer-learning events. The PH-OGP has led the coordination and helped bring together the Summit delegation and actively participated in the Summit as co-organizers of two sessions: a side event titled, "Innovation Talks: Fostering Transparency and Public Participation through Open Budget Portals" together with the Department of Foreign Affairs – Philippine Embassy in Warsaw, Poland and Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT); and a core thematic Summit session, "From Inclusion to Impact: Harnessing the Power of the People to Make Public Budgets More Responsive" with the International Budget Partnership (IBP) and GIFT.

Apart from co-organizing Summit sessions, Philippine delegates were also invited to showcase their experiences in pursuing open government, particularly on building local and national coalitions, government digitalization, anti-corruption and renewal of democracy, access to justice, and fiscal openness, among others.

OGP's new strategy has the ambition to accelerate open government action across select policy areas, including anti-corruption, civic space and inclusion; and mainstream open government across all branches and levels of government. As part of the new strategy, OGP will seek to inspire, connect, and enable an ever-growing community of reformers and champions from government and civil society to take action together. This will require to focus on equipping leaders and reformers with the skills and resources, competencies and coalitions, to drive change.



Delegates of the DBM met with OGP CEO Sanjay Pradhan on the sidelines of the OGP Summit 2023. (L-R) Atty. Jose Miguel B. Solis, Usec. Wilford Will L. Wong, Executive Assistant to the OGP CEO Diana Leckie, Usec. Maria Franceesca Del Rosario, OGP CEO Sanjay Pradhan, Sec. Amenah F. Pangandaman, Asec. Rolando U. Toledo, PS-DBM Executive Director Dennis S. Santiago, Ericka N. Blas, OGP Support Unit Acting Regional Lead for Asia and Pacific, Ivygail I. Ong (Photo by DBM)

In cooperation with the European Union (EU), through the Partnership for Democracy and Accountability (PDA), OGP will facilitate improved cross-regional peer learning, coalition building and thematic knowledge around specific policy areas such as accountability, anti-corruption, civic space and participation and gender and inclusion. The Philippines is one of the identified PDA targets under this agreement because of our strong OGP ecosystems, track record in advancing open government reforms, and the potential to inspire other countries in the region in a race to the top.

This support will also focus on enhancing the leadership capacities of open government reformers driving change at the country level through OGP processes and beyond.

The Summit experience catalyzed the start of a nationwide information, education and advocacy campaign (IEC) on open government called the OGPinas! This was successfully launched in five (5) cluster regions covering Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao (includes BARMM) and the National Capital Region (NCR).

OGPinas! is an advocacy campaign which expands the extent of direct engagement of government and non-government reformers with the public, making OGP processes and spaces more responsive and agile to the demands for reform. This campaign shares the OGP platform not only with all levels of government but also with different sectors of society. This aims to strengthen the foundation of OGP on the ground, making it a central avenue where stakeholders can advance their reform advocacies.





The second leg of the OGPinas! Nationwide Advocacy Campaign held in Iloilo City. This was participated by (R-L, first row) DBM Usec. Goddess Hope O. Libiran, DBM Usec. Margaux V. Salcedo, DILG Asec. Francisco R. Cruz, DBM Asec. Rolando U. Toledo, DBM Region VI Dir. Liane Gayomali, and DBM Sec. Amenah F. Pangandaman, among others. (Photo by DBM)

OGPinas! also responds to the emerging strategic directions of OGP by investing more in people and equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive progress towards a more open government. This advocacy campaign was participated by over 500 representatives from the Regional Development Councils (RDCs), local government units, state universities and colleges (SUCs), civil society organizations (CSOs), various sectoral representatives, and civic leaders.

The PH-OGP is also strengthening its efforts in embedding open government at the local level through the OGP Local Program. Efforts on localizing OGP proved successful with a number of local government units showing interest in joining OGP Local. The appeal of OGP Local is the opportunity to achieve stronger early results out of local commitments than national commitments. More than the chance to join regional and international summits, local governments are provided with access to a global network, a mentorship program on OGP process, peer exchange and issue-based learning circles, and knowledge products and research on open local government, among others. This potential for local governments in the country to join OGP Local will bring open government to the local level and effectively improve services as we work towards making open government the norm.

Currently, the provincial government of South Cotabato (2018 cohort) and the City Government of Borongan, Eastern Samar (2020 cohort) are the only two members of the OGP Local Program in the Philippines. Seven (7) city governments committed to submit their application for the 2024 cohort through the support of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. These are: Quezon City, Baguio City, Cebu City, Mandaue City, Tagbilaran City, Lapu-Lapu City, and Dumaguete City.

The results of the application will be announced during the first quarter of 2024.

CHAPTER 2

Action Plan Development Process

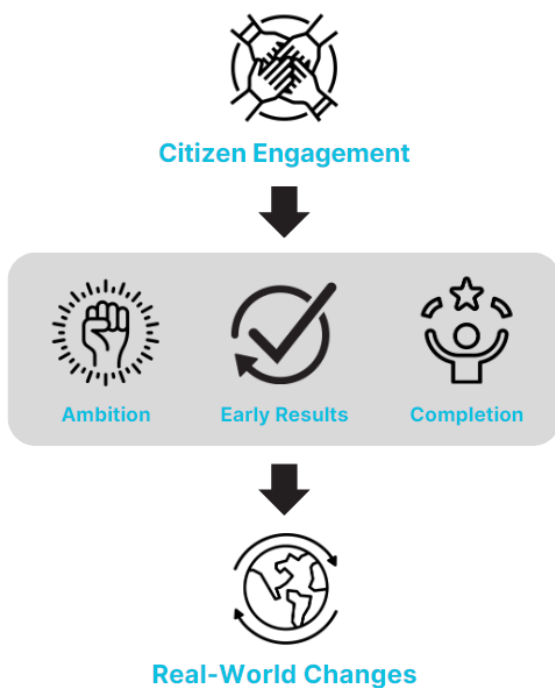


Photo by the Department of Budget and Management

Pearl Clemente of DILG-SLGP discussing the agency's proposed commitment to civil society participants including Mr. Arnel Caranto of LIFE Inc. during the Action Plan Development Workshop held in Luxent Hotel, Quezon City on August 17, 2023.

Through its unique model of public participation, OGP has strengthened the role of civil society in shaping policies and overseeing governments. OGP's ten years of data show that public participation helps yield stronger results and improve the quality of public services especially when government-civil society collaboration is sustained throughout the action plan cycle—from the design, and implementation to monitoring—and when feedback loops are closed.

Figure 1: Illustration on the analysis in the OGP Vital Signs Report of a simplified theory of change for OGP action plans



Strong and inclusive co-creation process that highlights collective efforts and perspectives of government and civil society organizations (CSOs) has proven instrumental in determining effective policies and programs. That is why for the sixth country action plan, the Philippines leveraged on the partnership it has built through the years between and among open government champions inside and outside the government as its driving force and one of its biggest strengths.

Anchored on a paradigm which considers meaningful civic engagement as key to the nation's progress, the campaign for transparent, accountable, and people-centric governance has made a positive impact on various fronts such as bureaucratic efficiency, economic resiliency, and more active citizen participation in government processes.

Diverse stakeholders were brought together in this process through the rich partnership and collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank (WB), European Union (EU), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UNICEF, OGP Support Unit, and Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) which have been instrumental in achieving a robust and impactful action plan that will drive positive change and will contribute to the realization of an open, transparent, and participatory government for the benefit of all Filipinos.



The Philippines 6th action plan is the first plan of the country that will be implemented for four years after the Steering Committee adopted Resolution No. 1, series of 2022 during the first quarter meeting last March 29, 2022.

Guided by the Participation and Co-creation Standards, the Philippines activated spaces and mechanisms for sustained dialogue and encouraged ambition and innovation by commitment proponents and key stakeholders that will promote shared responsibility and greater accountability and learning.

The development process also takes off from institutional reform agenda and international governance frameworks such as the Philippine Development Plan 2022-2028, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), OGP Participation and Co-Creation Toolkit, and the Independent Reporting Mechanism Co-Creation Brief for the Philippines. The PH-OGP has been intentional in incorporating the Standards in each step of the Action Plan Development and arrived at a more detailed timeline of activities to support the process.

Table 2: *OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards 2021*

Standard 1	Establishing a space for ongoing dialogue and collaboration between government, civil society, and other non-governmental stakeholders.
Standard 2	Providing open, accessible and timely information about activities and progress within a member's participation in OGP.
Standard 3	Providing inclusive and informed opportunities for public participation during co-creation of the action plan.
Standard 4	Providing a reasoned response and ensuring ongoing dialogue between government and civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders as appropriate during co-creation of the action plan.
Standard 5	Providing inclusive and informed opportunities for ongoing dialogue and collaboration during implementation and monitoring of the action plan.

The 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan (NAP) Co-Creation Framework

The participation and co-creation framework for the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan (NAP) formed its bedrock from the recommendations of stakeholders across sectors and key experts showcasing an improved design that proposes solutions that unswervingly respond to the public problem.

The OGP has identified five (5) key activities in the action plan development process that provided guidance on specific engagements and stages each member country shall conduct during the development phase of the co-creation. These key steps are referenced in the Philippines' development process together with the Standards released by the OGP.



Figure 2: Key Steps in the Action Plan Development Process Adopted by the Philippines

Building and re-building partnerships in times of transition

The action plan development for the 6th NAP saw a leadership transition from 2021 with then OIC DBM Secretary entrusting the direction-setting for PH-OGP to the incoming Secretary after the 2022 National Elections. It was deemed more strategic if commitments for the next action plan were decided by the new leadership to ensure that the priorities of the new Administration were incorporated into the 6th NAP commitments.

In the interim, efforts at sustaining partnerships and government linkages were sustained, desk review of IRM Reports such as the IRM Co-creation Brief release on April 2022 was done, and conduct of thematic consultations through a workshop held with assistance from the OGP Support Unit was conducted last April 25 and 27, 2022. This workshop was attended by key non-government stakeholders and Steering Committee members to identify thematic areas as a starting point on what will be proposed for government adoption in the next set of commitments.



The Philippines exhibited leadership on open government initiatives evident in its past action plans where more than half of the commitments have been ambitious and three-quarters have been fully or substantially completed. The country also demonstrated strong and early results on the areas of fiscal openness and right to information.

Table 3: *Agenda for Good Governance: Thematic areas initially identified by the PH-OGP Non-government Steering Committee for the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan*

1	Expanding platforms for civic participation and ensuring these platforms are functional and effective;
2	Combatting mis- and disinformation impacting democratic processes;
3	Creating effective spaces for women’s participation in governance processes;
4	Curbing corruption by strengthening institutional safeguards;
5	Greater participation of the Judiciary in realizing open government commitments; and
6	Pushing reforms that will limit political dynasties.

On July 1, 2022, the new DBM Secretary, Amenah F. Pangandaman took her oath as the new Budget Chief. As former Chief-of-Staff of then DBM Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, Secretary Pangandaman was not entirely new to PH-OGP allowing for a seamless transition as the new PH-OGP Chairperson. She provided strong leadership and clear direction in navigating the 6th NAP development process by enjoining greater support not only from the Executive branch but in a historic and highly ambitious move, getting buy-in from the Judiciary as well.

Harmonizing government and non-government priorities through awareness-raising and information-gathering

The 6th PH-OGP NAP Development timelines initially approved and discussed during the Fourth Quarter PH-OGP Steering Committee Meeting in Davao City on December 9, 2022 made flexible to accommodate new insights and ideas that would add value and support the activities as well as to respond to several transitions in both the government and non-government sectors.

Through the letter from OGP Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sanjay Pradhan dated February 10, 2023, the Philippines adopted the December 31, 2023, hard deadline to ensure that commitments in the country’s first medium-term national action plan will have sufficient buy-in from all stakeholders.

“This is not a fight we give up on easily. We will continue. We will give more of ourselves. That’s how we make for a better world—everybody co-creating, collaborating, and contributing to the work that has to be done”

Andrea Maria Patricia M. Sarenas, *Mindanao Coalition for Development NGO Networks and PH-OGP Co-chairperson during the Open Gov Week 2023*



The PH-OGP convened key government agencies and non-government partners to provide information on the whole PH-OGP process and in anticipation of the institutionalization of the PH-OGP during the first-ever PH-OGP Forum for Civil Society (online) and Key National Government Agencies (in-person, DBM Multi-purpose Hall) last February 8-9, 2023.



Commission on Audit Dir. Marites P. Odtojan shares the success story of the Citizen Participatory Audit during the PH-OGP Forum held in DBM Multi-purpose Hall on February 9, 2023. (Photo by DBM)

The PH-OGP Forum aimed to build awareness among national government agencies on the PH-OGP and its role in helping achieve people-centered governance; to share accomplishments and highlight the impact of PH-OGP over the years; and to present plans for the development of the PH-OGP NAP and how government and non-government actors can participate in the co-creation process.

On the other hand, the Non-Government Secretariat, CODE-NGO, held several discussions with several non-government stakeholders and other civil society actors to form part of a broader **OGP Citizens Agenda** (Annex C). The consultation was done by requesting civil society organizations (CSOs) to fill out a survey form through an online platform from March to April 2023. The same questionnaire was discussed in face-to-face consultations and distributed to different sectors in the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) during sectoral meetings over the same period.

The OGP Citizens Agenda is a result of the survey which ranked the identified agenda of the PH-OGP Non-Government Steering Committee Members enumerated in the Agenda for Good Governance. This was presented to open government champions inside and outside government during the Open Gov Week on May 10, 2023, for consideration and/or adoption in the commitments for the 6th NAP. Beyond the action plan, this Agenda shall serve as Philippine civil society's engagement framework in other arenas for constructive engagement.

“At PH-OGP, we have high regard for the rigor of discourse in order for us to arrive at the wisest decision that will strengthen the collaboration between the government and the people. We believe that the more open the government is, the more opportunities we have to do better.”

DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman, PH-OGP Chairperson, in her opening message during the PH-OGP Forum 2023



Forging new alliances and leveraging on existing partnerships towards shaping an impactful action plan

Twenty-seven (27) proposals from twenty (20) government agencies were submitted as the PH-OGP closed its call for commitments last June 23, 2023. These proposals mirror some of the key indicators in the OGP Citizens Agenda. Out of the 20 government agencies, 11* were proposing commitments for the first time while 8** commitments were continuation and/or reinvention of commitments from the previous action plans.

Table 4: Commitment Proposals for the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan

No.	Agency	Commitment
1	Presidential Communications Office (formerly Presidential Communications Operations Office)	Freedom of Information Program**
2	Department of Social Welfare and Development	Strong Solo Parents (SP) Families
3		Community Generative Action Towards Reformative Development and Ending Poverty and Hunger (Community GARDEN PH)
4	Department of the Interior and Local Government – Support to Local Governance Project Management Office	Driving Responsive and Innovative Participation of Vulnerable Sectors towards Empowerment in Local Governance**
5	Philippine Public Safety College*	Achieving Public Safety and Security Thru Situational Awareness on Natural Calamities Particularly on Earthquake Preparedness
6	Philippine National Police*	Child Safety and Protection Program
7	Department of the Interior and Local Government	Project Transparent and Accountable Barangay Governance
8	Department of Education	School Building Program Monitoring System for Civil Society Organizations**
9	Department of Budget and Management	Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) Project**
10	Institute of Labor Studies*	Regulatory Impact Assessment
11	National Wage and Productivity Commission*	Tamang Kaalaman sa Kita at Kakayanan
12	Department of Finance	Sub-nationalizing Extractives Transparency – Ushering Participatory Governance**
13	Commission on Election*	Verification and Certification of List of Voters
14		Conduct of More Overseas and Field Registration Activities for Overseas Voters
15		Election Laws Revision and Codification
16	Bureau of Customs*	National Time Release Study
17	Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor	Empowering Urban Poor Communities through Community-Organizing and

No.	Agency	Commitment
		Community Development (CO-CD) Approach**
18	Department of Health*	National Health Workforce Support System Dashboard
19		Mental Health Program
20	Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries*	Participatory Monitoring and Tracking of Agriculture and Fisheries Programs
21	National Economic and Development Authority	Stakeholders Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals
22	Supreme Court*	Improved Access to Quality, Free, or Affordable Legal Service
23		Establishment of More Justice Zones and Enhancement of Existing Ones
24	Commission on Audit	Building Stronger Relationships between the COA and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**
25	Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office*	Procurement Diagnostics Hub
26	Anti-Red Tape Authority*	Report Card Survey 2.0
27		Philippine Ease of Doing Business Reporting System**

These commitment proposals underwent first iteration after the Commitment Outcomes Design Workshop conducted in partnership with the UNDP on July 25 and 28, 2023. This workshop aimed to facilitate meaningful discussions, fostering collaboration, and collectively designing the outcomes and milestones for the commitments proposed by reviewing the alignment of its problem statement and proposed solutions.



Vino Lucero of the Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information discussed recommendations on the proposed FOI commitment with Marinella Ricafranca and Hennesy Ozawa of PCO. (Photo by DBM)

A more robust version of the proposed commitments as a result of the workshop was the take-off point of the regional and online consultations held from August until September 2023. To complement the limitations of face-to-face consultations, commitment proposals were also published online from August 17, 2023, until September 22, 2023. Additionally, a sectoral consultation with adolescents spearheaded by the UNICEF and Unang Hakbang Foundation, Inc. in partnership with the Commission on the Welfare of Children (CWC) and Positive Youth Development Network (PYDN) was conducted for the first time on September 30 and October 1, 2023, at Novotel Manila, Araneta City, Cubao. Participants from various regions aged 12 – 17 years old were provided with an opportunity to share their insights on commitment proposals of DepEd, DSWD, PPSC, and PNP.

Strengthening actions toward a more felt and responsive government

After the workshops, the Secretariat convened and conducted a review of the commitment proposals and the reasoned response forms (RRFs) for the initial shortlisting process. This process was anchored on the following rationale points:

- **To ensure that all commitments exhibit strong relevance to OGP values and principles.** In the conversations with the commitment proponents, varying levels of understanding and appreciation of OGP values surfaced. It is important that commitment proponents are aligned with or have a common understanding or appreciation of how OGP principles are defined to be able to comply with OGP standards and to implement programs and projects that are not only recognition-worthy but most importantly translate real impact to its intended beneficiaries.
- **To take into account the manageability of commitment monitoring.** Commitment proponents are being asked to plan their milestones using the SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound) criteria to make sure that agencies are not over- or under-committing. Moreover, action plans are considered by the number of its commitments but by how these will be implemented especially since these are committed at the international level.
- **To improve the completion rate of the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan.** Historically, the action plan with the most completed commitments is the third NAP with 38% completion rate – that is 5 out of 13 commitments. The latest action plan on the other hand completed 3 out of its 11 commitments or 27% completion rate. This last point can be attributed to the manageability of commitments. With the longer time to implement the commitments for the 6th NAP, we expect to improve our completion rate to around 50 - 70%.

Out of the 27 commitment proposals, the Secretariat was able to short list 14 commitments for prioritization and presentation to the Steering Committee for review and approval. The remaining eleven (11) commitments were placed under the waiting list, while two (2) commitments were withdrawn sometime during the process due to internal management and budgetary constraints.

The commitments that were not included in the shortlist were placed under the waiting list and will be considered in the 6th NAP during the times when new commitments can be introduced.

Table 5: *Moments in the action plan where new commitments can be introduced*

One-year mark	Action plans can still be revised within one year after its submission to include new commitments or update current ones.
Midterm refresh	Four-year action plans are mandated to undergo refresh midway during its implementation to update, modify, or include new commitments that are responsive to current realities and needs, or

As challenge commitment

support implementation of other commitments.

Countries that are implementing an action plan may include “challenge commitments” to respond to emerging national priorities by using the OGP and its participation and co-creation mechanisms.

The Secretariat shall also ensure sustained engagement with the commitment proponents under the waiting list to provide them with the following:

- **Targeted and programmatic support** based on the needs of each commitment to address areas that need to be improved;
- **Exposure to learning opportunities** such as peer-learning exchange similar to the Open Government Leadership Collaborative or OGLC where PH-OGP intends to build a community of OGP champions involved in a particular thematic or policy area where they can share practices and insights that could be sounding boards for innovations; and national and international summits and/or engagements; and
- **Access to OGP’s exclusive resources and cross-country learning** and benchmarking to raise the level of ambition of the commitment proposals.

There are a lot of opportunities where commitment proponents under the waiting list can benefit and the time between the moments when they can possibly be part of the NAP can be used for deepening their understanding of the process, building champions within their agencies to spearhead its implementation, and targeted fine-tuning of technical aspects in their commitment to bring out key policy areas where they can make lasting change.



IRM Research Officer Sarah Jacobs facilitating the conversation of DBM Project DIME team led by Axl Acordon and Marco Zaplan of Gov Data Initiative on proposed commitment enhancements. (Photo by DBM)

A refinement workshop was held on November 13-15, 2023 with the 14 shortlisted commitment proponents at The Bayleaf Hotel, Intramuros, Manila in partnership with the UNDP which sought to provide the commitment holders with the technical support on commitment writing and assist commitment holders to refine their commitments based on consultation feedback; platform for policy experts to share their insights on the proposed commitment; and avenue for planning on commitment milestone implementation and monitoring. The first day was dedicated for the presentation of IRM Research Officer, Ms. Sarah Jacobs, on how to make good OGP commitments. Commitment proponents were given time to discuss their Reasoned Response Form (RRF) and how the inputs from the consultation workshops were integrated in their commitments.

Days 2 and 3 were allotted for discussion with commitment holders and policy experts on improving their commitments particularly on redefining the public problem and mapping out of commitment milestones. The output of this workshop was a more refined commitment draft that would be the main point of reference of the Steering Committee review that was held on November 23, 2023 in Davao City.

This high-level review intends to assess the shortlisted commitments and decide on the final roster of commitments to be included in the 6th NAP. The review process was facilitated by subjecting the proposal to a set of prioritization criteria and by providing recommendations for the commitment proponent's action.

Table 6: *Shortlisted commitment proposals and the Steering Committee decision*

Agency	Commitment Proposal	Decision
Presidential Communications Office	Freedom of Information Program	CONDITIONAL
Supreme Court	Establishment of More Justice Zones and Enhancement of Existing Ones	APPROVED
	Improved Access to Quality, Free, or Affordable Legal Service	APPROVED
Department of Budget and Management	Project Digital Imaging for Monitoring and Evaluation	APPROVED
Commission on Election	Verification and Certification of List of Voters	APPROVED
	Election Laws Revision and Codification	WAITING LIST
	Conduct of More Overseas and Local Field Registration Activities for Overseas Voters	CONDITIONAL
Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office	Procurement Diagnostics Hub	APPROVED
Department of the Interior and Local Government	Driving Responsive and Innovative Participation of Vulnerable Sectors towards Empowerment in Local Governance	APPROVED
Department of Finance	Sub-nationalizing Extractives Transparency Initiative Ushering Participatory Governance	APPROVED
National Economic Development Authority	Stakeholders Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals	APPROVED
Department of Agriculture – Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries	Participatory Monitoring and Tracking System of Agriculture and Fisheries Projects*	WAITING LIST

The commitments under conditional status will be considered as approved if the commitment proponent adopts or provides appropriate action in response to the Steering Committee's recommendations.

CHAPTER 3

The 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan Commitments



Photo by the Department of Budget and Management

Ericka Blas of the PH-OGP Secretariat runs through the proposed commitment of the Presidential Communications Office during the Fourth Quarter PH-OGP Steering Committee held in Davao City on November 23, 2023. In this meeting, the Steering Committee reviewed and decided on the final commitments in the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan.

After a thorough deliberation process, 10 out of the 27 proposals received were considered to be part of the country's first medium-term action plan which will be implemented from December 2023 to June 2027. This includes the proposals from PCO and COMELEC that were under conditional status but was later on approved after adopting the recommendations from the Steering Committee review.

Four (4) of these 10 projects/program are continuation and/or built up from previous action plan commitments, meanwhile, (six) 6 commitments are entirely new. Eight (8) government agencies together with their non-government counterparts shall lead the efforts and work together towards achieving the targets and milestones set under these commitments in the next four (4) years.

It is evident that the commitments in this action plan strongly exemplify localization, digitalization, and public participation themes aimed at improving transparency and strengthening public integrity. Notably, a commitment centered on access to justice is also present in the action plan which is a first in PH-OGP history.

Final and approved commitment forms are in the succeeding pages.

Table 7: Summary of the Approved Commitments to the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan (2023-2027)

Agency	Commitment	Project/Program	OGP Values			
			Transparency	Accountability	Citizen Participation	Technology and Innovation
PCO	Localization of the Freedom of Information Program	Freedom of Information Program	✓	✓	✓	✓
SC	Enhanced administration of justice at the local levels	Establishment of More Justice Zones and Enhancement of Existing Ones		✓	✓	
		Improved Access to Quality, Free, or Affordable Legal Service		✓	✓	
DBM	Establishment of an efficient and effective technology-enabled participatory validation and reporting mechanism for selected government infrastructure projects	Project Digital Imaging for Monitoring and Evaluation	✓	✓	✓	✓
COMELEC	Building trust in the electoral system and mitigating voter disenfranchisement	Verification and Certification of List of Voters	✓		✓	
		Conduct of More Overseas and Local Field Registration Activities for Overseas Voters			✓	✓

Agency	Commitment	Project/Program	OGP Values			
			Transparency	Accountability	Citizen Participation	Technology and Innovation
GPPB-TSO	Transparent, accountable, and participatory public procurement	Procurement Diagnostics Hub	✓		✓	✓
DILG-SLGP	Safeguard civic space and strengthen social accountability	Driving Responsive and Innovative Participation of Vulnerable Sectors towards Empowerment in Local Governance (DRIVE)	✓	✓	✓	
DOF	Subnationalizing transparency, accountability, and participatory governance mechanisms in the extractives sector	Sub-nationalizing transparency ushering participatory governance (SET-UP-Go)	✓	✓	✓	
NEDA	Strengthening collaboration in the acceleration of progress in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Stakeholders Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals		✓	✓	

Localization of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program

1. Freedom of Information Program

January 2024 - 30 July 2027

Brief Description of the Commitment	The commitment aims to rebuild and scale-up the momentum of the implementation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program by intensifying the localization and adoption of the FOI Program across local governments in the Philippines and institutionalizing and digitalizing the citizen’s access to public information across branches of government and non-government sectors.
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Commitment Lead	Presidential Communications Office (PCO) - Freedom of Information-Program Management Office (FOI-PMO)
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Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)	Youth Alliance for Freedom of Information (YAFOI)	Makati Business Club (MBC)

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<p>The fight for the passage of the FOI Law in the Philippines has already been more than 3-decades long, but to no avail, the FOI Bill remains pending in Congress. Similarly, the FOI Program had gone through three (3) NAP cycles as a commitment. While substantial results and achievements were unlocked in the course of the implementation, having the FOI Bill passed into law remains unsuccessful.</p> <p>Despite and amidst these abject turn of events in the access to information landscape, the Freedom of Information-Program Management (FOI-PMO), under the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), persists in recalibrating strategies to ensure that the FOI Practice thrives and advances in the Philippine bureaucracy.</p> <p>Elevating the FOI Program implementation under the 6th NAP Cycle, this commitment addresses the bureaucratic inertia and plateau of both local and national FOI movement in the country by rebuilding on the already-established undertakings of the FOI Program, and scaling up on the momentum of the implementation of the localized FOI Program under the new administration. Within this ambit, the commitment carries on the goal of streamlining platforms for access to government information from various government agencies and offices for a proactive, reactive, timely, relevant, and accurate disclosure of information to the public and intensifying engagements with local government units (LGUs) for the localization and adoption of the FOI Program nationwide.</p>
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Despite the issuance of the Duterte Administration of Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016 or the FOI Program, the issued PCOO-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular 2018-01, the significant results and impact achieved in the 5th NAP Cycle (2019-2021), and the unwavering support and lobbying of FOI allies and partners, there is still a need to aggressively regain and reinvigorate the thrust of the FOI campaign not only at the national level but most importantly at the local level. This will only be achieved by reinstitutionalizing the program across the supply and demand spaces in the government, non-government, and public sectors, restrengthening inclusive and expansive localization efforts to help support demand for more granular information down to the grassroots and local level of government, redeveloping digital governance through digitalization of information and data disclosure, and revitalizing civic participation.

Mirroring this challenge in the public's access to information, the commitment is also bridging the gap of inclusively providing information across and within gender intersectionalities and multi-sectoral groups most especially the disenfranchised and the marginalized sectors who are barely tapped by the government and have limited to lack of capacity in engaging with the government sectors to request necessary information.

Implemented since 2016, the FOI Program continues to battle against the rampant prevalence of misinformation, disinformation, malinformation, and fake news, circulating in both offline and online information platforms. Similarly the program provides an avenue for the citizens to share feedback regarding the information disclosure mechanisms of the government. Thus, the program actively and directly combats corruption thereby promoting transparency, accountability, and civic engagement in government processes. All this supports the constitutionally mandated right of the people to access public information as stipulated in Section 28, Article II and Section 7, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which serves as the backbone of stimulating and championing citizen's participation in public governance, exercising the right to information and shaping public decisions affecting matters of public interest.

Given this, this commitment aims to overcome bureaucratic inertia and the stagnation observed in the local and national FOI movement in the country. It does so by revitalizing the legitimacy and pre-existing initiatives of the FOI Program, and leveraging the momentum generated during the implementation of the program throughout the years since 2016 through aggressive localization and adoption of the program practice across the country.

<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<p>The ultimate factor of this major problem is that the passage of the FOI Law has not been identified as a priority nor an urgent legislative measure in the previous congress and past administrations. This challenge in the legislation posits debacles on lack of political buy-in among legislators and local FOI champions.</p> <p>As underlying factors, the transition of the country under a new administration contributed to the shift of priority programs, leaving the FOI movement at the sidelines both at the national and local level. To add, the FOI-PMO, which is the designated office that oversees the implementation of the FOI Program has undergone several physical office transitions from then Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) to Philippine Information Agency (PIA) by virtue of Executive Order No. 02, s. 2022, then back again under the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) by virtue of Executive Order No. 16, s. 2023. This office transition resulted in delayed transfer of budgets which then resulted in impeded activity implementation in various facets of the FOI Program.</p> <p>Undeniably, the change of FOI champions in various national government offices and local governments inflicted as well the dynamics of FOI implementation as numerous FOI officers, who are in charge of facilitating FOI requests, were replaced or removed. This further aggravated the institutionalization of FOI across the bureaucracy.</p> <p>In view also of this political temperament after the 2022 national elections, a number of staunch and dedicated FOI champions, partners, and allies, from a multitude of sectors, who campaigned aggressively for FOI Law, have inevitably grown tired into what is described as “advocacy fatigue” seeing that there was no concrete progress in the FOI lobbying despite the progressive engagements being spearheaded by FOI-PMO all throughout the years.</p> <p>This lack of an all-encompassing FOI law hinders the establishment of more open, transparent, and accountable governance by limiting the public’s access to public records, data, and other relevant information, and impeding the growth of community of practice and champions.</p> <p>As such, it is only worth noting that this commitment is designed to address bureaucratic inertia and the perceived status quo within the realm of FOI movement in the country by reinvigorating the campaign for more and wide localization of the FOI Program, reviving the pressure on the passage of the FOI Law, and restimulating the credibility and existing initiatives on access to</p>
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	<p>information, while capitalizing on the momentum built during the program's implementation since 2016.</p>
<p>Commitment description</p>	
<p>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<p>As of this writing, the FOI-PMO has successfully carried out the following activities in support of the FOI Program, and in concurrence with the commitment to pass the FOI Law and localize the FOI Program. The achievements are clustered according to outcome areas:</p> <p>Proactive Disclosure of Information (Transparency)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuous onboarding of agencies to the Electronic FOI (eFOI) Portal which enabled other government agencies and local governments to take part and promote proactive disclosure of information. As of writing, a total of five hundred ninety (590) government agencies have been boarded in the portal, which is about 97% significant increase of onboarded agencies from 2017. <p>Timely and Responsive Disclosure of Information (Transparency)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistently improving information dissemination processes and practices through enhanced implementation and key features of the eFOI Portal. As of now, a number of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based improvements have been deployed in the portal including the (a) Agency Recommender System which matches information requests with the top agencies that holds FOI user's requested information, (b) Automated Personally Identifiable Information Redactor (APIIR) which detects and removes sensitive information of the FOI users in the information requests, and the Topical and Thematic Modeling of Information Requests (TMI) which optimizes the portal's search engine and retrieval of information by processing, analyzing, and producing trends analysis through thematic modeling techniques. These advancements in the portal intended to increase the platform's usability and efficiency in enabling the citizens to openly access government information. <p>Passage of FOI Law (Accountability, Transparency)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drafted an administration version of the FOI Bill and lobbied to FOI Champions in congress. The draft administration FOI Bill was submitted to FOI Champions and a total of forty-six (46) lobbying and legislative engagements with the Congress were conducted and facilitated. As of writing, the FOI-PMO revived contacts and engagements with select offices and initially established connections in order to reintroduce the strength and essence of the FOI Program and the need for the passage of the FOI Law.

2. Requested the certification of the FOI as an urgent legislative agenda by the Office of the President (OP) or the inclusion of the FOI as a part of the President’s Legislative Agenda. However, the previous congress neither prioritized the FOI Bill as an urgent legislative measure nor has it submitted a committee report recommending the approval and issuance of a consolidated or substitute bill on FOI. As of writing, the FOI-PMO re-established connections with the OP in order to make the FOI Program a part of the legislative agenda under the new administration.

Localization of the FOI Program (Accountability)

1. To complement the localization efforts, FOI-PMO also banked on proactive capacity-building and consultation activities with LGUs and local government champions. A total of thirty (30) local engagements were facilitated. As of this writing, the number also of LGUs that have enacted FOI Ordinances in their respective localities significantly increased from only sixty-three (63) in 2022 to seventy-four (74).

Bureaucracy (Accountability)

1. Increased participation and presence in international fora. FOI-PMO has been consistently recognized by international organizations in relation to its access to information and open data initiatives in order to apply best global practices on access to information worldwide. Just recently, the FOI-PMO, as the first country in Asia to become a member of the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC), successfully held the 14th edition of the ICIC which gathered eighty (80) Information Commissioners around the world. The ICIC is an international organization and network of Information Commissioners and Ombudspersons and other right to information (RTI) bodies which seeks to promote and protect the implementation of access to information laws to improve the public’s right to access information and build and share knowledge and best practices on transparency and accountability globally. This momentum gave the FOI-PMO the opportunity to showcase in the international space the remarkable strength of the FOI practice in the country despite the little to lack of support for the passage of FOI Law in the country.

Public Use and Relevance of the FOI Program (Participation)

1. Conducted thirty (30) public consultations activities and strengthened capacity development activities with and for FOI key stakeholders to elicit feedback on the implementation of the FOI Program and the FOI Bill. As of this writing, the FOI-PMO further improved the feedback gathering on FOI through the

	<p>Client Satisfaction Survey/Feedback Mechanism. Through this, the citizens are given the appropriate means to relay and report its concerns on any issues they may encounter in lodging FOI requests.</p> <p>2. FOI Program activities have been inclusive in nature. FOI-PMO ensured the participation and empowerment of various marginalized and disenfranchised sectors to access information, thus, giving premium to the multi-sectoral approach of capacity-building. As of this writing, FOI-PMO has been rolling out numerous engagements with various sectors such as FOI Bridging Program, CSO Hangouts, FOI Summit, FOI Talks, among others. Through these engagements FOI-PMO have capacitated sectors such as Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Senior Citizens, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), LGBTQIA+, Women, Youth, Business groups, and etc. Under this commitment more sectors will be tapped and engaged with such as the farmers, fisherfolks, urban poor, formal and information labor workers, children, and cooperatives among others.</p> <p>In light of this, despite the remarkable progress and developments achieved by the FOI Program implementation in the previous NAP Cycle, the FOI Program commitment under the 6th NAP Cycle remains vital and pivotal in rebuilding, sustaining, and tighten up the fulcrum of access to information practice and momentum to combat bureaucratic inertia and plateau on the FOI movement and campaign in the Philippines.</p>
<p>2. What solution are you proposing?</p>	<p>While the passage of the FOI Law is the ultimate and ambitious goal of this commitment which will mandate the disclosure of government information and streamline access to information platforms across all sectors, it is still imperative to set the realistic political landscape of the country under a newly transitioned government from the Duterte Administration to the Marcos Administration in which prioritization of the FOI Program is not seen as a primary legislative and local agenda.</p> <p>With this, it should be noted that the administration and local governments' support are beyond elemental in localizing the FOI Program and expediting the passage of an FOI Law. The FOI-PMO will rebuild and level up on implementing its recalibrated existing programs, activities, and projects, through aggressive lobbying for the adoption of the local FOI Ordinances/Executive Orders and other critical measures supporting the implementation of the said program.</p> <p>Furthermore, the commitment fosters greater innovation with the application of the AI-powered programs to help in localizing and digitalizing the FOI Program while also integrating feedback mechanisms to ensure citizen-centric agenda of the FOI Program in the country.</p>

Thus, the following FOI practices and activities clustered according to outcome area shall be re-enrolled to suffice the commitment:

Proactive Disclosure of Information (Transparency)

1. Increase the number of onboarded agencies to the eFOI Portal to promote proactive disclosure of information from five hundred ninety (590) to nine hundred thirty-two (932).
2. Increase the number of records and consolidated Agency Information Inventory (AII).

Timely and Responsive Disclosure of Information (Transparency)

1. Digitalize access to information through enhanced application and features of the eFOI Portal. More AI-powered applications are to be deployed to increase the platform's usability and efficiency in enabling the citizens to openly access government information.
2. Enhance capacity development engagements and deepen knowledge sharing among FOI Officers in facilitating FOI requests.
3. Increase the number of FOI Officers onboarded and designated across government agencies.
4. Increase the success rate in processing requests in the eFOI portal from 58% to 61%.
5. Decrease the number of average working days processing time of FOI requests from seven (7) to four (4).

Passage of FOI Law (Accountability, Transparency)

1. Aggressively reintroduce the administration version of the FOI Bill in Congress and revive contacts and engagements with select offices to spotlight strength of the FOI Program and the pressure to pass the FOI Law in the country.
2. Re-establish connections and engagements with the OP to reintegrate the FOI Program as a part of the legislative agenda under the Marcos Administration.

Localization of the FOI Program (Accountability)

1. Proactively reintroduce the FOI Program to localize adoption of FOI Ordinances in the local government units nationwide.
2. Increase the number of passed and implemented FOI Ordinances versus the total number of LGUs in the Philippines
3. Enhance capacity development engagements and deepen knowledge sharing among local FOI Officers in facilitating FOI requests.

	<p>4. Increase embeddedness of FOI in local government processes.</p> <p>Bureaucracy (Accountability)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconsolidate key stakeholders to target FOI Champions in the government and non-government sectors. 2. Enhance research and development (R&D) approach on FOI to continue proactive monitoring and evaluation of the FOI Program implementation both at the national and local levels. 3. Increase participation and presence in international fora and conference to consistently adopt global best FOI Practices. 4. Increase the number of FOI Manuals compliance. <p>Public Use and Relevance of the FOI Program (Participation)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aggressively and proactively campaign for the inclusion of the FOI Program to the CSOs Agenda. These CSOs Agenda is the advocacy/causes campaign of the partner CSOs. 2. Strengthened conduct of nationwide Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) capacity-development engagements across and between gender intersectionalities, basic sectors, and target stakeholders. 3. Improve citizen feedback mechanism through stakeholders consultation and public/online survey. Through this, the citizens are given the appropriate means to relay and report its concerns on any issues they may encounter in lodging FOI requests via the improved Client Satisfaction Survey/Feedback. 4. Increase eFOI users registered nationwide.
<p>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</p>	<p>Ultimately, the overarching aim of this commitment is the ambitious nationwide adoption of the FOI Program at all LGU levels and the passage of the FOI Law, both critical and transformative goals requiring mandatory government information disclosure and streamlined access across sectors; however, it is still essential to acknowledge the pragmatic political environment and temperament. This is particularly crucial in the context of the recent transition from the Duterte Administration to the Marcos Administration. In this political landscape, it is imperative to recognize that various LGUs have only just begun with its local development plans (LDPs) and certification of the FOI Law's passage is not currently prioritized on the legislative agenda, nor has it received urgent certification in the previous congress. Nevertheless, the commitment still anchors on the target results to be achieved in the four-year implementation of the 6th NAP Cycle:</p>

Proactive Disclosure of Information (Transparency)

1. Number of onboarded agencies to the eFOI Portal to promote proactive disclosure of information increased from five hundred ninety (590) to nine hundred thirty-two (932).
2. Number of records and consolidated Agency Information Inventory increased

Timely and Responsive Disclosure of Information (Transparency)

1. Access to information digitalized through enhanced application and features of the eFOI Portal. More AI-powered applications deployed to increase the platform's usability and efficiency in enabling the citizens to openly access government information.
2. Capacity development engagements enhanced and knowledge sharing among national FOI Officers in facilitating FOI requests deepened.
3. Number of FOI Officers onboarded and designated across government agencies increased.
4. Success rate in processing requests in the eFOI portal increased from 58% to 61%.
5. Number of average working days processing time of FOI requests decreased from seven (7) to four (4).

Passage of FOI Law (Accountability, Transparency)

1. Administration version of the FOI Bill in Congress aggressively reintroduced and contacts and engagements with select offices revived to spotlight strength of the FOI Program and the pressure to pass the FOI Law in the country.
2. Connections and engagements with the OP re-established and sustained to reintegrate the FOI Program as a part of the legislative agenda under the Marcos Administration.

Localization of the FOI Program (Accountability)

1. FOI Program proactively reintroduced to localize adoption of FOI Ordinances in the local government units nationwide.
2. Number of passed and implemented FOI Ordinances increased.
3. Capacity development engagements enhanced and knowledge sharing among local FOI Officers in facilitating FOI requests deepened.
4. Embeddedness of FOI in local government processes increased.

Bureaucracy (Accountability)

1. Key stakeholders and FOI Champions in the government and non-government sectors re-consolidated.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Research and development (R&D) approach on FOI enhanced to continue proactive monitoring and evaluation of the FOI Program implementation both at the national and local levels. 3. Participation and presence in international fora and conference increased and recognized meaningfully to consistently adopt global best FOI Practices. 4. Number of FOI Manuals compliance increased. <p>Public Use and Relevance of the FOI Program (Participation)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aggressively and proactively campaign for the inclusion of the FOI Program to the CSOs Agenda. These CSOs Agenda is the advocacy/causes campaign of the partner CSOs. 2. Conduct of nationwide Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) capacity-development engagements across and between gender intersectionalities, basic sectors, and target stakeholders increased and improved. 3. Citizen feedback mechanism through stakeholders consultation and public/online survey enhanced. Through this, the citizens are given the appropriate means to relay and report its concerns on any issues they may encounter in lodging FOI requests via the improved Client Satisfaction Survey/Feedback. 4. eFOI users registered nationwide increased.
Additional Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The passage of the FOI Law and the localization of the FOI Program significantly contribute to and are aligned with the Marcos Administration’s good governance agenda as espoused through the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 under Chapter 14: Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). 2. Localization and adoption of the FOI Program are reiterated through PCOO-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2018-01. 3. The FOI Program is inherently supported in the enactment of seventy (76) FOI Ordinances implemented nationwide. 4. Public access to information is under the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 16.10.2. 5. The total approved budget for 2023 is PHP 34,163,000.00.
Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer (if not applicable, just answer with N/A)

<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</p>	<p>Transparency in this commitment is promoted through scaled up proactive, timely, and responsive disclosure of information of the bureaucracy including the national and local government units. In here, transparency is illuminated by increasing the number of onboarded agencies to the eFOI Portal, increasing the number of records and consolidated Agency Information Inventory disclosed to the public, increasing the number of FOI Officers capacitated to facilitate FOI requests, increasing the number of success rate in processing requests, and decreasing the number of average working days in processing information requests.</p> <p>With this, the FOI commitment promotes transparency by upholding greater awareness of the public, enabling and empowering the citizenry to request and ask for national and local public information; and enabling the government offices to disclose public information to the citizens. This ensures that the government is committed to delivering public service and cascading the information needs of the public thereby stimulating even more public participation, citizen engagement, and accountability.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</p>	<p>Accountability in this commitment is fostered through the localization of the FOI Program and passage of the FOI Law and all the activities implemented that fall under this in order to achieve the ultimate goal of a localized FOI implementation. With the FOI Program being reintroduced to FOI Champions and legislators, more national and local bureaucratic officials would be held accountable in disclosing public and government information to the citizens. The FOI would regain support at the national level; while the FOI Ordinance would exponentially increase, thereby producing proof of concepts, success models, and success stories that FOI works despite some gridlocks in the bureaucracy.</p> <p>With this, the goal to have the FOI Program localized and nationalized fosters greater accountability by ensuring that national government agencies and local government units comply with disclosing timely, relevant, and accurate information that are critical to the public interest. The FOI Program will support transparent and equal monitoring and evaluation systems by validating stricter compliance of government agencies, providing the public with access to the information and platforms necessary to assess and give feedback on the effectiveness of the government agencies' proactive and reactive information disclosure processes, including implementation of its programs, projects, and other public services.</p>

<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</p>	<p>Participation in this commitment is improved by elevating the public use, feedback mechanism, and legitimacy of the FOI Program to the general public, FOI users, FOI allies and supporters, and FOI champions, and having people-centric dialogues and consultations for feedback gathering. With the FOI Program reintroduced to various stakeholders, the relevance of the FOI Practice is revived and renewed in such a way that more CSOs would adopt the community of practice of access to information, increased FOI users are capacitated and registered nationwide, and the citizen are further empowered to provide feedback through the improved client satisfaction survey and appeals mechanism.</p> <p>With this, the goal to improve citizen participation is magnified through their increased ability to openly and regularly provide feedback, raise concerns and ideas, and participate in defining, implementing, and co-monitoring solutions through a developed participatory approach such as the FOI citizen engagement feedback tracker/mechanism which involves public consultations, public and online surveys, and hosting of stakeholders meetings enabling the citizens to inform the government regarding critical technical feedback on the general implementation of the FOI Program and the commitment milestones activities including but not limited to the significant improvements, challenges encountered, and proposed resolutions.</p> <p>Finally, tapped and engaged social sectors would increase and deepen including the 14 basic sectors according to NAPC.</p>
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Commitment Planning
(This is an initial planning process largely looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders			
<p>1. Increasing number of government agencies boarded the eFOI Portal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine hundred thirty two (932) government agencies on boarded the eFOI Portal (233 per year) 	<p>April 2027</p>	<p>Lead: PCO-FOI PMO</p>			
		<p>May 2027</p>	<p>Supporting Stakeholders</p>			
			<p>Government</p>	<p>CSOs</p>	<p>Others (Private Sector, etc.)</p>	
			<p>NGAs, LGUs</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct at least two hundred (200) capacity development engagements (orientation) for agencies onboarded the eFOI Portal (50 per year) through FOI Orientation and Consultation Service (FOCS) • Conduct at least one hundred (100) consultations with FOI Officers (25 per year) regarding the new policy and implementation updates on FOI 	June 2027			
<p>2. Interactive and real-time government agencies dashboard applied</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply at least two (2) Artificial Intelligence-based improvements on the features and functionalities of the eFOI Portal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Automated Personally Identification Information Redactor ○ Topical and Thematic Modeling of FOI Request ○ Improving the Identification of the Appropriate Government Agency (AI Recommender System) ○ FOI Mobile Application • At least one (1) application of Data Analytics approach in the data aggregation of FOI requests 	June 2026	Lead: PCO-FOI PMO		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			-	YAFOI CODE- NGO R2KRN FYI	MBC AIM MyBusyBee

		June 2027				
3. Client satisfaction survey/feedback mechanism improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance FOI Help Desk Ticketing System One hundred (100) FOI Success Stories Featured (25 per year) 25% increase in the number of government agencies received very satisfying (VS) rating 25% increase in the number of FOI users provide feedback for the improvement of the FOI program implementation improvement 	December 2024	Lead: PCO-FOI PMO			
		December 2025	Supporting Stakeholders			
		January 2027	Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)	
			NGAs, LGUs	YAFOI	USAID, UNDP	
June 2027						
4. Certification of the FOI Law as a priority and urgent legislative agenda issued and Passage of FOI Law approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconsolidation of FOI Champions Administrative version of the FOI Bill submitted and endorsed to FOI Champions At least twelve (12) public consultations/outreach engagements to Congress conducted Issuance of certification of the FOI as a legislative policy agenda by the Office of the President and/or inclusion of the FOI as part of the President’s legislative agenda Passage of the FOI Law 	December 2024	Lead: PCO-FOI PMO			
		December 2024	Supporting Stakeholders			
		June 2025	Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)	
			Senate, House of Representatives, LEDAC	YAFOI R2KRN FYI	MBC	
December 2026						

		June 2027			
5. Monitoring and modeling of LGU FOI Ordinances developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconsolidation of LGU Stakeholders and champions Creation of the monitoring and evaluation tool for the performance, compliance, and implementation of FOI Ordinance implementation At least sixty (60) LGU consultations and capacity-development, and training engagements conducted on the localization efforts and strategy for FOI (FOI Ordinance Writeshop) Issuance of two hundred sixty (260) local FOI Ordinances 	December 2024	Lead: PCO-FOI PMO		
		June 2025	Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			DILG, ULAP, LCEs, LGUs	YAFOI FYI	USAID, UNDP, MBC
6. Increasing number of FOI Ordinances passed and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuance of two hundred sixty (260) local FOI Ordinances 	December 2026			
		June 2027			
7. Increasing number of FOI Champions from national and local governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of FOI Champions 	December 2024	Lead:PCO-FOI PMO		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			DILG, NGAs, LGUs, ULAP	YAFOI FYI	MBC
8. Increased embeddedness of FOI in government training programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stocktaking of FOI activities in government training program to embed FOI in national and local government processes 	December 2024	Lead:PCO-FOI PMO		
		June 2027	Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FOI Program embedded in government training programs 		NGAs, DAP, DILG, ULAP, LCEs	YAFOI	USAID, UNDP
9. Knowledge management materials produced for IECs, researches, and tool applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct/participate in at least twelve (12) international engagements/fora/technical study visits on access to information to gain best practices, achieve knowledge-sharing, and apply innovations in the FOI Program. <p>Target platforms to which FOI Philippines have established significant engagements are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Open Government Partnership Asia Open Data Partnership International Conference of Information Commissioners Asian Access to Information Alliance United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Association of Southeast Asian Nations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply at least two (2) research-based and people-centric policy and program recommendations in the FOI Program on the following components through research engagements and public consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National implementation Local governance 	January 2027	Lead:PCO-FOI PMO		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.)
			DBM, DILG	YAFOI, FYI	AIM, MyBusyBee, MBC, USAID, UNDP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information and data management ○ Compendium of the international best practices 	April 2027			
10. Increasing number of adoption of FOI Program in CSOs Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconsolidation of FOI Champions, Partners, Allies, and Supporters • At least eight (8) consultations and engagements with CSOs conducted through the CSO Hangouts and FOI Bridging Program • At least forty (40) CSOs expressed support to the FOI Manifesto of Support • At least two (2) CSOs adopted the FOI Program in the CSOs Agenda • Conduct of forty (40) IECs, capacity-development engagements, and outreach activities for the target sectors (10 per year) 	December 2024 June 2025 December 2026 June 2027 June 2027	NAPC, DILG	YAFOI CODE- NGO R2KRN FYI	MBC
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Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	-

CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups	-
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Enhanced Administration of Justice at the Local Levels

2-A. Establishment of more justice zones and enhancement of existing ones

2023 to 2027

Brief Description of the Commitment	Overall, the commitment is geared towards enhanced administration of justice through intensified justice sector coordination at the local level, which is implemented through the Justice Zones. Four milestones are laid out under this commitment: (1) increase in the number of Justice Zones nationwide; (2) setup of Transparency Boards in all Justice zones; (3) jail decongestion efforts; and (4) enhancing psychosocial rehabilitation for drug dependent persons.		
Commitment Lead	Justice Sector Coordinating Council Technical Working Group on Processes and Capacity Building		
	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
Supporting Stakeholders	Judiciary, Department of Justice, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and their attached agencies; Local Government Units	Legal Aid Providers Integrated Bar of the Philippines	Development partners Law Student Practitioners under the Clinical Legal Educational Program (Rule 138-A)
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<p>a. Lack of access to justice is a recurring theme when one is asked to describe the Philippines' justice system. While the reasons therefor vary from sector to sector, the fragmented approach employed by the justice sector actors in addressing justice issues and concerns is easily identified as the root cause that eventually affects one's access to justice. Considering the myriad of justice sector agencies, a person may find himself or herself at a loss as to which agency can provide the proper relief. It thus becomes incumbent on the justice sector agencies to collectively assess and improve the user experience of the service users in the locality at different stages of the legal process.</p> <p>The primary and overarching problem sought to be remedied by the establishment of Justice Zones and the enhancement of existing ones is the fragmented manner by which the different institutions in the justice system operate, especially at the local level. The various pillars of the justice system have long been accustomed to performing their respective roles in the system with narrow focus on their own spheres of authority. They act independently of each other despite having the same service users. This approach often results in finger-pointing and blame passing: the courts dismiss the cases for lack of evidence, blaming the prosecution; the fiscals, in turn, blame the police for lack of better evidence gathering or handling; and the police blame the courts and the</p>		

prosecutors for lack of policy guidance or inconsistency in procedures or requirements.

To address this fragmented approach, Justice Zones have been created to serve as avenues, not just for the traditional “cooperation” among these institutions at the local level, but for their unified action as a sector. This initiative promotes a “sector perspective” in the performance of the institutions’ respective roles. It has thus become necessary to establish more Justice Zones in different parts of the country to replicate and build on the successes of the existing Justice Zones in their localities.

- b. Another matter to address is the lack of publicly available data on the number of cases filed and disposed of by the different courts. The data can be used by non-government actors to assess the performance of each court and its staff.

Building on the Naga City Justice Zone’s practice of displaying its courts’ data for public viewing and utilizing technology, a Transparency Board will be available online to promote transparency and accountability. Later, other Justice Zones will also be directed to provide data for their own Transparency Boards. Once the data from several Justice Zones become available, a microsite dedicated for these boards can be set up and linked to the Supreme Court or the Office of the Court Administrator’s website.

- c. A significant challenge in the justice system is the congestion of jails, which not only negatively impacts the health of the persons deprived of liberty but also reflects the pace at which their cases are handled. It has been reported that the nationwide congestion rate is at 370% and that 336, out of 447 jail facilities in the country, are at full capacity.¹ While several efforts have been made to improve these numbers, more still needs to be done.

For this reason, a jail decongestion project will be conducted with the objectives of reducing admissions, increasing releases, and expanding the capacities of jail facilities. This project would need the engagement for civil service organizations, especially those providing legal aid services, to contribute to the discussion and in proposing solutions to the identified issues and problems relative to jail congestion.

¹ See <https://governance.neda.gov.ph/jail-congestion-rate-drops-to-370-bjamp/>.

	<p>d. As regards drug cases, re-offending was identified as a problem due to drug dependency. Rather than punish re-offenders, a more holistic solution that will address the root cause of the problem is to provide psychosocial rehabilitation to them. This hopes to not only steer them away from committing crimes or taking prohibited drugs again but give them direction after their release.</p>
<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<p>The various pillars of the justice system have long been accustomed to a fragmented approach of accomplishing the tasks within their respective spheres of authority, acting independently of each other. As regards the criminal justice system, the five pillars are: (a) the courts; (b) prosecution and public attorneys; (c) correction facilities; (d) law enforcement; and (e) community. Prior to the creation of the JSCC and the Justice Zones, the lack of intensified coordination efforts hindered the identification and implementation of holistic solutions that require a multi-stakeholder approach.</p>
<p>Commitment description</p>	
<p>What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<p><i>Background:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 30, 2010 marked the establishment of the Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC), which is composed of the institutions in the justice system, specifically the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Interior and Local Government. The JSCC member institutions aim to (a) work on cross-cutting issues affecting the justice system while at the same time, respect and preserve the independence of the offices and agencies, (b) adopt a coordinated approach to justice sector policy making, planning, and operations; and (c) identify priority issues and challenges that may be collectively addressed and meet on a regular basis. • The JSCC’s flagship program for justice sector coordination at the local level is the establishment of Justice Zones. These are areas or localities where several inter-agency coordinative reforms are present based on pre- identified elements, which cover the entire lifetime of a criminal case: from case start-up (initiatory complaint, arrest, investigation, case build-up), to case adjudication (prosecution, pre-judgment detention, decision), post- judgment incidents (probation, parole, service of sentence). • To date, 12 Justice Zones have been established nationwide. (i.e., Quezon City in 2014; Cebu City in 2018; Davao City, Angeles, Bacolod City and Naga City – all in 2019; Calamba City in 2021; Balanga City and Baguio City in 2022; Zamboanga City, Tagaytay City, and Puerto Princesa City in 2023). These Justice Zones have proven to be effective mechanisms and platforms for coordination among the local justice sector stakeholders. • Notably, the JSCC has decided to constitute “specialty Justice Zones” which will focus on specific areas of concern. For instance, Zamboanga City is the first specialty Justice Zone that focuses on trafficking in persons cases and is envisioned as a “Trafficking-Free” Justice Zone, while the Tagaytay City Justice Zone focuses on economic development and tourism. The Puerto Princesa Justice Zone is the first ever Green Zone, not only in the Philippines,

	<p>but also in the Asia-Pacific Region. It was launched last November 10, 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the series of Justice Zones Dialogues in 2022 and 2023, the JSCC Technical Working Group on Processes and Capacity Building (PCB) identified activities that can be adopted in all Justice Zones. The activities were categorized into these four focus areas: Barangay Justice System; Jail Decongestion; Rehabilitation and Reintegration; and Gender and Social Inclusion. Selected activities under these areas are specified in this document as part of the commitment to enhance the administration of justice. • Notably, the targets of setting up Transparency Boards, conducting jail decongestion programs, and providing psychosocial rehabilitation to drug dependents are just some of the activities in the existing Justice Zones that are envisioned to be replicated in all Justice Zones nationwide. The ultimate objective is to enhance the administration of justice in a manner that is felt at the local level.
2. What solution are you proposing?	<p>To recap, these are the solutions or activities to be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The establishment of more Justice Zones nationwide to proactively address the challenges of the justice sector institutions in their respective localities 2. The creation of digital Transparency Boards to promote transparency and accountability by having publicly viewable information regarding the cases initiated and disposed of in each court 3. The conduct of jail congestion programs in all Justice Zones, which will start with a national summit 4. The inclusion of psychosocial rehabilitation aspect in drug-related cases
3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?	<p>The completion of the above-mentioned solutions is envisioned to result in the more holistic approach of the different institutions involved in the justice system. The specific metrics for success of these endeavors are detailed later in this form.</p>
Additional Information	<p>This commitment is in line with Chapter 13.2 of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, <i>Enhance Administration of Justice</i>, as well as the Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations (SPJI) 2022-2027.²</p>
Commitment analysis	

² See Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations, p. 24 (under Outcome 3 (Access) Objective 1: Enhance Public Access to Information and Legal Services).

1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	The commitment will improve the citizens' understanding of how the justice system works. In turn, the trust of the citizens in the justice sector will greatly improve with the raised awareness of how the processes and actors work, leaving no room for doubt and speculation. This is achieved by expanding the justice system's reach to various citizens in different localities of the Philippines and allowing them to become more aware and familiar with the different modalities of attaining justice and by displaying relevant and updated information of the lead officers and agencies which are responsible in addressing the citizens' concerns and issues.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	The clear designation of tasks between and among justice sector actors will allow the public to pinpoint the stages and actors where delays and other issues occur, to identify and exact accountability and to address inefficiencies. This is achieved by making the responsible heads, officers and agents of the three justice sector institutions mindful of their duties to the citizens not only in Metro Manila but also across the Philippines. Expanding the reach of the justice system imposes upon the said responsible personalities the duty to ensure the effective and timely delivery of justice in far flung areas, knowing that more people can better monitor and access who are the designated authorities.
3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	Citizen participation is essential in the success of a Justice Zone. The community, as a pillar of the Justice Sector, plays an important role in the success of every Justice Zone. In particular, the community through the Barangays spearhead the Barangay Justice System to screen disputes from entering the formal court system. Likewise, in the area of psycho-social rehabilitation and community integration, the community takes a leadership role. This is achieved by providing more relevant and timely information to the citizens which are useful in their assessment of the changes and development of the criminal justice system in the Philippines. Expanding the presence of the different justice sector institutions will drive the curiosity of the citizens who, in effect, would be more engaged and vigilant of their rights and privileges.

Commitment planning

Milestones <i>(Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to the achievement of the result the commitment would like to achieve)</i>	Expected Outputs <i>(Outputs are concrete, objectively-verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)</i>	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
Establishment of more Justice Zones (Increase number of Justice Zones)	4 Justice Zones (establishment of one specialty Justice Zone that will focus on efforts against Online Sexual Abuse or exploitation of Children)	2024 (one Justice Zone per quarter)	Lead: JSCC Technical Working Group on Processes and Capacity Building		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consultation with Stakeholders as to viability, issues, gaps, and chokepoints b. Orientation of Stakeholders on what the JSCC is, what Justice Zones are, the SPJI, and the PDP. c. Preparation of the Annual Work Plan of the potential Justice Zone d. Composition of the Justice Zone local governing body e. Launch of the Justice Zone 		Judiciary, DOJ, DILG, and their attached agencies; LGUs	Partnerships to be formalized	Sector, etc.) Development partners, Integrated Bar of the Philippines
	4 Justice Zones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consultation with Stakeholders as to viability, issues, gaps, and chokepoints b. Orientation of Stakeholders on what the JSCC is, what Justice Zones are, the SPJI, and the PDP. c. Preparation of the Annual Work Plan of the potential Justice Zone d. Composition of the Justice Zone local governing body e. Launch of the Justice Zone 	2025 (one Justice Zone per quarter)			

	<p>4 Justice Zones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consultation with Stakeholders as to viability, issues, gaps, and chokepoints b. Orientation of Stakeholders on what the JSCC is, what Justice Zones are, the SPJI, and the PDP. c. Preparation of the Annual Work Plan of the potential Justice Zone d. Composition of the Justice Zone local governing body e. Launch of the Justice Zone 	<p>2026 (one Justice Zone per quarter)</p>	
	<p>4 Justice Zones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consultation with Stakeholders as to viability, issues, gaps, and chokepoints b. Orientation of Stakeholders on what the JSCC is, what Justice Zones are, the SPJI, and the PDP. c. Preparation of the Annual Work Plan of the potential Justice Zone d. Composition of the Justice Zone local governing body e. Launch of the Justice Zone 	<p>2027 (one Justice Zone per quarter)</p>	

Enhancement/Strengthening of Justice Zones (12 Justice Zones)	Establishment of a metrics performance for the evaluation of each Justice Zone	First quarter of 2024	JSCC TWG on Processes and Capacity Building JSCC TWG on Legislative Agenda and Policy		
	Conduct of a National Justice Zone Meeting to provide a platform for the sharing of challenges, best practices, and success stories of the Justice Zones	Annually	<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
	Review of the JSCC Memorandum of Agreement, pending the passage of the JSCC Law	Third quarter of 2024	Judiciary, DOJ, DILG, and their attached agencies; Justice Zones	Partnerships to be formalized	GOJUST II
Institutionalization of the JSCC	Submission of the draft JSCC Bill to Congress for sponsorship	First quarter of 2024	--		
	Localized institutionalization of Justice Zones	--			
Information, Education, and Communication	Jail Decongestion Project aimed at reducing admissions, increasing releases, and expanding capacity of jail facilities/Jail Decongestion Summit	March 2024	JSCC TWG on Processes and Capacity Building		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			Judiciary, DOJ, DILG,	AHRC, HLAF, Partner-	GOJUST II

			and their attached agencies ; Justice Zones	ships to be formalized	
	Bataan Cares (Collaborative Action for Rehabilitation, Empowerment and Support with the Inclusion of Psychosocial Rehabilitation for drug-related cases) project of the Balanga Justice Zone to be replicated by the other Justice Zones	Under study	JSCC TWG on Processes and Capacity Building		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			Judiciary (Management Information Systems Office), DOJ, DILG, and their attached agencies; Justice Zones; Department of Health		
Justice Zone Transparency Board	Setting up of microsite for the Naga Justice Zone Transparency Board (pilot project that will show statistics of the justice system actors (Courts, prosecutors, PAO, law	Second quarter of 2024	Lead: JSCC TWG on Processes and Capacity Building JSCC TWG Information and Communications Technology and Infrastructure		

	Adoption by Quezon City, Cebu City, Davao City, Angeles City, Bacolod City of the Transparency Board	Third quarter of 2024	Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
	Adoption by Calamba City, Balanga City, Baguio City, Zamboanga City, Tagaytay City of the Transparency Board	Fourth quarter of 2024	Judiciary (Management Information Systems Office), DOJ, DILG, and their attached agencies; Justice Zones		Integrated Bar of the Philippines
Contact information					
Accountable Senior Official					
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Maria Filomena D. Singh				
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Designated Technical Focal Person					
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Atty. Laura C.H. del Rosario				
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Phone Number	(02) 8552 9580				
Non-government Commitment Holder (if any)					

Name of responsible person from implementing agency	
Title, Department	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	Department of Justice, Department of the Interior and Local Government and attached agencies through the Justice Sector Coordinating Council.
CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups	CSO partners of Justice Zones of the JSCC.

Enhancement of the Administration of Justice

2-B. Improved Public Access to Quality, Free, or Affordable Legal Services

2023-2027

Brief Description of the Commitment	<p>The commitment strives to enhance the administration of justice by ensuring greater access to legal information and services for all Filipinos, particularly through promoting limited law practice, establishing a free legal aid public directory and referral system, and improving public access to legal services and information.</p> <p>This is consistent with the commitment under Chapter 13.2, Outcome 2 of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.</p>		
Commitment Lead	Supreme Court		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Public Attorney’s Office (PAO)	Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)	Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS), legal aid clinics, public interest law organizations, Association of Law Students of the Philippines (ALSP)
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to justice remains a challenge faced by many Filipinos. In a survey conducted by the World Justice Project on access to justice in 2019, 35 percent (35%) of the respondents experienced a legal problem in the last two (2) years, of which only 20 percent (20%) were able to obtain information, advice, or representation. Of those who were able to access help, only 15 percent (15%) received it from a lawyer or a professional advice service and 9 percent (9%) from a government legal aid office. The data indicate the breadth of the public’s legal aid needs and the difficulty in accessing competent legal service providers.³ • In the 2021 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index, the Philippines scored 0.52 (with 1.0 as having accessible justice and 0 as having no access). The country falls below the global average of 0.57, ranking 84th out of 139 countries in the world and 11th out of 15 countries in the West Asia and Pacific region. 		

³ See Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations (SPJI), p. 24.

<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public’s access to court services and correct legal information is hampered not only by a gap in information between the public and the courts, but also by limited access to free, if not affordable, legal assistance.
<p>Commitment description</p>	
<p>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuant to Revised Rule 138-A of the Rules of Court,² law schools have established legal aid clinics, which offer free legal services closer to the community. • In 2019, the Revised Law Student Practice Rule was passed to enable law students to engage in limited practice of law. Under this Rule, the Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP) was institutionalized in law schools, as a requirement for Bar Examination applicants beginning 2023. • In 2022, the First Clinical Legal Education Summit was conducted. The three-day Summit, with the theme: ‘CLEP AT THE FRONTLINE: Paving the Way Forward for Greater Access to Justice through Clinical Legal Education,’ discussed the legal aid needs of the communities and services rendered by law clinics in the country, the then “potential impact of the Revised Law Student Practice Rule in addressing access to justice issues, as well as theories and principles in clinical legal education such as experiential learning, clinical pedagogy, professional ethics, and skills- building for law student practitioners.”³ • The Summit was organized by the Legal Education Board (LEB), in partnership with the Court’s Oversight Committee in the Implementation of the Revised Rule 138-A (Revised Law Student Practice Rule), the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS), and the Association of Law Students of the Philippines, with the support of development partners. • In the same year, the 2022 National Summit on Access to Justice was held last November 28-30 in Bacolod City with the theme “Reimagining the Art of Legal Empowerment.” Underscoring the dignity of every human person and the guarantee of full protection for human rights (Article II, sec. 11, 1987 Constitution) and that “adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty” (Article III, sec. 11, 1987 Constitution), the goal of the Summit was empowerment through legal assistance. • There was an analysis of the stakeholders’ level of access to legal assistance. Delegates employed different approaches and strategies to address various issues, with the objective of inspiring and cultivating a culture of legal assistance. There were plenary discussions, dialogues, keynote addresses, and breakout sessions. • It was organized by the Supreme Court, through the Committee on Access to Justice, in partnership with the IBP, PALS, the Free Legal Assistance Group, and Alternative Law Groups, and development partners ABA ROLI, EU GoJust II Programme, The Asia Foundation Programme, and UP Law Center. • The SC has widened its base for information dissemination through social media, as the principal medium relied on by the public. Information, education, and communication activities have been mainstreamed through blogs,

	<p>podcasts, and traditional media on latest decisions affecting the citizenry as activities targeted towards improving services and basic legal information in what are deemed as priority/urgent cases like habeas corpus, writ of amparo, writ of <i>kalikasan</i>, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023, the SC published on its website the database of legal aid providers from the Public Attorney’s Office, Legal Aid Clinics and Non-Government Partners. The database includes relevant information such as the office name, officer-in-charge, contact numbers, email address, office address, and a map link where the office is located. For easier access to legal aid clinics, which are spread throughout the country, the website employs an easy-to-use built-in search engine that filters entries based on the region.
2. What solution are you proposing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the legal aid initiatives by working with the Department of Justice, PAO, IBP, other legal aid clinics, public interest law organizations in mapping out the available legal aid services per locality;⁴ review the various public interest legal services, development legal aid, and other legal assistance programs of all law groups including the IBP.⁵ • Enhance the Supreme Court Legal Aid Directory by adding details regarding the kinds of cases handled by these legal aid providers and limitations on their jurisdiction. The additional details will allow anyone in need of free legal aid services to easily locate providers in their specific locations 24/7. • Set up a Referral System such that should the contracted provider be unable to render assistance, he/she/it shall automatically refer the matter to the next available provider in the locality. The Legal Aid Directory, posted on the Supreme Court website, shall also be made available in the platforms of other groups (IBP, LEB, and PALS), pursuant to the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems.⁶
3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To expand access to free legal aid services for the marginalized and underserved. • To simplify and speed up the process of securing the services of a legal aid provider.
Additional Information	--
Commitment Analysis	

⁴ See Chapter 13.2 of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, p. 311.

⁵ SPJI, p. 25

⁶ See Chapter 13.2 of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, p. 311. See also SPJI, p. 26.

1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	The wider the base of legal services, the greater the understanding of the legal processes, which will allow for better appreciation of the system by those who avail of its services. The commitment will capitalize on free and no-expense access through electronic or digital means, including social media which will widen the reach of court services and bridge the gap in information between the public, and not merely litigants, and the courts. ⁷
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	The due process right to a day in court is the bedrock of effective legal representation. For most underprivileged litigants, this makes a fair trial illusory due to the expense entailed. Improved access to legal services and quality legal information serve as an equalizer and an empowering tool that demands accountability amongst court officers and key actors in the legal process.
3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing a database on legal aid providers will, on the one hand, enable the litigants to find affordable legal guidance and representation, and on the other hand, legal aid providers will be empowered to be more engaged. The mapping of these providers will also require the participation of local actors, and technical assistance from development partners. • The AI-enabled platform for legal services would need citizen participation in helping it to learn the legal matters that are needed by the end users. • Improved access to legal services enables the public to initiate legal challenges against the government, such as filing lawsuits, petitions, or complaints. This serves as a check on the government's actions and policies, and empowers more citizens to seek redress for violations of their rights or unconstitutional practices. The availability of legal representation for individuals who cannot afford it ensures a fairer legal system and fosters accountability.

Commitment planning

Milestones <i>(Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to the achievement of the result the commitment would like to achieve)</i>	Expected Outputs <i>(Outputs are concrete, objectively-verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)</i>	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders

⁷ SPJI p. 25

Enhanced database of legal aid providers to include community-based groups.	Establish the procedure for an annual/semestral reporting and updating of data to the SC – Public Information Office.	2024	Lead: Supreme Court		
	Annual updating of the online directory by SC.	2024	<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			PAO	IBP	PALS, legal aid clinics
Map out the available legal aid providers per locality and include details regarding the kinds of cases and limitations of their authority/jurisdiction.	2027				
Guidelines on the Legal Aid Mandatory Referral System	Organize a meeting on the guidelines/system design with the Committees on Access to Justice, IBP Oversight, and CLEP.	Q1 2024			
	Conduct of a consultation process with legal aid providers on the proposed mandatory referral system.	Q3 – Q4 2024			
	Commitment/MOU with PAO, IBP, CLEP and other legal aid providers	Q4 2024 – Q1 2025			
	Pilot testing in an underserved area (consider implementing within a Justice Zone)	2025			

	<p>Revision/Finalization of referral system</p> <p>Approval of the referral system by the <i>En Banc</i>.</p> <p>Roll out of the Guidelines on the Legal Aid Mandatory Referral System</p> <p>Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning System</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p>	
IEC Plan	<p>Developing an information packet for CSOs and other stakeholders to promote the online Legal Aid Directory and its services.</p> <p>Deploying focused comms on underserved areas/groups on basic legal information campaign (with PIO)</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2025</p>	
Contact information			
Accountable Senior Official			

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Non-Government Commitment Holder (If Any)	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	
Title, Department	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	Public Attorney's Office
CSOs, private sector,	Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Philippine Association of Law Schools, legal aid clinics

multilaterals working groups	
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Establishment of an efficient and effective technology enabled participatory validation and reporting mechanism for selected government infrastructure projects

3. Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) Project

July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2027

Brief Description of the Commitment	<p>The Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) Project leverages the use of modern technologies such as satellites, drones and geotagging in monitoring and evaluating the status, progress, and activities of big-ticket government projects.</p> <p>It is aimed at augmenting the monitoring capabilities of national government agencies as well as enhance the transparency and accountability in government programs and projects.</p>		
Commitment Lead			
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Department of Budget and Management (DBM)	Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), Gov Data Initiative (GDI)	N/A
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This commitment aims to address the delayed implementation of selected government infrastructure programs and projects. Government infrastructure projects and initiatives have been implemented and finished with significant delays, which has resulted in a delay in delivering products and services to the general people. These delays were brought on by recurring issues that act as roadblocks and prevent completion within the allocated period. The most frequent of these challenges include, but are not limited to, bid failure, unusable sites, land ownership and ROW acquisition concerns, delayed engineering design preparation, unfavorable peace and order situations, and subpar contractor performance. If there had been adequate planning, consultation, and regular monitoring of the programs/projects, these challenges would have been avoided or mitigated. Regular tracking of progress in terms of scheduling, resource allocation and usage, and accomplishment of intended aims and outputs is possible through routine monitoring time frame and potential engagement with civil society and citizens. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DIME distinguishes itself from other available government systems by being the sole platform that enables the simultaneous monitoring of both financial metrics and actual project images and status. This unique capability sets Project DIME apart, offering a comprehensive approach that integrates financial data with visual documentation and status. This ensures a more holistic and precise evaluation of project dynamics, setting a new standard in monitoring and evaluation systems.
<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siloed M&E system leading to inadequate performance information at the program/project level <p>Insufficient monitoring and evaluation remains to be a challenge in the Government of the Philippines (GOP) despite the issuance of supporting legal and regulatory framework thereon such as the National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 565, s. 2016 (Adoption of a Results-Based Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting / RBMER Policy). There are also different stand alone M&E systems on each government agency which makes it hard for the Filipino citizens to monitor different projects from different applications, thus leading to low citizen participation.</p> <p>The RBMER policy framework aims to “strengthen the use of evidence-based results for decision-making and improve government performance on the delivery of goods and services for greater transparency and accountability in the allocation and use of government resources.”⁸</p> <p>In fact, this was the impetus for the launching of the Project DIME in March 2018. However, the project was terminated in December 2021 in view of the expiration of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on the use of digital imaging technologies.</p> <p>Like its precursor, the proposed commitment, the revival of the Project DIME, through its interactive transparency website and application, will still serve as a platform to involve the general public in monitoring activities by soliciting feedback regarding the covered programs and projects in their local communities, strengthening the government's monitoring function and raising the standard of information on program and project performance.</p> <p>One of the problems facing oversight bodies is the lack of information regarding the real physical and financial</p>

⁸ NBC No. 565 dated December 2, 2016

	<p>status of programs and projects. There is data on the agency's financial situation, but there is little information, particularly on the physical achievements at the program or project level. The availability of precise and timely monitoring data on the program/financial project's and physical status is essential for project managers to make informed decisions regarding, among other things, implementation adjustments/strategies changes, catch-up plans if the project falls behind schedule, and program/project discontinuation or expansion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of access to data, public accountability, and capacity of citizens and CSOs to participate in monitoring and evaluation <p>This pertains to the need to improve the Filipino citizens' access to any underlying data, processes and projects of the Philippine Government because there is no single source of truth due to fragmented systems which leads to corruption, trust issues and weak decision making. This translates to the lack of citizen participation in monitoring and evaluation and the insufficient involvement of the general public in the process of assessing and gauging the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of various projects, policies, or programs implemented by governmental or non-governmental entities. Stakeholder accountability should ideally be created at the beginning of the program with full understanding and support. This agreement must be in writing and be monitored and assessed for compliance and effectiveness throughout the duration of the program in order to be effective. Stakeholder engagement is weak especially in the consultation process during the planning stage for programs, projects, and activities. The absence of ownership can lead to a number of serious issues, among them is slow progress on various initiatives. Nobody will be driving the project if they don't feel like they own it, and it will eventually become stale.</p> <p><i>References:</i></p> <p><i>"The Philippines' National Evaluation Policy Framework, Evaluation Practice, Challenges and Prospects", 3 Feb., 2022 / https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/seminars_and_workshops/pdf/Session4_2-3.pdf</i></p>
<p>Commitment description</p>	
<p>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project DIME was committed to in the 2019 National Action Plan for the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP), which was endorsed by both government and non-government partners. A website was developed in the same year and presented at the Open Government Partnership Global Summit, which took place in Ottawa,

	<p>Canada, in May 2019. The website was only functional at this project phase, allowing users to access a small amount of data and participate in civic life by leaving comments on the projects that were displayed.</p> <p>The DIME Transparency Website was intended to be both a participatory platform and a central repository, or one-stop-shop, for all things related to Project DIME, including the results of each program's monitoring efforts and a display of the set of satellite images acquired on a project-by-project basis.</p> <p>The DIME Project was terminated due to the expiration of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Science and Technology – Advanced Science and Technology Institute (DOST-ASTI) and with the Memorandum for the Officer in Charge that’s state the termination of Project DIME effective December 31, 2021 due to change of plan because of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Different government agencies also try to create their own M&E system that monitors performance but the lack of integration of this fragmented system makes it hard for the Filipino citizens to monitor and proactively participate in the government initiatives.</p>
<p>2. What solution are you proposing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To improve the monitoring and evaluation of government infrastructure projects, the DBM and its CSO co-commitment holders aim to enhance the current DIME Portal by utilizing the power of data science to do smarter surveys using machine learning applications, satellite images, and artificial intelligence to replicate traditional surveys. Projects that will be covered include airports, railways, school buildings, and bridges among others. ● Digital transformation offers the opportunity to gather the data we need to implement resilient infrastructure assets. That data can be drawn from a range of sources, including a business’ buildings, processes and people, or from specially installed Internet of Things (IoT) sensors. This will help in improving access to data among stakeholders. ● The GOP will also enhance Project DIME by making it a mobile application to make it more accessible to the public and integrate it to different government systems (eg. UACS and URS) to make it a one stop shop for monitoring, evaluation and possible validation. ● To improve citizen participation and public accountability, we also propose capacity building programs for stakeholders and the expansion of collaborative engagements with different sectors, such as other government

	oversight agencies, grassroots organizations, academic institutions, and business groups. The said sectors can conduct research, develop new ideas, and evaluate the effects of the projects.
3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an interactive transparency website as a monitoring, validation, and reporting system for government infrastructure projects and programs that is effective, efficient, and participative. • Timely and pertinent generation and utilization of information on the performance of government programs and projects, as well as the issues that cause implementation delays, would be made easier through routine monitoring and reporting. Early identification of possible issues will enable the concerned implementing agencies (IAs) to take the appropriate steps/actions for their prompt and effective resolution. • Improved public debate and government decision making • Increased citizen engagement in the design and implementation of government monitoring and evaluation systems • Greater accountability and transparency • Based on the results of the MOnitoring how do we address the delayed and pre
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DIME will support the strategic direction of open government partnership, as provided in Executive Order (EO) No. 31 (Institutionalizing the Philippine Open Government Partnership And For Other Purposes) dated June 20, 2023. • The efficiencies and transparency created by the DIME iterates the importance of open data and real-time monitoring and evaluation to support the government’s pursuit of ambitious and game-changing digital strategies for the integrated financial management information systems (IFMIS) and the government’s digital transformation roadmap. • The DIME is also driven by the need to align with the current administration’s strategic direction to instill bureaucratic efficiency as provided in its 8-point socioeconomic agenda which aims to capitalize on digitalization solutions to enable efficient and effective public service. • Moving forward, the DIME Portal can incorporate projects beyond large ticket infrastructure projects including projects by local government units
Commitment Analysis	

Questions	Answer (if not applicable, just answer with N/A)		
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency - public disclosure on agency performance at the program/project level shall be made available by providing access to information on physical accomplishments matched with financial utilization being reported by the different government agencies to DBM and validated using science-based methods and tools. 		
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability - The commitment engages DBM and concerned government agencies to resolve identified service delivery gaps, based on the physical accomplishment and financial data they had reported. It has a well-defined target objective that pushes for good performance in timely service delivery. 		
3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation - the project promotes partnerships and collaboration among DBM and other oversight agencies, implementing agencies, civil society and other stakeholders, including the general public. They shall be engaged in a feedback loop intended to improve the implementation strategies of selected priority programs and projects. 		
Commitment Planning			
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
Phase 1 -Co-design and co-facilitate consultation with the NGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find an NGO Partner to work with the revival and implementation of the Project DIME 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd half of 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) and

<p>-Procurement and Revival of DIME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO Forum and Design Thinking Workshop with 10 CSOs • List of data users and high priority datasets identified by non-government sector and government agencies • Full procurement and revival of DIME with active SSL 		<p>Government Data Initiative (GDI) as CSO partners</p>
<p>Phase 2 -Enhancement of DIME</p> <p>- Prototype Stage (User Acceptance Testing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interoperability with other DBM applications like UACS and URS. • Signing of Memorandum of Agreements/Understanding for the parties involved • Prototype / Accepted DIME website for the reports we need from DIME • Assessment of readiness and capacity development of reporting government agencies involved for the readiness data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st half of 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Philippine Space Agency as a project partner <p>Service provider/s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE-NGO and GDI as CSO partners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Ten (10) Flagship projects (source:https://neda.gov.ph/infrastructure-flagship-projects/) • Training/ Capacity Building/Refresher Course for: NGAs, & CSOs • Publication and downloading of data in open format 		
<p>Phase 3</p> <p>-Publication of Data Stories and Report, Pilot Implementation/ Rollout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollout and implementation of the DIME in a Pilot Agency • Capacity development workshops on data use with government oversight agencies and CSO monitors who are members of local development councils • 2 DIME data stories published by NGO partners (1 each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Half of 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Philippine Space Agency as a project partner • Service provider/s • CODE-NGO and GDI as CSO partners

	<p>quarter) and publication in a major press outlets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of annual summary report to be shared with PFM Steering Committee and relevant congressional committees and presented during OGP roadshows • Inclusion of Ten (10) Flagship projects (source:https://neda.gov.ph/infrastructure-flagship-projects/) • Training/ Capacity Building/Refresher Course for: NGAs, & CSOs, 		
<p>Phase 4 Full-Blast Implementation/ Rollout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful rollout and implementation of the DIME in 10 big NGAs • 2 DIME data stories published by NGO partners (1 each quarter) 	<p>1st Half of 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Philippine Space Agency as a project partner <p>Service provider/s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE-NGO and GDI as CSO partners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of annual summary report to be shared with PFM Steering Committee and relevant congressional committees and presented during OGP roadshows • Inclusion of Six (6) Flagship projects (source:https://neda.gov.ph/infrastructure-flagship-projects/) • Training/ Capacity Building/Refresher Course for: NGAs, & CSOs, 		
<p>Phase 5 Full-Blast Implementation/ Rollout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Six (6) Flagship projects (source:https://neda.gov.ph/infrastructure-flagship-projects/) 	2nd Half of 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Philippine Space Agency as a project partner <p>Service provider/s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE-NGO and GDI as CSO partners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training/ Capacity Building/Refresher Course for: NGAs, & CSOs • Midterm Review of Progress and Recommendations 		
<p>Phase 6 Full-Blast Implementation/ Rollout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Six (6) Flagship projects (source:https://neda.gov.ph/infrastructure-flagship-projects/) <p>Publication of annual summary report to be shared with PFM Steering Committee and relevant congressional committees and presented during OGP roadshows</p>	1st half of 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Philippine Space Agency as a project partner <p>Service provider/s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE-NGO and GDI as CSO partners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training/ Capacity Building/Refresher Course for: NGAs, & CSOs, 		
<p>Phase 7</p> <p>Full-Blast Implementation/ Rollout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Seven (7) Flagship projects (source:https://neda.gov.ph/infrastructure-flagship-projects/) 	2nd half of 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Philippine Space Agency as a project partner <p>Service provider/s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE-NGO and GDI as CSO partners
<p>Phase 8</p> <p>Full-Blast Implementation/ Rollout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Nine (9) Flagship projects (source:https://neda.gov.ph/infrastructure-flagship-projects/) • Publication of summary report to be shared with PFM Steering Committee and relevant congressional committees and presented during OGP roadshows 	1st half of 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Philippine Space Agency as a project partner <p>Service provider/s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE-NGO and GDI as CSO partners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training/ Capacity Building/Refresher Course for: NGAs, & CSOs, 		
Phase 9 Full-Blast Implementation/ Rollout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Ten (10) Flagship projects (source:https://neda.gov.ph/infrastructure-flagship-projects/) • Training/ Capacity Building/Refresher Course for: NGAs, & CSOs, 	2nd half of 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Budget and Management • Philippine Space Agency as a project partner Service provider/s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE-NGO and GDI as CSO partners
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Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	N/A
CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups	N/A

Building Trust in the Electoral System and Mitigating Voter Disenfranchisement

4-A. Institutionalizing the Participation of Accredited Citizens’ Arms in the Verification and Certification of List of Voters

2023-2028

<p>Brief Description of the Commitment</p>	<p>The commitment aims to emphasize the importance of institutionalizing the role of accredited citizens’ arms in ensuring that the voters list to be used in all electoral exercises are complete, accurate and updated, through its verification and certification during the Election Registration Board (ERB) Meeting set for the purpose.</p> <p>The commitment is in line with the policy of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to establish a clean, complete, permanent and updated list of voters.</p> <p>Inaccuracies in the voters list lead to electoral integrity issues and affects the public trust in electoral systems and processes. One of the crucial ways to address these inaccuracies is to ensure participation of citizens' groups in the verification and certification of voters lists. However, at present, such verification and certification by citizens’ groups does not take place consistently. This is due to various factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This process is not yet fully institutionalized by COMELEC – Few CSOs are currently accredited by COMELEC to carry out these processes – The process does not have 100% coverage (especially in areas where the accredited CSOs have no local chapters or affiliates) <p>There is thus a need to fully institutionalize the participation of CSOs in the verification and certification of voters list, in order to show that COMELEC is truly committed in upholding the Commission’s policy on transparency and participative democratic process.</p>		
<p>Commitment Lead</p>	<p>COMELEC</p>		
<p>Supporting Stakeholders</p>	<p align="center">Government</p>	<p align="center">Civil Society</p>	<p align="center">Other Actors/Private Sectors</p>

	Department of Education (DepED), Judiciary, Local Civil Registrar, and key officials of Local Government Units (LGUs)	Accredited citizens' arms and their local chapters and affiliates	N/A
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate the perennial problem of incomplete, inaccurate and outdated voters list; thus, upholding the integrity and sanctity of the electoral processes; • Quash the doubts of the public resulting to higher voter trust rating, since the list of voters generated in all elections are accurate and complete through the joint verification of representatives of COMELEC, DepEd, Local Civil Registrar, LGUs, and the accredited citizens' arms existing in the locality; and • Issue on transparency is dealt with, due to the total and active participation of accredited citizens' arms in the conduct of verification, certification, and sealing of the voters' list. 		
2. What are the causes of the problem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccurate lists of voters is caused by the failure of some Offices of the Election Officer (OEOs) to properly cleanse their respective lists by deleting/deactivating voters registration records based on Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8189, otherwise known as the "Voter Registration Act of 1996" and pertinent rules on the system of continuing registration of voters; • Failure of other government agencies such as the offices of the Local Civil Registrars and Courts of Justice to timely and completely provide the Commission with the lists of deceased persons of voting age and individuals sentenced by final judgment to suffer imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, respectively; • Failure of some OEOs to send a Notice of Approval of transfer of registration records to OEOs of origin, thus, resulting to multiple/double registration without the voters' fault; and • Erroneous encoding of demographic details in the Voter Registration System (VRS). 		
Commitment description			
1. What has been done so far to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolutions have been promulgated establishing the procedure in the verification and certification of the list of voters; 		

<p>solve the problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual inclusion and cross-out of names of voters from the list are performed during the conduct of the ERB Meeting for the verification and certification of the above list; • Several memoranda have been issued constantly reminding OEOs of their duty to properly cleanse the list of voters through the deactivation/deletion of registration records; • OEOs are reminded to fully coordinate with their counterpart Local Civil Registrar to obtain the complete monthly list of deceased persons of voting age; • Accredited citizens' arms are provided with soft copies of voters list, to allow them to cascade the same to their local chapters for verification purposes; and • Representation with the Supreme Court, through the Court Administrator, for the early resolution of inclusion and exclusion cases, and submission of the list of persons with final conviction by concerned courts to the OEOs.
<p>2. What solutions are you proposing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OEOs should strictly perform the cleansing process (deletion/deactivation/manual inclusion or cross-out of voters' names); • OEOs should establish proper communication channels with concerned government agencies relative to the cleansing of voters list; • Accredited citizens' arms should have local chapters, affiliates or accredited election stakeholders in all cities/municipalities/districts across the country to ensure maximum participation in the conduct of verification and certification of voters list; • Encourage other civic groups and organizations, non-governmental organizations, and political parties to vigilantly observe the above activity; • Institutionalize the practice of concerned government agencies in regularly providing the Commission, through the OEOs, with the complete and accurate list of deceased voters and those sentenced by final judgment as mentioned above; • Measures need to be taken towards institutionalizing the process through a Resolution from the Commission En Banc; • The process of accreditation need to be reviewed and simplified with the participation of CSOs. This will also clarify the details of which CSOs/citizens' groups are eligible to participate in the process;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baseline as to how many verification and certification processes have been conducted with the participation of citizens groups, will be established in the next succeeding elections [May 2025 National and Local Elections], with the target of expanding the baseline [in the succeeding December 2025 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections and 2028 National and Local Elections]; • The results may be measured/quantified through reductions in irregularities in the voters list; and • Outreach, awareness raising and capacity building activities need to be conducted for the citizen groups.
3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high public trust rating due to accurate, complete, and updated voters list as a result of the joint effort of the Commission and the concerned stakeholders; • Active participation of local chapters of accredited citizens' arms in the verification and certification of voters list of all cities/municipalities nationwide; and • Encourage civic organizations, political parties, and the public to vigilantly observe the conduct of the above verification and certification.
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is in line with the policy of R.A. No. 8189 to establish a clean, complete, permanent and updated list of voters
Commitment Analysis	
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participation of accredited citizens' arms and presence of other stakeholders during the conduct of verification and certification of voters list will raise public confidence regarding its accuracy, considering that the verification process involves multi-party checking. The policy of transparency is thus observed, in all aspect of the electoral process; and • Such mechanism, once made widely known to the public, increases awareness that the voters list utilized during elections is a product of extensive preparation of COMELEC personnel and counterchecking by ERB members and accredited citizens' arms, witnessed by several stakeholders, no less.

<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification and certification of the voters list is a responsibility that does not fall solely on COMELEC's shoulders. The ERB Members composed of the Election Officer, Local Civil Registrar, and DepEd official most senior in rank, obviously come from different agencies, which make the process a multi-partite responsibility and accountability, shared amongst the Members, including the representatives of the citizens' arms.
<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing and monitoring solutions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMELEC is constitutionally mandated to enforce and administer election laws and regulations. One of its main responsibilities in the conduct of election, is the generation and printing of complete and accurate voters list. Since a clean list is one of the necessary elements of a credible election, it is likewise the concern of the voting public to safeguard the same and ensure that those included in the list are truly qualified to vote. Being such, the engagement of the public in general is indispensable even in an observer capacity.

Commitment Planning

<p>Milestones <i>(Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to the achievement of the result the commitment would like to achieve)</i></p>	<p>Expected Outputs <i>(Outputs are concrete, objectively-verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented)</i></p>	<p>Expected Completion Date</p>	<p>Stakeholders</p>		
<p><u>MILESTONE I - Institutionalize the Participation of Citizens' Arms in the Verification and Certification of the List of Voters</u></p>			<p>Lead: COMELEC</p>		
			<p>Supporting Stakeholders</p>		
			<p>Government</p>	<p>CSOs</p>	<p>Others (private Sector, etc.)</p>
				<p>Accredited Citizens' Arms</p>	

<p>1. Consultation with CSOs to set the requirements/ qualifications for accreditation, and to better define their roles in the verification and certification process.</p> <p>2. Institutionalized Policy on CSO Participation</p> <p>3. Capacity development of accredited CSOs to engage in the verification process</p>	<p>Consultations/dialogues with the CSOs conducted.</p> <p>Resolution of the Commission <i>En Banc</i> fully institutionalizing the Participation of CSOs in the verification and certification process.</p> <p>Trainings or seminars conducted for the accredited CSOs; information campaign/ dissemination about the process; inclusion of topics/chapter about the process of verification and certification in the upcoming ERB Handbook</p>	<p>First Quarter of 2024</p> <p>Second Quarter of 2024</p> <p>Third Quarter of 2024</p>			
Lead: COMELEC					

<u>MILESTONE II – Accreditation of CSOs</u> 1. Outreach or Call for Interest in Accreditation 2. Approval of Accreditation	Interested CSOs applying for accreditation Resolution of the Commission <i>En Banc</i> Approving CSO accreditation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)	Second Quarter of 2024 Third Quarter of 2024	Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (private Sector, etc.)
<u>MILESTONE III – Verification and Certification of List of Voters with CSO Participation</u> 1. Establishing the Baseline on CSO participation for the May 2025 NLE (number of verifications and certifications)	Baseline on CSO participation established during the verification and certification to be conducted for the May 2025 NLE	Fourth Quarter of 2024	Lead: COMELEC		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (private Sector, etc.)
			DepEd Local Civil Registrar Judiciary LGUs	Accredited Citizens' Arms	

<p>nationwide with CSO participation)</p> <p>2. Measuring CSO participation for the December 2025 BSKE</p> <p>3. Measuring CSO participation for the May 2028 NLE</p> <p>4. Assessment of CSO Participation in the process and generation of learnings to improve future policies.</p>	<p>Increase of 25% in CSO participation (computed from the baseline) during the verification and certification process to be conducted for the December 2025 BSKE</p> <p>Increase of 50% in CSO participation (computed from the baseline) during the verification and certification process to be conducted for the May 2028 NLE</p> <p>Conduct of assessment of the project.</p> <p>Targets were met.</p>	<p>Third Quarter of 2025</p> <p>Fourth Quarter of 2027</p> <p>First Quarter of 2028</p>			
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Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	
CSOs private sector, multilateral working groups	

Building Trust in the Electoral System and Mitigating Voter Disenfranchisement

4-B. Conduct more Overseas and Local Field Registration Activities for Overseas Voters

Brief Description of the Commitment	This commitment is to increase the number of registered voters overseas by at least two (2) million registered overseas voters by 2028 Philippine elections to ensure that qualified Filipinos, who will be abroad during the overseas voting period, may still exercise their right of suffrage for the Philippine National Elections. The commitment aims to increase the number of registered overseas voters among qualified Filipinos before their departure from the Philippines.		
Commitment Lead	Commission on Elections (COMELEC)		
Supporting Stakeholders	<p align="center">Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) • Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) • Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) • Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) 	<p align="center">Civil Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas Filipino Communities • Philippine-based Associations and Professional Associations with overseas chapters 	<p align="center">Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) • Accredited PDOS providers in the Philippines
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<p>The problem that the commitment aims to address is the low number of registered overseas voters. With over 10 million overseas Filipinos, only 1.06 million are registered as overseas voters as of October 2023.</p> <p>Several overseas Filipinos are not registered as overseas voters due to various reasons. These issues are caused by a combination of factors that include lack of accessibility of mechanisms for registration or process of registration (location, schedule, etc.), lack of interest or motivation to participate in Philippine</p>		

	<p>elections, and high mobility of overseas Filipinos. To address this problem, this commitment aims to focus on increasing the number of registered overseas voters before they depart from the Philippines.</p> <p>The COMELEC has undertaken steps to increase overseas and local field registration activities to address the issue of low registration and its potential impact on voter disenfranchisement.</p> <p>Overseas field registration activities are already being implemented abroad by foreign service posts, but additional efforts to conduct even more are necessary to encourage overseas Filipinos in far locations (with respect to the Post with jurisdiction over their residence) or those available only during weekends (due to their work), to register and eventually vote in the national elections.</p> <p>Similarly, local field registration activities are also being implemented. Through Memoranda of Agreement entered with partner agencies (DFA, DMW, MARINA, and CFO), the COMELEC has established local field registration centers (LFRCs) within the premises of the offices of said partner agencies.</p>
<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The approved budget allocated for the conduct of overseas field registration activities is limited and severely lacking; 2. Manpower complement of the COMELEC-Office for Overseas Voting is insufficient to establish more Local Field Registration Centers at more locations; 3. Lack of accessibility of mechanisms for registration. This includes physical and logistical barriers that prevent individuals from easily registering. There are qualified Filipinos who are only available to visit Embassies/Consulates/LFRCs on weekends due to their work; 4. High mobility of overseas Filipinos due to the nature of their work or period of their employment contract, and unforeseen circumstances such as the onset of the pandemic or conflict between countries leading to repatriation. 5. Lack of interest or motivation to participate in Philippine elections.
<p>Commitment description</p>	

<p>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<p>The conduct of overseas and local field registration activities is already being undertaken despite the limited budget allocated (for overseas) and lack of manpower complement (for local).</p>
<p>2. What solution are you proposing?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish partnership with DFA, DMW, CFO, and MARINA to maximize the registration of OFWs and Filipino migrants before they depart the Philippines. 2. Establish active collaboration and partnership with Overseas Filipino Communities - Philippine-based associations, and Professional associations with overseas chapters, accredited PDOS providers (both government and private) in the Philippines. 3. Conduct of registration events in partnership with accredited PDOS providers (both government and private) in the Philippines during the registration cycle. 4. Inclusion of overseas voter registration in the continuing registration for local voters (2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027) local offices of the COMELEC in every city/municipality/district. <i>(with the current set-up, registration for overseas voters is not included in the registration for local voters in the COMELEC offices in the city/municipality/district)</i> 5. Conduct extensive information campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of registering to vote before leaving the country. Utilize various communication channels, including social media, official government websites, and community outreach programs to disseminate information about pre-departure registration opportunities. 6. Establish online registration for overseas voter registrants.
<p>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</p>	<p>By implementing this commitment, a greater number of overseas Filipinos can register as overseas voters and can participate in the Philippine elections. A more comprehensive and diverse representation of overseas Filipinos can be achieved. The voices and preferences of Filipinos overseas are reflected in the electoral process.</p> <p>The conduct of additional local field registration activities in the Philippines, active collaboration and partnerships with overseas Filipino communities through their Philippine-based associations and Professional association, conduct of voter registration in partnership with region-based accredited PDOS providers in major cities in the Philippines, inclusion of registration for overseas voters in the registration for local voters at the local COMELEC offices in every municipality/city/district, setting up online registration, conducting region-based mobile registration activities, and conducting extensive voter</p>

	registration information awareness campaign will hopefully increase the number of registered overseas voters, which will in turn help increase the overseas voter turnout during national elections. The conduct of more registration activities for overseas voters in the Philippines can provide a convenient opportunity for qualified Filipinos to complete the registration process before traveling abroad.
Additional Information	This commitment is in line with the Philippine Constitution and the Overseas Voting Act of 2013.
Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer (if not applicable, just answer with N/A)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	By increasing the number of registered overseas voter, a more comprehensive and diverse representation of overseas Filipinos is achieved. This inclusivity promotes transparency by ensuring that the voices and preferences of Filipinos overseas are reflected in the electoral process.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Increased overseas voter registration turnout among Filipinos overseas can influence the prioritization of policies and initiatives that address the needs of overseas Filipino communities. It creates greater scrutiny of how the Philippine government addresses issues relevant to diaspora, such as labor rights, consular services, and support for Filipino migrants.
3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conduct of more overseas and local field registration activities, active collaboration and partnerships with overseas Filipino communities through their Philippine-based associations and Professional association, establishment of partnership with region-based accredited PDOS providers in major cities in the Philippines, setting up online registration, as well as conducting region-based mobile registration activities ensure that more overseas Filipino citizens will be able to actively participate in the electoral process. • More overseas Filipino citizens overseas will be able to exercise their right of suffrage even if they are residing in another country during the overseas voting period. This will give them a sense of participation and being involved in what is happening in the Philippines. • Establishing a survey/suggestion box on how to improve the registration process and accessibility from stakeholders. • Sharing information about overseas voter registration through Facebook, Tiktok, and Twitter and creating online feedback forms using google forms accessible online. • Active engagement with comments and responding to questions and addressing concerns through the Facebook page of the Office for Overseas Voting

Commitment Planning

(This is an initial planning process largely looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 1 voter registration event per year (2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027) organized in the Philippines in partnership with accredited PDOS providers in the Philippines and Philippine-based Associations and Professional Associations with overseas chapters• At least 1 region-based mobile registration or caravan for overseas voters per year (2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027) in identified major cities in the Philippines with significant potential registrants or where PDOS are conducted• Continuing registration for overseas voters	Expected Outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two million registered overseas voters (total) by 2028 National & Local elections (The 2M target is the overall total registered overseas voters for the 2028 Philippine elections)	Expected Completion Date <p>30 October 2027 (the end of the registration cycle for the 2028 National & Local Elections)</p>	Stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)• Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)• Department of Migrant Workers (DMW)• Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)• Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)• Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO)• Overseas Filipino Communities• Philippine-based Associations and Professional Associations with overseas chapters• Accredited PDOS providers
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<p>incorporated in the local COMELEC Offices in every municipality/city/district (in the current set-up, overseas voter registration is not done in the COMELEC local offices in the municipality/city/district)</p>					
	<p>More registration activities will be conducted in the Philippines to provide qualified Filipinos to complete registration process before travelling abroad.</p>		Lead: COMELEC		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.)
			<p>CFO DFA DMW MARINA OWWA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine-based Associations and Professional Associations with overseas chapters • Filipino overseas communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) • Accredited PDOS providers
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Non-Government Commitment Holder (If Any)	
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Phone Number	-
Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	-
CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups	-

Transparent, accountable, and participatory public procurement

5. Procurement Diagnostics Hub

2023 – 2027

Brief Description of the Commitment	The Procurement Diagnostics Hub houses the analytics and diagnostics on public procurement. Such initiative will enable participatory procurement through public monitoring of the use of public funds in the procurement process and in the implementation of contracts with the end in view of ensuring the prudent and judicious use of government resources.		
Commitment Lead	Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Government Procurement Policy Board and Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System	Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia Pacific, Caucus of Development of NGO Networks, Citizen Action Network for Accountability, Confederation of Filipino Consulting Organizations, Government Watch, Initiatives for Procurement Innovation, Social Watch, WeSolve, and Youth for Freedom of Information	
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	The commitment proposal aims to address the problem of disintegration of procurement data in the government sector which affects the timely and effective delivery of GPPB-TSO mandate. Disintegration of data poses a threat for the GPPB-TSO in recommending sound procurement policies to the Board, designing responsive capacity development programs for public procurement practitioners, suppliers and manufacturers, Civil Society Organizations, and other stakeholders, and providing effective feedback on the public procurement health of the Philippines. As the only procurement policy Office in the country, the delivery of these services influences the decision- making process of policy makers, utilization of public funds as a result from public procurement and recipients of the same, relationship between public and private sectors, and national strategies on greening the economy, among others.		

<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<p>Problems with the disintegration of data in the government sector occur due to lack of standardization, silos and bureaucracy, legacy systems, data security concerns, lack of resources, resistance to change, complex regulations, inconsistent data quality, limited interoperability, and lack of clear strategy. Hence, to address these issues, the government sector needs to prioritize data governance, establish standardized formats and protocols, invest in modern technology, and promote a culture of collaboration and data sharing among Offices. Effective data management practices and a clear commitment to integration can help overcome these challenges and lead to more streamlined and efficient government operations.</p>
<p>Commitment description</p>	
<p>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<p>The said problem was early on identified in October 2018. Hence, the Office tapped low-lying fruits as an effort to help resolve the issue. Beginning 2019, the GPPB-TSO with the technical assistance of the United Nations Development Programme ventured on data analytics using the procurement data submitted by pilot agencies covering the years 2018 and 2019. The following year, the Office was able to generate data analytics of the buying patterns of pilot Procuring Entities, volume and amounts of awarded contracts, average procurement periods and timelines, basic gender profile of procurement officers, risk registry, level of compliance, and the overall public procurement health from the GPPB Procurement Dashboard.</p> <p>The successful launch of the dashboard in February 2020 was particularly timely since the Office was able to easily anticipate pain points in the procurement process in light of the pandemic restrictions imposed. Hence, the Office was able to recommend immediate procurement policy amendments to the GPPB early on that aimed to simplify, streamline, and innovate specific areas in procurement planning and its conduct.</p> <p>The GPPB Procurement Dashboard then became the jumping board for the Interim Review of Procurement Performance (IRPP) initiated in the same year where the Office used procurement monitoring reports submitted to the GPPB and applied the learnings from the dashboard project. The IRPP is a tool that diagnoses the procurement health of the agency in the interim and determines courses of actions to improve or sustain the performance of an agency towards the end of year.</p> <p>As the Office was honing its skills in data analytics, they went ahead and reviewed the existing procurement reports</p>

	<p>in the year 2020; and recalibrated its content, presentation and overall design with the technical assistance of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Open Contracting Partnership aimed to effectively transform all these reports as planning tools instead of reporting documents that are regularly submitted out of compliance. Instead, the Office looks forward to a shift in mindset and employ these reports as planning tools to guide public procurement practitioners better achieve value for money through the procurement activities they undertake.</p> <p>The revision of these reports has an immediate efficiency impact on time savings with the revised Procurement Monitoring Report (PMR) form. For instance, having only 27% of the columns need to be filled out manually; 20% with drop down options; 23% auto-generated while the 30% with possible combination of manual and auto-generated. These revised forms are the foundation of the ongoing automation project where the Office with the technical assistance of the UNODC is developing a web-based system where all public procurement practitioners can access and prepare their Project Procurement Management Plan, which shall automatically generate the Annual Procurement Plan, PMR, and ultimately the Agency Procurement Compliance and Performance reports. When completed, there will no longer be a clamor on submission deadlines as the system will auto-generate most of the reports and would need just a few added information from and validation with public procurement practitioners. The Office will then simply process these reports real-time based on what has been encoded by public procurement practitioners as well as those recorded in the Modernized Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System e-Bidding facility.</p>
<p>2. What solution are you proposing?</p>	<p>The automation journey as detailed above will give birth to the development of a Procurement Diagnostics Hub which houses the analytics, diagnostics, and data-storytelling on public procurement consistent with Open Contracting Data Standards. By centralizing procurement information that is easy-to-understand and readily available for access and download, the initiative will help enable participatory procurement through public monitoring of the use of public funds in the procurement process and in the implementation of contracts with the end in view of ensuring the prudent and judicious use of government resources.</p>
<p>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</p>	<p>The Hub is meant to create an avenue that provides access to procurement information, fosters public participation, and encourages greater accountability among public procurement practitioners and suppliers.</p>
<p>Commitment Analysis</p>	

1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	The Hub will be able to promote transparency by way of centralizing data analytics and diagnostics on public procurement. At the same time, anyone from the public can easily access and download procurement information without the need for registration. There will also be a communication feature installed so anyone from the public can easily communicate their queries or clarification.		
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	Meanwhile, the Hub will help foster accountability since procurement information from the national lens down to procurement process lens are showcased and dissected for better understanding of the public procurement health. This way, the Hub will be able to highlight Procuring Entities practices and be accountable for their actions.		
3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	Because the Hub is open and downloadable, the initiative will be able to better inform the public on the public procurement health in terms of what it is, how it is so, and why it would be. Complemented with its communication feature, the public will easily be able to throw in their perspectives, comments, and suggestions on the public procurement health which will then be packaged by the Office with other stakeholder perspectives in strengthening the Philippine Public Procurement System.		
Commitment Planning			
Milestones <i>(Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to the achievement of the result the commitment would like to achieve)</i>	Expected Outputs <i>(Outputs are concrete, objectively verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)</i>	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
FY 2023, 3rd Quarter: Preparatory works	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set of parameters that would outline the diagnostics report 2. Target data sets 3. Data formats 4. Database on existing budget and procurement 	Target: 15 September 2023 Max extension: 29 September 2023	Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot line agencies, PhilGEPS, and CSO partners

	<p>reports of pilot line agencies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Framework consistent with Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS) 6. At least three (3) mood boards for the Hub design 7. At least three (3) system to be used for the Hub 		
<p>FY 2023, 4th Quarter: Finalization of framework</p> <p><i>*Unplanned yet successful milestone:</i> Early Procurement Activities Automation System (already presented to the GPPB last 30 November 2023. Set to be effective for FY 2024 Proposed Budget)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed framework consistent with OCDS; and 2. Finalized data sets, parameters, pilot agencies, data formats, database, system to be employed, and mood board for the Hub 	<p>Target: 30 November 2023 Max extension: 15 December 2023</p>	<p>Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot line agencies and CSO partners</p>
<p>FY 2024, 1st Quarter: Publication of procurement information on line agencies through the Hub- Phase 1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analytics, diagnostics report, and data-storytelling of pilot agencies sourced from submitted indicative Annual Procurement Plan (APP) and Early Procurement Activities (EPA); and 2. Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with partner CSOs for feedback 	<p>Target: 29 March 2024 Max extension: 15 April 2024</p>	<p>Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot line agencies, PEs, and CSO partners</p>

	Note: only information on indicative APP and EPA may be published as these are required to be submitted every January of the year concerned		
FY 2024, 2nd Quarter: Enhancement works based on CSO and public feedback	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated OCDS framework; 2. New set of parameters, target data sets, and data formats as may be applicable; 3. Updated database, as may be applicable; 4. Further system development or system transfer, as may be applicable; and 5. Proposed automation system for updated APP, Procurement Monitoring Reports (PMR), and Agency Procurement Compliance 	Target: 29 June 2024 Max extension: 15 July 2024	Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot agencies, PhilGEPS, and CSO partners
FY 2024, 3rd Quarter: Publication of procurement information on line agencies through the Hub- Phase 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analytics, diagnostics report, and data-storytelling of pilot agencies sourced from submitted updated APP and PMR of the current year; and 2. Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with partner CSOs for feedback 	Target: 29 September 2024 Max extension: 15 October 2024	Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot agencies, PEs, and CSO partners

	<p>Note: only information on updated APP and 1st semester PMR may be published as these are required to be submitted during the 3rd quarter of the year concerned</p>		
<p>FY 2024, 4th Quarter: Enhancement works based on CSO and public feedback</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated OCDS framework, as may be applicable; 2. New set of parameters, target data sets, and data formats as may be applicable; 3. Updated database, as may be applicable; and 4. Further system development or system transfer, as may be applicable. 	<p>Target: 30 November 2024 Max extension: 15 December 2024</p>	<p>Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot line agencies and CSO partners</p>
<p>FY 2025, 1st Quarter: Publication of procurement information online agencies through the Hub- Phase 3 with recurring target deliverables</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analytics, diagnostics report, and data-storytelling of pilot agencies sourced from submitted prior year PMR 2nd semester, prior year updated App, indicative APP of the current year, and EPA of the current year; and FaGD with partner CSOs for feedback 	<p>Target: 29 March 2025 Max extension: 15 April 2025</p>	<p>Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot line agencies, PEs, and CSO partners</p>
<p>FY 2025, 2nd Quarter: Enhancement works based on</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated OCDS framework, as may be applicable 	<p>Target: 29 June 2025 Max extension: 15 July 2025</p>	<p>Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot</p>

CSO and public feedback	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. New set of parameters, target data sets, and data formats as may be applicable; 3. Updated database, as may be applicable; and 4. Further system development or system transfer, as may be applicable. 		agencies, PhilGEPS, and CSO partners
FY 2025, 3rd Quarter: Publication of procurement information through the Hub as a recurring phase	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analytics, diagnostics report, and data-storytelling of pilot agencies sourced from submitted updated APP and PMR of the current year; and 2. FGD with partner CSOs for feedback 	Target: 29 September 2025 Max extension: 15 October 2025	Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot agencies, PEs, and CSO partners
FY 2025, 4th Quarter: Enhancement works based on CSO and public feedback	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated OCDS framework, as may be applicable; 2. New set of parameters, target data sets, and data formats as may be applicable; 3. Updated database, as may be applicable; and 4. Further system development or system transfer, as may be applicable. 	Target: 30 November 2025 Max extension: 15 December 2025	Lead: GPPB-TSO Supporting stakeholders: Pilot line agencies and CSO partners

<p>FY 2026 and beyond: Continuous enhancements based on CSO and public feedback or as may be</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated OCDS framework, as may be applicable; 2. New set of parameters, target data sets, and data formats as may be applicable; 3. Updated database, as may be applicable; and 4. Further system development or system transfer, as may be applicable. 	<p>Target: Every end of the quarter</p> <p>Max extension: every 15th of the month from the end of the quarter</p>	<p>Lead: GPPB-TSO</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders: Pilot line agencies and CSO partners</p>
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Name of responsible person from			

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Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	GPPB, PhilGEPS, DBM, and Civil Society Organizations
CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups	Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia Pacific, Caucus of Development of NGO Networks, Citizen Action Network for Accountability, Confederation of Filipino Consulting Organizations, Government Watch, Initiatives for Procurement Innovation, Social Watch, and WeSolve

Safeguard civic space and strengthen social accountability

6. DRIVE: Driving Responsive and Innovative Participation of Vulnerable Sectors towards Empowerment in Local Governance

March 2023 - 2027

Brief Description of the Commitment	At the heart of effective local governance lies the commitment to deliver better and more efficient services to its constituents. The initiative, "DRIVE: Driving Responsive and Innovative Participation of Vulnerable Sectors towards Empowerment in Local Governance" is dedicated to deepening and scaling up the involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs), primarily by empowering these organizations, especially those from the vulnerable sectors, to facilitate responsiveness of local government units (LGUs) thereby improving local service delivery. By fostering an environment that values and welcomes public participation in local processes, CSOs transition from passive observers to active and influential partners in local governance.		
Commitment Lead	DILG Support for the Local Governance Program - Project Management Office		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DILG Central and Regional Offices 2. Department of Budget and Management 3. National Economic and Development Authority 4. Partner Local Government Units (with partner CSO co-commitment holder) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mahintana Foundation Inc., 2. Kaabag sa Sugbo 3. Other National, Regional and Local CSO Partners 4. Development Partners 	
Problem Definition			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address? 	<p>Context: People's participation at all levels of government is a right guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution and fortified by various laws and policies. Section 16, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides the right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991 mandates the creation of local participatory bodies, including the Local Development Council, which functions as the primary policy planning, and implementation monitoring and evaluation mechanism in the local government units (LGUs). Each LDC creates the medium-term and annual comprehensive development plans of the LGU and performs monitoring and evaluation for effective and efficient</p>		

use of public resources. The LGC's implementing rules further mandates that the LDC composition shall include representatives from duly accredited people's organizations (POs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and the private sector operating locally, comprising not less than 25% of the fully organized council. Furthermore, the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 identifies the practice of good governance at all government levels as a key outcome area for the socio-economic transformation. The Philippine government commits to ensuring sufficient and functional participating spaces and improving the quality of participation as strategies for deepening participatory governance.

At the core of these policies is decentralization's theory of change, that governance becomes more responsive, accountable, and effective when exercised closest to the people whose interests and welfare local governments should serve. This pathway for change is confidently pursued with a vibrant and robust civil society that has historically shaped democratic governance reforms, boasting a diverse network of civil society organizations (CSOs) with various advocacies, functions, and sectoral representation.

Problem: Despite being ensured and protected by national policies, local participatory spaces are still underutilized in deepening the quality of participation and empowering civil society's influence in local governance. Per the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)'s 2022 data, 67.93% of LGUs have complied with constituting the LDCs, with the average percentage of CSO composition at 30%. However, these spaces are still largely seen as 'captured' spaces of local political elites that exercise discretion in selecting their preferred CSOs as LDC members, resulting in tokenistic or co-opted participation. Bright spots in local participatory practices are often attributed to the active engagements of highly organized and capable CSO networks. However, these empowered CSO networks are not present in all 1715 LGUs (provinces, cities, and municipalities), and those in resource-challenged areas often lack the social capital, organizational and financial capacities, human resources, and knowledge and skill sets to advance their collective agenda. The heterogeneity of CSOs' capacity affects the vulnerable sectors⁹ the most, further compounding their

⁹ In the Philippines, there are 14 vulnerable sectors as defined by Republic Act 8425 or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act in 1997: artisanal fisherfolk; children; cooperatives; formal labor and migrant workers; indigenous peoples; farmers and landless workers; non-government organizations; senior citizens; persons with disabilities; urban poor; victims of disasters and calamities; women; workers in the informal sector; and youth and students. These sectors are organized and engaged for socioeconomic programs by various national government agencies. This commitment addresses their capacity, integration, and influence in the local participatory decision-making bodies.

	<p>vulnerabilities by the inability to shape LGU policies to demand satisfactory service delivery, efficient government responsiveness, and effective social accountability.</p> <p>Hence, the problem is not about the lack of participatory governance spaces (platforms and mechanisms) at the local level. <i>The problem, instead, is their substantive functionality towards deepening the quality of participation to facilitate LGU responsiveness and improve service delivery.</i> This commitment deems it necessary to address this problem both on the government (supply) and civil society (demand) dimensions.</p>
<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<p>The problem of improving the quality of participatory governance may be explained in terms of supply and demand. On the government (supply) side, the problem emerges from three causes:</p> <p>(a) Lack of tools to diagnose and assess quality of participation. There is a need to conduct a systematic analysis of the actual depth of participatory governance in local governance institutions, particularly in LDCs. Analysis of the “functionality” of participatory governance mechanisms has often been limited to questioning the performance presence or absence of CSOs in the process. It is important to evaluate the quality of civic participation as it allows theoretical frameworks like Arnstein’s Ladder of Participation and the International Association of Public Participation’s (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation to assess and prescribe possible recommendations on how to improve the engagement.</p> <p>(b) Underutilized mechanisms for government support to participatory activities. Local CSOs have continuously underscored the need for government to support the operational costs of participatory activities, e.g., traveling from far-flung areas to LGU offices, conducting field visits to monitor project implementation, and convening smaller organizations right to the village level. Government (national and local) offices have been cautious of transferring funds to CSOs because of audit requirements and to avoid being perceived as co-opting CSO participation. However, policies such as (1) COA Circular No. 2007-02 which provides the revised guidelines in the granting, utilization, accounting, and auditing of the funds released to NGOs/POs; (2) Section 4, “Annex A” of the GPPB Resolution No. 12-007 which outlines the general guidelines on non-governmental organization participation in the public procurement; and (3) Section 53.11 of the 2016 Revised IRR of R.A 9184, among others, enable and support government agencies to transact with CSOs in providing financial remuneration to compensate their services, subject to budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules of the government. DILG piloted these mechanisms in 2022 and 2023 as the Third-Party Monitoring project with relative success (<i>to be elaborated in the next section</i>). If these mechanisms are better communicated and implemented, more financial and operational support could be provided for accredited CSOs.</p>

(c) **Limited Opportunities to Co-implement Monitoring of Government Programs.** Local participatory practices have focused mostly on consulting communities and CSOs for inputs to local plans and policies. However, the legal anchors specify that citizen participation should also expand to monitoring and evaluating government programs and projects, including those related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), not just to ensure the integrity of the use of public funds, but also to consolidate feedback on improving service delivery and government response. As such, creating more avenues and spaces where CSOs can participate in the monitoring and implementation of government initiatives is deemed crucial to strengthen citizen participation, and enhance the overall accountability and transparency of government programs.

On the **civil society (demand)** side of the problem, the problem emerges from three causes:

(a) **Insufficient practical knowledge of local participation opportunities.** The most apparent gap is that CSOs are insufficiently informed of the mechanisms and platforms to engage their LGUs. While knowledge products (manuals, education materials, and online references) have accumulated through the years, these do not replace the foundational value of CSOs convening themselves, learning from each other's experiences, and dialoguing with government representatives (from national and local) to be updated of the open spaces and opportunities for engagement. This knowledge barrier is helped by online information sharing but is more effectively addressed when local CSO networks are actively convened.

(b) **Varying capacities and resources among CSOs and CSO networks.** In the Philippines, the accreditation process for CSOs plays a vital role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and integrity in the utilization of public funds. This process not only grants CSOs access and opportunities as partners or beneficiaries of government projects but also establishes a framework for responsible engagement. Nevertheless, the challenge of varying organizational and operational capacities among CSOs hinders the realization of meaningful involvement beyond the "usual suspects."

Some CSOs, despite their eagerness to participate in public affairs, encounter obstacles due to insufficient organizational (social capital) and operational (resources, skills, experience) capacities required for accreditation, not to mention the tedious process and voluminous requirements set under the CSO accreditation process. Recognizing this hurdle, there is a pressing need to streamline the accreditation process and simultaneously,

	<p>focus on enhancing the capacities of CSOs to strengthen their networking and convening capabilities. This way, CSOs can select their own representatives and assert their influence when LGUs exercise political discretion.</p> <p>(c) Readiness gaps to strategically engage various local participatory spaces. Taking off the earlier points that refer to organizational and network capacities, this issue underscores the maturity of CSOs (as organizations and as local networks) to maximize local participatory spaces to a point that such spaces could move from being “closed” to “invited” to “claimed”¹⁰. Readiness can have multiple composite variables depending on the local CSOs’ capacity baselines and political realities, e.g., articulation of the citizens’ agenda (or collective CSO agenda), use of innovative technologies and approaches (civic tech), and the agility of CSO networks to pool technical and social capital to engage emergent local policy issues. These strategic capacities are observed in more advanced and empowered local participatory engagements in some localities and are envisioned to be practiced in more sites and sector-specific issues.</p> <p>These supply and demand issues, taken together, demand a <i>medium-term package of interventions</i> that coherently address policy reforms and civil society empowerment.</p>
Commitment description	
<p>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<p>During the 5th PH-OGP National Action Plan (NAP), the commitment holders focused on: (a) creating and improving spaces for citizen participation, (b) developing capacities of local CSOs, and (c) developing a tool for diagnosing the quality of local participation.</p> <p>(a) Creating and improving spaces for citizen participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot was conducted in 2021-2022 on engaging CSOs as formally contracted implementers of Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) of state-funded projects. TPM is defined as “monitoring by parties that are external to the project or program’s direct beneficiary chain or management structure to assess whether intended outputs, outcomes, and impacts have been achieved by the project. TPM is mainly used to provide an independent

¹⁰ Referring to Gaventa’s categories of power spaces (2006)

	<p>perspective on project or government performance¹¹. As such, the CSOs (as service providers and members of the Technical Working Group) were successfully transferred funds to conduct independent assessments of the local projects and were empowered to tailor-fit a basic project assessment framework to become more relevant and responsive to the priorities of the communities where the projects were located. The pilot provided the proof of concept that such a direct support mechanism is possible as a policy instrument and highlighted the need to close feedback loops for the findings and recommendations that CSO service providers identify in their reports. The TPM model also created new spaces for the monitoring functions of CSOs in local participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DILG has also made efforts in protecting and widening civic space for CSOs by issuing several policy guidelines that provide opportunities for CSOs to engage and participate in programs and processes of national and local governments. Some of these are DILG Memorandum Circular 2022-08¹² which provides guidelines on CSO accreditation and selection of representatives to the local special bodies, which include local development councils (LDCs), local health board (LHB), local school board (LScB), and local peace and order council (LPOC); and DILG Memorandum Circular 2021 - 012¹³ establishing a CSO Desk to handle CSO-related concerns and institutionalizing Local People’s Councils in LGUs. <p>(b) Developing capacities of local CSOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DILG developed a capacity building program for accredited CSO members in LSBs meant to provide them with the necessary information and skills to effectively perform their mandated functions as members of LSBs. Complementing this initiative is the conduct of a capacity building program for CSO Desk Officers to orient them on how they can better engage CSOs to participate in local governance.
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¹¹ Gurkan, Asli and Van Wicklin III (2013), *How-to notes: participatory and third party monitoring in World Bank projects - what can non-state actors do?*

¹² DILG Memorandum Circular 2022 -08 or Guidelines on the Accreditation of Civil Society Organizations and Selection of Representatives to the Local Special Bodies

¹³ DILG Memorandum Circular - 2021 - 012 or the Establishment of Civil Society Organization Desk and Institutionalization of People’s Council in the Local Government Units

	<p>(c) Developing a tool for diagnosing the quality of local participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DILG has also co-developed the Participatory Governance Metrics (PGM)¹⁴ which aims to evaluate the quality of citizen participation in government programs and projects. It aims to assess them through three dimensions: (1) The space, or the environment of the participation; (2) The engagement, or the process of participation; and (3) The outcomes, or the results of participation. DILG’s CSO partners shaped the customization of the PGM’s research instrument specific for the LDCs, while local CSO partners conducted field tests of the tool for a final scale-ready version in 2022. Results of the pilot test affirmed the relevance and potential of the PGM tool to diagnose participation gaps, collate feedback, and identify concrete points of improvement in local participatory practices.
<p>2. What solution are you proposing?</p>	<p>The commitment is comprised of four (4) integrated solutions such as (a) scaling up the implementation of Participatory Governance Metrics (PGM), (b) expanding the Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) implementation, (c) enhancing convening and networking capacities of CSOs using innovative approaches, and (d) conduct of M&E research and policy development support to institutionalize gains.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Scaling up implementation of PGM to close feedback loops Given the result from the pilot testing of PGM implementation in 2022, a scaled-up version of the PGM will be deployed to a wider range and targeted LGUs and with the aim of closing the feedback loop based on the results and the state of participation in LDCs. By having a comprehensive understanding of these, targeted measures and specific interventions can be developed to address these issues to improve a more inclusive and participatory environment within LDCs 2) Expand TPM implementation (programs, localization, CSO implementers) The expansion of Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) implementation is envisioned in three (3) parts: Firstly, the expansion consists of an increase in the number of government projects and programs that will undergo TPM,

¹⁴ Medina-Guce, Czarina (2020), Participatory Governance Metrics: Tool and Technical Notes

including those that contribute to the achievement of SDGs. This signifies a broadened scope, where a greater array of initiatives will undergo external scrutiny to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective implementation.

Secondly, it involves bringing the concept of TPM to local contexts tailoring TPM processes and frameworks to fit the specific needs and dynamics of a particular locality. This involves the adoption of TPM by regional line agencies as well as local government units in the monitoring and evaluation of local projects.

Lastly, it involves an increase in the involvement of CSOs implementing TPM. This step aims to diversify the entities contributing to the monitoring process, bringing in more CSOs to participate as third-party monitors.

3) **Enhance CSO/CSO network capacities and innovative approaches**

Addressing the problem of CSO's substantive functionality in deepening their quality of participation involves a strategic focus on capacity development. This means implementing targeted initiative that will strengthen their organizational and operational capacities to engage with the government (CSO accreditation). In addition, providing training and support to local CSOs will empower them with the skills and knowledge needed to actively engage, contribute, and advocate within the context of local governance. This includes training, workshops, and other innovative participatory approaches for CSO members in local people's councils to empower them as valuable contributors to community decision-making processes.

4) **M&E research and policy development support to institutionalize emerging gain**

Lastly, the solution also involves implementing M&E research and provision of policy development support to institutionalize emerging gains from the implementation of the commitment. M&E research serves as a critical tool to systematically and holistically assess the impact of initiatives aimed at empowering CSOs local governance. By gathering data on the effectiveness and outcomes of various strategies employed in this commitment, M&E research will provide valuable insights into what works and what needs improvement. This information is crucial for evidence-based decision-making and to policy development.

	<p>Furthermore, translating the lessons learned and successes identified in the implementation of the commitment into tangible policy enhancements and/or refinement indicates a proactive commitment to close feedback loops by incorporating insights gained into the policymaking processes.</p>
<p>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</p>	<p>By the end of the action plan implementation, this commitment will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know the current state of participation in Local Development Councils (LDCs) by looking into the status of the levels, patterns, and dynamics of participation (in LDC), and recommend targeted measures and specific interventions to resolve any issues identified, if there are any. (Scaled up PGM) 2. Increase the number of projects subjected to third-party monitoring (TPM) to address the underutilization of existing mechanisms for government support to participatory activities. This establishes a more inclusive and dynamic framework, involving a wider range of CSOs to actively engage in government programs and local processes while simultaneously ensuring robust oversight through TPM. (Underutilized mechanism problem) 3. Improve and enhance service delivery through the institutionalization of TPM implementation to national and regional line agencies as well as to local government units in the M&E of their respective projects and programs, including SDG-related projects in partnership with the National Economic and Development Authority. This aligns with the goal of empowering CSOs belonging to or representing the vulnerable sectors and ensuring their active participation and representation in national and local governance initiatives. Moreover, this guarantees that projects and programs of the government are monitored and evaluated using the TPM framework¹⁵ which focuses on the assessment of the following areas: (a) governance and oversight; (b) process implementation; and (c) result. (Expand TPM implementation) 4. Elevate the maturity level of CSO participation as shown by the increased number of CSOs with the capacity to undergo the accreditation process and elevate CSO participation through the establishment of local people's

¹⁵ DILG Memorandum dated 15 February 2023 with subject, "Implementation of the Third-Party Monitoring for Projects under the LGSF-SBDP"

	<p>councils for a broader and more diverse range of organizations involved in local processes. This entails continuous conduct of capacity development initiatives and interventions for CSOs to enhance their networking and convening capacities needed for them to actively participate in governance. <i>(Enhance CSO/CSO network capacities and innovative approaches)</i></p> <p>5. Generate valuable insights and data to enhance the Department's policy development and program implementation. This encompasses the creation of knowledge products, models and framework, policy guidelines, etc. This guarantees that lessons learned, and insights gained from the outcomes of this commitment contribute to the broader discourse on effective local governance and citizen empowerment. <i>(M&E research and policy development support)</i></p>
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third-Party Monitoring was mentioned as a component in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 under Chapter 14: "Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency" as one of DILG's commitments to the PDP • The DILG developed a Field Implementation Guide and provided guidelines for the implementation of the Third-Party Monitoring of projects under the Local Government Support Fund-Support to the Barangay Development Program (LGSF-SBDP)¹⁶ • <i>At the local level, the DILG will monitor the functionality and responsiveness of feedback mechanisms, including the CSO desks and Barangay Violence Against Women helpdesks; improve the Citizen Satisfaction Index System implementation with CSOs; and pursue third-party monitoring of state-funded projects. Moreover, digital technologies will be used to augment the implementation of these mechanisms with due emphasis on access, inclusion, context-sensitivity, and empowerment of marginalized sectors. (p. 342, "Intensify transparency in public spending" under Outcome 2: Public accountability and integrity bolstered)</i> • The Participatory Governance Metrics (PGM) was also cited in PDP 2023-2028 Chapter 14: <i>To improve the quality of participation, the DBM and DILG, with PH-OGP partner agencies, will mainstream the implementation of Participatory Governance Metrics (p. 341, "Improve the quality of participation" under Outcome 1: Participatory governance deepened)</i>

¹⁶DILG Memorandum dated 15 February 2023 with subject, "Implementation of the Third-Party Monitoring for Projects under the LGSF-SBDP"

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PGM tool (for LDCs) accounts for the Magna Carta for Women and Indigenous People Rights Act (IPRA) provisions to <i>monitor the mandatory representation of the concerned groups</i>¹⁷ • The sample PGM tool (for LDCs) can be seen on p.19, A1.3 of the Participatory Governance Metrics for Local Special Bodies: Lessons from Expanded Implementation¹⁸ • The commitment is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions particularly Target 16.6: <i>Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels</i>, and Target 16.7: <i>Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</i> • Section 3 of Republic Act 8425 or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act in 1997 defines the 14 basic sectors as the disadvantaged or marginalized sectors in the Philippines. These are comprised of: artisanal fisherfolk; children; cooperatives; formal labor and migrant workers; indigenous peoples; farmers and landless workers; non-government organizations; senior citizens; differently-abled persons; urban poor; victims of disasters and calamities; women; workers in the informal sector; and youth and students. • This commitment is also supported by Section 75 of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 which allows national government agencies to partner with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in implementing certain programs and projects. The 2023 GAA also provides the conditions on transferring public funds to a CSO in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.
Commitment Analysis	
Questions	<i>Answer (if not applicable, just answer with N/A)</i>
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How will it help improve citizen's access to information and data? How will it make the government more transparent to citizens?</i> <p>For this commitment transparency means an obligation to be open and accountable with citizens as to how the government implements its programs, projects, and activities.</p>

¹⁷ Medina-Guce, Czarina (2022), Participatory Governance Metrics for Local Special Bodies: Lessons from Expanded Implementation

¹⁸ Ibid.

	<p>Prior to this commitment, the Department did not have clear protocols on information sharing and outlining procedures for CSOs to access pertinent data and information in the monitoring of local projects.</p> <p>Through this commitment, CSOs who will become part of and participants in the Technical Working Group (TWG) of Third-Party Monitoring initiatives will have the privilege of having firsthand access to data on the programs, projects, and/or activities from the initial planning stages, execution, up to the evaluation and assessment stages. In addition, they are not only informed, but also consulted with based on the feedback that will be gathered from the TPM implementation.</p>
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</p>	<p>For this commitment, accountability means closing the feedback loop. This implies that fostering accountability involves actively seeking and incorporating feedback throughout the process of this commitment. Lessons learned and insights gained are acknowledged and used to refine future strategies, policies, and actions of the Department.</p> <p>Prior to this commitment, the DILG did not have established mechanisms to close feedback loops in the monitoring and evaluation of local projects. In the past, the DILG implemented DevLIVE – an online tool which aims to gather citizen’s satisfaction feedback on the quality and implementation of government’s local infrastructure projects. However, certain limitations in closing the feedback loop were present which was the absence of a mechanism to incorporate the responses of the concerned LGUs or stakeholders to particular feedback.</p> <p>Through this commitment, the mechanisms employed under the TPM shall ensure that feedback loops will be closed, improve government response, and shall move forward to the effective and efficient local service delivery to the actual beneficiaries.</p>

<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</p>	<p>For this commitment, citizen participation means establishing a higher maturity level of CSO participation with CSOs in the implementation of the government programs and projects. This also encompasses the formulation of interventions and incorporation of recommendations into the decisions of the government.</p> <p>Prior to the commitment, CSOs are usually involved in a consultative capacity such as during vetting of policies and review of program and project implementations, among others.</p> <p>Through this commitment, CSOs are tapped as active partners of the government in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of local projects. This means their perspectives, insights, and/or feedback through the reports from TPM implementation and PGM deployment, are not only considered but also integrated into the formulation of policies and/or development of new programs and initiatives of the Department.</p>
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Commitment Planning
(This is an initial planning process largely looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
<p><i>(Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to the achievement of the result the commitment would like to achieve)</i></p>	<p><i>(Outputs are concrete, objectively verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)</i></p>		

<p>1. [SPACES] Ensure structured and protected spaces for participation in [government]</p>	<p>1.1. Number of established Local People’s Councils increased</p> <p>1.2 Number of CSO members in local development councils increased</p>	<p>Yearly (2023-2027)</p>	<p>Lead: DILG</p> <p>Supporting Stakeholders: DILG-CO, DILG-RO, CSOs, partner LGUs</p>
<p>2. [CSO EMPOWERMENT/ ENGAGEMENT] Increasing number of accredited CSOs in the implementation of government programs</p>	<p>2.1 Cumulative increase on DILG-accredited CSOs in sixteen (16) regions annually</p> <p>2.2 Increased number of accredited CSOs of local Sanggunians</p> <p>2.3 Increased number of CSO Desks of Provinces/Cities/Municipalities capacitated</p> <p>2.4. Increased number of CSO members in LDCs capacitated in the implementation of local development plans</p>	<p>Yearly (2023-2027)</p>	<p>Lead: DILG</p> <p>Supporting Stakeholders: DILG-CO, DILG-RO, CSOs, partner LGUs</p>

	2.5 Increased number of capacity development activities provided for Local People’s Council		
3. [RESPONSIVENESS] Ensure responsiveness in closing feedback loops	3. Feedback and monitoring results are properly addressed.	Yearly (2023-2027)	Lead: DILG Supporting Stakeholders: DILG-CO, DILG-RO, CSOs,
4. [INSTITUTIONALIZATION] Issuance of policy document on the state of participation in Local Development Councils and a document containing the results of the third-party monitoring of projects	4.1 At least one (1) policy note issued on the <i>State of Participation in Local Development Councils</i> , every two (2) years: 2023, 2025 and 2027 4.2 LDC outcome indicators embedded in the existing national assessment of LGUs 4.3 Embedding TPM Framework in at least two (2) national policies	2023, 2025, 2027 2025 2023-2027	Lead: DILG Supporting Stakeholders: DILG-CO, DILG-RO, CSOs, partner government agencies

PARTNER CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS/ NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date*	Stakeholders
<p>1. Promoted Third-Party Monitoring to line government agencies and/or local government units, and strengthened CSO capacities to become ready for these engagements</p>	<p>1.1. Number of line government agencies/ local government units shared with effective CSO engagements such as Third-Party Monitoring</p> <p>1.2. Number of CSOs supported with trainings on related policy requirements (RA 9184) and technical expertise as third-party monitors of government</p> <p>1.3. Number of learning conversations with CSOs and governmental bodies on collaboration and feedbacking</p>	<p>2026</p> <p>2026</p>	<p>Lead: Mahintana Foundation, Inc.</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders: Partner line agencies, local government units, and CSOs in Region XII</p>

		2026	
		<i>*Mahintana Foundation, Inc. to implement these commitments from 2024-2026 based on available support</i>	
2. Adoption of TPM Framework/Model to complement existing Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) of regional and local development councils	<p>2.1 NEDA Region VII / RDC technical secretariat and Regional Project Monitoring Team (RPMT) members are oriented on OGP and TPM</p> <p>2.2 Draft resolution is endorsed by RDC Development Administration Committee (DAC) for adoption by the RDC Full Council</p>	2024 – 2 nd Quarter 2025	<p>Lead:</p> <p>Lead: Kaabag sa Sugbo Foundation, Inc.</p> <p>Other stakeholders:</p> <p>RDC VII (Development Administration Committee, Full Council, Secretariat) and RPMT</p>

	<p>2.3 Trained a minimum of five CSOs in Cebu, four (4) PSRs, and a RPMT team on TPM.</p> <p>2.4 Customized evaluation indicators and methodology.</p> <p>2.5 Two nationally-funded projects monitored by RPMT are evaluated</p>		
<p>3. Piloting TPM in Regional Development Council and LGU monitoring</p>	<p>3.1 LDC Secretariats (LPDCOs) and LDC PMTs are oriented on OGP and TPM including results of the 2023 TPM implementation in Central Visayas</p> <p>3.2 Resolution adopting TPM as a complementary approach to project</p>	<p>Q3 2024 – Q2 2025</p>	<p>Lead: Kaabag sa Sugbo Foundation, Inc.</p> <p>Other stakeholders: LDCs PMTs and LPDCOs of Cebu and Tagbilaran</p>

	<p>monitoring (RPMES) is adopted by the LDCs of Cebu and Tagbilaran cities</p> <p>3.3 Trained a minimum of ten (10) CSOs in Cebu (5) and Tagbilaran (5) and LDC PMC members on TPM.</p> <p>3.4 Customized evaluation indicators and methodology per LGU</p> <p>3.5. Two LDF-funded projects monitored by PMC are evaluated using TPM</p>		
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Other Actors Involved	

State actors involved	
CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups	

Subnationalizing transparency, accountability, and participatory governance mechanisms in the extractives sector

7. Subnationalizing extractives transparency ushering participatory governance (SET-UP-Go)

July 30, 2023 – July 30, 2027

Brief Description of the Commitment	<p>The DOF commits to subnationalizing transparency, accountability, and participatory governance mechanisms in the extractives sector through the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI). This commitment is an important step towards promoting good governance and ensuring the responsible management of the country's natural resources.</p> <p>The PH-EITI is a global standard promoting transparency and accountability in the extractive industries, including mining, oil, and gas. By sub-nationalizing this initiative, the DOF aims to extend its reach and impact beyond the national level to the sub-national or regional levels where extractive activities take place.</p> <p>A report published by the World Bank in 2011 examines the subnational implementation of EITI in six countries. The study asserts that the subnational dimension of EITI holds significance in regions abundant with resources, particularly in countries with extensive oil, gas, and mining operations. This is because a significant portion of national revenues from extractive industries often originate from specific regions. The experiences of Ghana, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Peru can offer insights to other countries grappling with extending EITI to subnational levels. The foremost lesson is that each country's EITI subnational program will be distinct and shaped by its regulatory framework, priorities, and available resources.</p> <p>The effective subnationalization of the extractives sector involves empowering local communities and governments with information and resources.</p> <p>Sub-nationalizing the PH-EITI can bring several benefits. It can enhance the involvement of local communities and stakeholders in decision-making processes related to extractive industries. It can also help ensure that revenues generated from these sectors are properly managed and benefit the local communities affected by extractive activities. The PH-EITI's subnationalization process involves three key elements: the strengthening of local special bodies on extractives, the</p>
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	<p>digitalization of government transactions relating to extractives, and the mainstreaming of civic space in extractives sector issues.</p> <p>Through the implementation of participatory governance mechanisms, such as public consultations, disclosure of information, and engagement with local communities and civil society organizations, the PH-EITI can foster continued and greater trust and cooperation between government, industry, and communities. This can lead to more sustainable and responsible extractive practices, better management of revenues, and improved socio-economic development in the regions where these activities are taking place.</p> <p>Critical to the participatory governance strategy will be the mainstreaming of civic space in the implementation of the EITI process. Recognizing the significant impacts of extractive operations to society, especially at the local level, the subnationalization efforts will ensure strong civil society oversight and participation in the different facets of mining operations and their downstream impacts. One of these efforts includes enhancing the compliance and utilization of Beneficial Ownership information. By empowering local authorities through effective state capacity and governance, transparency is further promoted in the extractives sector, with proximity as leverage in its implementation. This will ultimately help expand the extractive BO registry.</p> <p>Overall, the sub-nationalization of transparency, accountability, and participatory governance mechanisms in the extractives sector through the PH-EITI demonstrates the commitment of the DOF and the Philippine government to promote good governance and responsible resource management at all levels of governance.</p>		
Commitment Lead	Department of Finance		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Bantay Kita - Publish What You Pay (BK-PWYP)	Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) and Petroleum Association of the Philippines (PAP)

	(DENR), Department of Energy (DOE), Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)		
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<p>The commitment of the Department of Finance (DOF) to sub-nationalize transparency, accountability, and participatory governance mechanisms in the extractives sector through the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI) aims to address several problems related to the management of natural resources and extractive activities. These problems include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Data gap/data divide. There is often a gap between the data produced at the national level and the accessibility and capability of communities to use that data. This data divide hampers the ability of communities to monitor and hold local governments accountable for the management of extractive resources. The commitment aims to bridge this data gap by improving access to and the capability of communities to use extractives data. ● Limited data access and capability of local governments. Local governments often have limited access to and capability to utilize extractives data for policy formulation and revenue allocation from extractive operations. The commitment seeks to address this limitation by providing support and capacity-building to local governments to access and effectively use extractives data for decision-making processes. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited capability of communities to use extractives data to identify issues affecting them. Communities may lack the capability to understand, analyze, and use extractives data, which limits their ability to demand transparency and accountability from local governments. The commitment aims to build the capacity of communities to use extractives data, enabling them to actively participate in governance mechanisms and provide substantial inputs to the participatory planning and budgeting activities of LGUs and NGAs. ● Limited tools to ensure appropriateness and responsiveness of EITI process and data. In its current form, the data and reports that PH-EITI has is stored and presented in a format that is not easily applicable to issues and concerns relevant to stakeholders. Likewise, EITI reporting processes are currently circuitous, requiring significant effort from industries and government agencies to comply with. The commitment seeks to apply ease-of-doing-business principles to improve stakeholder participation in the reporting and data utilization processes. ● Limited reach of PH-EITI implementation. The implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) has been limited primarily to the national level, leaving out the sub-national or regional levels where mining activities occur. The commitment aims to expand the reach of EITI implementation to the sub-national level, ensuring that transparency, accountability, and participatory governance mechanisms are established and practiced at all levels of governance.
<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<p>To better understand the causes of the identified problems related to transparency, accountability, and participatory governance in the extractive sector, let's analyze them using the five whys technique:</p> <p>Problem 1: Lack of Transparency</p> <p><i>Why is there a lack of transparency?</i></p> <p>Lack of disclosure of information related to licenses, contracts, revenues, and environmental impacts.</p> <p><i>Why is there a lack of disclosure of information?</i></p> <p>Lack of legal requirements or mechanisms mandating the disclosure of such information.</p>

Why are there no legal requirements or mechanisms for disclosure?

Insufficient legislation or regulations are in place to ensure transparency in the extractive sector.

Why is there insufficient legislation or regulation?

Potential reasons could include political factors, a lack of awareness, or inadequate prioritization of transparency in the past.

Root Cause: Insufficient legislation and regulations to ensure transparency in the extractive sector.

Problem 2: Limited Stakeholder Participation

Why is there limited stakeholder participation?

Insufficient mechanisms for involving local communities and other stakeholders in decision-making processes. A few mining companies are also not able to participate in the initiative because of being non-operational, uncontactable, or failure to comply with their respective templates.

Why are there insufficient mechanisms for involvement?

Limited awareness and understanding of the importance of stakeholder participation, power imbalances, and exclusionary practices.

Why is there limited awareness and understanding?

Lack of capacity-building initiatives, inadequate communication channels, and limited opportunities for dialogue and consultation.

Root Cause: Limited awareness, capacity, and opportunities for stakeholder participation, which may have been affected by the political culture in local governments.

Problem 3: Limited Access and Capability in Data Usage

Why do communities have limited access and capability to use extractives data?

Limited availability and accessibility of data at the local level, as well as limited capacity to understand and analyze the data.

Why is there limited availability and accessibility of data?

Inadequate data management systems and practices, a lack of data sharing mechanisms, and limited resources for data collection and dissemination.

Why are there inadequate data management systems and practices?

Insufficient investment in data infrastructure, lack of standardized reporting requirements, and challenges in data collection and verification.

Root Cause: Inadequate data management systems, practices, and resources.

Problem 4: Limited reach of PH-EITI Implementation

Why is there inadequate implementation of PH-EITI at the sub-national level?

Lack of awareness and understanding of the benefits of PH-EITI sub-national implementation among sub-national governments and stakeholders.

Why is there a lack of awareness and understanding?

Limited dissemination of information and insufficient communication efforts to promote PH-EITI sub-national implementation.

Why are there limited dissemination and communication efforts?

Inadequate resources and prioritization of activities related to PH-EITI sub-national implementation.

Root Cause: Potential factors include competing priorities, limited budget allocation, and the absence of clear guidelines or mandates for sub-national implementation. The identified root causes highlight the need

	for legislative reforms, capacity-building initiatives, institutional strengthening, and improved coordination among relevant government agencies to ensure transparency, accountability, and participatory governance in the extractive sector.
Commitment description	
1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?	<p>Efforts have been implemented in previous years to expand the reach of PH-EITI implementation, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sub-national workshops, roadshows, and capacity building. Previous efforts have included organizing workshops and capacity-building programs specifically targeted at sub-national governments and stakeholders. These initiatives aimed to enhance their understanding of PH-EITI and promote its implementation at the local level. The effectiveness of these workshops varied, with some regions showing improved awareness and engagement, while others faced challenges in sustaining the momentum and translating knowledge into concrete actions. ● Multi-stakeholder engagement. Previous initiatives have focused on fostering multi-stakeholder engagement by bringing together government agencies, civil society organizations, local communities, and extractive industry representatives. These platforms facilitated dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint decision-making, aiming to enhance the reach and effectiveness of PH-EITI implementation. ● Information dissemination and awareness campaigns Various campaigns and information dissemination activities have been conducted annually to raise awareness about PH-EITI and its benefits. These initiatives included workshops, public consultations, and media campaigns to reach a wide range of stakeholders. While they have helped generate awareness, the effectiveness in driving sub-national implementation has been mixed, as awareness alone may not always translate into sustained action or the allocation of necessary resources.
2. What solution are you proposing?	<i>What will you do to solve the problem? How does this differ from previous efforts? In what way will the solution solve the problem? How will the solution solve the problem? Will it solve the problem in its entirety or partially? What portion of the problem will it solve, if not the whole problem?</i>

In developing our decentralization framework, we borrowed ideas from the 2003 UN Human Development Report, which states that there are three key preconditions for successful decentralization: effective state capacity, competent local authorities, and empowered private and civil society actors.






Ensuring effective state capacity means that PH-EITI must have the power to start with if it plans to empower local authorities. PH-EITI plans to strengthen its mandate to improve transparency, accountability, and public participation in the extractives, as well as its technical and operational capabilities, in order to more effectively support and monitor subnational bodies.

Ensuring competent local authorities means that subnational bodies such as local mining boards, councils, and teams, as well as the local government units, have enough technical, financial, operational, and policy capacity to handle extractives-related issues. This also means that these authorities are able to provide responsive programs, projects, and activities addressing mining issues or using mining revenues.

The third peg in this subnationalization triangle is empowered private and civil society actors - who will hold local authorities accountable, articulate the needs and views of the community, and report grievances to PH-EITI and other national actors in case of inaction from local authorities.

Understanding that any subnationalization project is a continuous, sustained, and efficient effort, we at PH-EITI have identified a list of actions that aim to strengthen the structures discussed in the previous slide.

National. PH-EITI plans to digitize government transactions relating to extractives by establishing a one-stop shop for reporting, validating, and publishing extractives data. This effort will solve the concerns of industry regarding ease of doing business as well as simplify the monitoring processes for government agencies.

	<p>Subnational. PH-EITI plans to strengthen the capacity of local special bodies governing extractives. The Provincial/City Mining Regulatory Boards (P/CMRB), Mining Monitoring Teams (MMT), Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee (MRFC), and Local Development Councils (LDC) will be the first sectors to undergo orientation on EITI processes, especially regarding local revenues from mining, the extent of mining operations in the localities, and other related reports concerning mining in their jurisdictions. To reinforce the value of EITI for local governance, local authorities will also undergo training on participatory budgeting and policymaking guided by EITI data. Through consultation, CSOs may help in identifying LGUs that may be evasive to EITI implementation. The surrounding communities of such LGUs may be prioritized in subnationalization.</p> <p>Industry and civil society actors at the local level will be empowered to participate in EITI processes through various means, including training them to navigate the one-stop-shop, establishing feedback and grievance mechanisms to address mining-related concerns, assessing the effectiveness of civil society participation through the development of an evaluation instrument, and capacitating them to participate in local development planning and budgeting.</p>
<p>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Improved capacity for reporting extractives data.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Strengthened stakeholder support for EITI initiatives.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Reinforced impact of EITI on extractives governance.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Established mechanisms for reporting.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Established system for monitoring and reporting.</p> </div> </div>
<p>Additional Information</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Commitment Analysis

1. How will the commitment promote transparency?

PH-EITI subnationalization aims to improve citizens' access to information and data in the extractives sector and make the government more transparent. Here's how it can achieve these goals:

- **Data disclosure.** PH-EITI subnationalization encourages the disclosure of information and data related to the extractives sector at the local level. This includes information on licenses, contracts, revenue flows, and environmental impacts. By making this data available to citizens, it enhances their access to critical information, enabling them to understand the operations and impacts of extractive activities in their communities.
- **Enhanced data accessibility.** PH-EITI subnationalization promotes mechanisms to ensure that citizens can easily access and retrieve information and data. This involves the development of user-friendly platforms, public portals, and other channels that provide transparent and timely access to relevant information. By improving data accessibility, PH-EITI enables citizens to make informed decisions, hold the government accountable, and participate effectively in extractives-related discussions and decision-making processes.

PH-EITI intends to devise a centralized platform that integrates government agencies' databases to simplify reporting, data collection, validation, and data disclosure in the extractive sector. This represents a significant step towards digital transformation, service delivery improvement, data mainstreaming, and simplifying processes to foster ease of doing business. The platform will provide a user-friendly dashboard that offers data analytics, providing valuable insights and analysis to extractive stakeholders. Subnationalization does not end with providing data but also aims to capacitate stakeholders by giving them toolkits such as participatory budgeting tools, transfer pricing tools, and other learning materials to use as a guide to make informed decisions.

- **Citizen engagement and participation.** PH-EITI subnationalization emphasizes citizen engagement and participation in the governance of the extractives sector. It encourages the involvement of local communities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in monitoring extractive activities and influencing decision-making processes. This creates opportunities for citizens to provide input, voice their concerns, and contribute to the

	<p>formulation of policies and practices, thereby ensuring that the government is more responsive and accountable to their needs and aspirations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concentrated industry compliance and ease of participation. PH-EITI subnationalization will enjoin the mining industry to cooperate due to the issuance of DENR AO No. 2017-07, which directs mining contractors to participate in the initiative. Meanwhile, subnationalization incentivizes the oil, gas, and coal industries to participate in PH-EITI, especially with efforts to streamline data collection/submission through digitalization. ● Feedback and grievance mechanisms. PH-EITI subnationalization encourages the establishment of a grievance mechanism that allows citizens to raise concerns, provide feedback, and seek redress related to extractive activities. These mechanisms provide channels for citizens to voice their grievances, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed by the government. Meanwhile, the feedback mechanism is open to all sectors, giving the industry a chance to give suggestions for the efficient flow of information. By creating effective feedback loops, PH-EITI enhances the government's transparency and responsiveness to citizens' needs and concerns.'
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability ?</p>	<p>PH-EITI subnationalization plays a crucial role in enhancing public agencies' accountability to the public, facilitating citizens' ability to learn about implementation progress, and supporting transparent monitoring and evaluation systems. Here's how it accomplishes these objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transparency in financial flows. PH-EITI subnationalization promotes the disclosure of financial flows from the extractives sector, including revenues generated, payments made by extractive companies, and how these revenues are allocated and utilized with respect to the fiscal regime, as well as other expenses that are mandated by the government, such as the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) which is used to improve the living standards of host communities for mining projects. Providing this information to the public holds public agencies accountable for the management of extractive sector resources and ensures transparency in financial processes. Citizens can scrutinize the allocation of resources and monitor whether public agencies are using the revenues for public welfare and development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participatory governance mechanisms. PH-EITI subnationalization emphasizes the inclusion of citizens and civil society organizations in governance processes related to the extractives sector. It establishes platforms for public consultations, stakeholder engagements, and participatory decision-making. Through these mechanisms, public agencies become more accountable as they are required to consider citizens' input, address concerns, and incorporate public feedback into policies and practices. ● Access to information and reporting. PH-EITI subnationalization promotes the availability of information and data related to extractive activities. This includes disclosure of contracts, licenses, environmental impact assessments, and other relevant documents. By ensuring public access to this information, citizens can learn how the implementation is progressing, evaluate whether public agencies are adhering to transparency and accountability standards, and hold them accountable for their actions or decisions. ● Grievance mechanisms. PH-EITI subnationalization promotes the establishment of grievance and redress mechanisms, enabling citizens to raise concerns and seek remedies regarding extractive sector activities. These mechanisms provide channels for citizens to voice grievances and hold public agencies accountable for any negative impacts or violations. By ensuring that citizens have avenues for seeking redress, PH-EITI strengthens accountability and reinforces the responsibility of public agencies to address citizens' concerns. <p>Overall, PH-EITI subnationalization fosters a culture of accountability, facilitates public scrutiny, and supports transparent monitoring and evaluation systems. It empowers citizens to actively engage, learn about implementation progress, and contribute to the ongoing improvement of transparency and accountability practices in the extractives sector.</p>
<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and</p>	<p>PH-EITI subnationalization aims to proactively engage citizens and citizen groups by creating opportunities for their active participation and involvement in the governance of the extractives sector. Here are some ways in which it facilitates proactive citizen engagement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) public consultations; 2) participatory decision-making; 3) capacity building; 4) information dissemination; 5) civil society engagement; and

monitoring solutions?	6) grievance mechanisms.
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Commitment Planning

Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
Improve capacity for reporting extractives data	Developed a mainstreaming platform	2023 - 2025	Lead: DOF		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
	DILG, DENR, DOE, NCIP, SEC, BIR, BLGF	BK-PWYP	COMP and PAP		
	Oriented and capacitated subnational bodies on EITI processes that are well-integrated in existing structures through Local Development Councils (LDCs)	2025	Lead: DOF		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
Government			CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)	
DILG, DENR, DOE, NPC, ULAP, NCIP,			BK-PWYP	COMP and PAP	

			and SEC, BLGF		
	Trained industry and CSO stakeholders in navigating the Central Mainstreaming Platform	2023-2025	DILG, DENR, DOE, and ULAP, BLGF	BK- PWYP	COMP and PAP
	Enhanced beneficial ownership compliance and utilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanded PH-EITI extractives Beneficial Ownership (BO) registry that discloses BO data and PEPs of corporate entities, including non-metallic mining and small-scale mining, that apply for or hold participating interest in extractive licenses or contracts within the scope of the EITI Standard, ensuring comprehensiveness and reliability. - Increased BO disclosure of extractive companies through sustained outreach activities to enhance awareness and understanding of the concept of BO and BO requirements. - Established a robust BO verification mechanism - Conducted a joint BO data validation exercise for the extractive sector in cooperation with the SEC 	2023-2027	DILG, DENR, DOE, NPC, ULAP, NCIP, and SEC, BLGF	BK- PWYP	COMP and PAP

	- Conducted capacity-building activities on BO data utilization and verification for PH-EITI stakeholders				
Strengthen stakeholder support for EITI processes	Developed JMC across NGAs to harmonize reporting guidelines	2023-2024	Lead: DOF		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			DILG, DENR, DOE, NPC, ULAP, NCIP, BLGF	BK-PWYP	COMP and PAP
	Trained local authorities on participatory budgeting and policymaking using EITI data	2024			
	Established feedback and grievance mechanisms	2023			
Reinforce impact of EITI on extractives governance	Developed policy recommendations using EITI insights	2024 - 2027	Lead: DOF		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			DILG, DENR, DOE, NPC, ULAP, NCIP, BLGF	BK-PWYP	COMP and PAP
	Featured success cases of subnational PH-EITI actions in the Annual Report	2024 - 2027			
	A decentralized yet coordinated involvement and capacity building for local companies/CSOs to participate in governance processes	2024 - 2027			

	A subnationalization program to LGUs that are more receptive to EITI implementation	2024-2027			
Establish mechanisms for reporting	Refined platforms that are more accessible and human-centered. Such platforms must be efficiently managed and regularly updated for stakeholders to access information and data of the extractive industries, including but not limited to contracts and documents related to the environment of communities affected by extractive activities.	2024-2027	DILG, DENR, DOE, NPC, ULAP, NCIP, BLGF		COMP and PAP
Establish a system for monitoring and reporting	Establishing a system for monitoring and reporting is a crucial milestone that involves creating a structured framework to track progress, gather relevant data, and report on key indicators.	2024-2027			
	Regular check-ins with subnational implementers of EITI through the grievance and feedback mechanisms for nuanced impediments in meeting EITI's requirements should be immediately resolved.	2024-2027	DILG, DENR, DOE, NPC, ULAP, NCIP, BLGF	BK-PWYP	COMP and PAP
	The development of a tool that can be used to assess the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder participation in EITI.	2024-2027	DILG, DENR, DOE, NPC, ULAP, NCIP, BLGF	BK-PWYP	COMP and PAP

	Institutionalization of the EITI and updating the Terms of Reference of the Multi- Stakeholder Group to better cater to the needs of communities through data analysis.	2024-2027	DILG, DENR, DOE, NPC, ULAP, NCIP, BLGF	BK-PWYP	COMP and PAP
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Contact information

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Strengthening collaboration in the acceleration of progress in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

8. Stakeholders' Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals

2023-2025

Brief Description of the Commitment	To strengthen collaboration and convergence between government and non-government actors in the national implementation and acceleration of progress in the SDGs, in terms of policymaking, investment programming, and monitoring and evaluation through the full implementation of the three-year roadmap of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs.		
Commitment Lead	National Economic and Development Authority		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) • Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute • Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) • 2030 Youth Force in the Philippines • Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines (CMA) • Centre for Neighbourhood Studies (CENS) • Children of Asia Philippines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. • ASKI Group of Companies • Ayala Corporation • Business for Sustainable Development (BSD) • Coolaire Consolidated Inc. • Employers Confederation of the Philippines • EMS Group • European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) • Evident Integrated Marketing and PR • First Philippine Holdings Corporation (FPH) • Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) • GreenSpace

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Network for Education Reforms (E- Net Philippines) • Food for the Hungry Inc. (FH) • France Volontaires • GoodGovPH • Government Watch (G-Watch) • Life Haven Center for Independent Living • National Trade Union Center (NTUC Phi) • National Youth Volunteers Coalition • Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations • Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA) • Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK) • Positive Youth Development Network, Inc. • Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas, Inc. • Waves for Water Organization, Inc. • Yakap at Halik Multi-Purpose Cooperative Quezon 1 • Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halal International Chamber of Commerce and Industries of the Philippines, Inc. (HICCIP) • International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) • Maranao People Development Center (MARADECA) Inc. • Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad) • The Moropreneur Inc (TMI) • Nickel Asia Corporation • Novaliches Development Cooperative • Philippine Business for Education • Philippine Business for Social Progress • Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry • Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) • PLDT & Smart Communications • Rublou Group of Companies • SGV & Co • Social Watch Philippines • SUSTAINARUMBLE! • Adarna Group Foundation Inc. • Association of Foundations Philippines, Inc. • Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc • Jollibee Group Foundation • Manila Water Foundation • Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. • SEAOIL Foundation Inc • Zuellig Family Foundation Inc.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unang Hakbang Foundation Inc • World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. • Mindanao Trade Expo Foundation, Inc. • International Care Ministries Foundation • Siklab Pilipinas • Save The Children PH • Project Smile 	
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up until 2022, government-stakeholder consultations for the national SDG implementation remained scattered and episodic. In contemplation of a more robust mechanism for SDG implementation and steering of SDG-related policy agenda to ensure that no one is left behind, the Stakeholders' Chamber was established to serve as the venue for non-government organizations to form partnerships, pool together their efforts and resources, initiate programs and activities, and complement and leverage each other's efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs. Moving forward, the Stakeholders' Chamber will be strengthened by expanding its membership to include all sectors of society to ensure maximum inclusivity and engagement in policymaking by non-government stakeholders. Further, stakeholders' participation at the regional level will be expanded through the Regional Development Councils. 		
2. What are the causes of the problem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With respect to SDG implementation, there has been no institutionalized platform where non-government actors can engage with government at a regular and deeper level. More often, non-government actors opt to work directly with the government agencies whose mandates and sectors align with theirs. Given its limitations, an institutionalized platform for government and non-government collaboration will promote greater convergence and impact, as well as a stronger civil society voice for overall SDG policy- and decision-making. 		
Commitment description			

<p>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs was established in 2022. The Chamber is now the official channel to consolidate inputs and feedback from different stakeholders. It has developed to be part and parcel of the government's initiative to institutionalize the SDG process in the country. In 2022, the Chamber started with a membership of 42 organizations from the private sector, academic institutions, civil society, and other groups. Stakeholders are chosen based on an accessible but robust set of merit criteria that was co-developed with key stakeholders. This year, 38 out of the 42 members have renewed their membership. Additional 27 organizations were accepted to become new members of the Chamber. To date, the Chamber has a membership of 65 organizations.
<p>2. What solution are you proposing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Chamber is still in its infancy stage, its Terms of Reference (TOR) and three-year roadmap were just recently completed and approved by the DBCC Subcommittee on the SDGs. NEDA, as chair of and Secretariat to the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SC-SDG), is committed to the full implementation of the TOR and the realization of the three-year roadmap of the Chamber. The TOR and the roadmap were co-created by the members of the Stakeholders' Chamber, with PNVSCA as the Chair, and NEDA as the Secretariat.
<p>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of regional Stakeholders' Chambers or their alternative formations • Development of a web application that will serve as a tool for the Stakeholders' Chamber and its members to facilitate better coordination, communication, and convergence with one another's investments and advocacies • Mapping of SDG investments/programs and projects (PAPs) of the members of the Stakeholders' Chamber • Knowledge build-up in terms of environmental and social governance (ESG) and implementation of sustainable business practices among the members • Greater public awareness of the SDGs through outreach and advocacy initiatives • More targeted private sector investments in geographical areas/sectors that are lagging behind the most in the SDGs • SDG-related policies and programs that are informed by inputs from the members of the Stakeholders' Chamber
<p>Additional Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stakeholders' Chamber is a body created under the DBCC SC-SDG. • NEDA serves as Secretariat to the SC-SDG and the Stakeholders' Chamber. • Membership to the Chamber is by application, open to civil society organizations (CSOs), private entities, and vulnerable groups located anywhere in the Philippines. The application is governed by a set of merit criteria that ensures legitimate operation, proper representation, and productive engagement, among others.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer (if not applicable, just answer with N/A)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being part of the institutionalized SDG governance mechanism in the country, the Stakeholder's Chamber will have access to government SDG-related information and data. Further, with the inclusion of the co-chair of the Stakeholders' Chamber as member of the DBCC SC-SDG, currently being held by the non-government organization, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), the Chamber has access not only to information but will also be able to take part in decision-making for the implementation of the SDGs in the country.
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Stakeholders Chamber is an official platform to engage non-state actors in the country's SDG implementation. In particular, it is a venue for private entities, CSOs, and other non-state organizations to advocate better SDG governance and improved government responsiveness to SDG-related actions and initiatives. With the implementation of the recently-approved TOR and Roadmap of the Chamber, the next steps would be the determination of success indicators in terms of their contribution to the SDGs.
3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Program Convergence Budgeting Framework and Guidelines for SDG Financing, formulated pursuant to Republic Act No. 11467, encourages the involvement of the members of the Stakeholders' Chamber in the development/ implementation/ M&E of government programs that will be enrolled for SDG funding. NEDA, and the Chamber with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are co-developing a web application that will include SDG maps in terms of public sector, official development assistance, and chamber investments, as well as the national SDG progress. The web application will help the members of the Chamber in determining where their investments/corporate social responsibilities (CSRs) are needed the most. This way, the government objectives of convergence and complementation are achieved, ensuring that no one is being left behind. When regular and deeper engagement is established through the Chamber, the government will be able to establish a whole-of society approach in achieving the country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
Commitment Planning	

Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders			
Establishment of the Stakeholders' Chamber internal organization	The Technical Working Groups (i.e. Economic, Social, Environment, and Peace, Security and Governance), and the Core Group established	2023	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM			
			<u>Sing Stakeholders</u>			
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)	
			NEDA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber	
Identification of areas of cooperation for SDG acceleration	List of projects, activities or programs that contribute to the SDGs integrated in the PDP 2023-2028	2023	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM			
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>			
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)	
			NEDA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber	
Development of ESG indicator framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESG workshops conducted 	2024	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM			
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft ESG indicator framework endorsed to the SC-SDG 		Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			NEDA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber
Expansion of Chamber membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New membership applications processed and endorsed to SC-SDG for approval 	2023	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			PNVSCA Members of the SC-SDG and its TWGs	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber
Creation of Regional formations for stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Stakeholder's Chamber counterparts established Repository for SDG best practices by chamber members at the local level and LGUs created 	2024	Lead: PNVSCA, PRRM, PCCI		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)

			NEDA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber
Launch of the SPACE Web App for the Chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web application developed and approved by the Chamber and NEDA • Stakeholders' Chamber mapping of PAPs updated • Web app utilized by Chamber members to identify possible investments and areas for collaboration 	2024	Lead: NEDA		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		UNDP
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			PNVSCA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber UNDP
			Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			PNVSCA Members of the SC-SDG and its TWGs	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber

Presentation of Chamber policy recommendations on SDG implementation to the SC-SDG	Policy recommendations on SDG acceleration endorsed to the SC-SDG	2024	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			NEDA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber
Refinement of ESG indicator framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chamber indicators have been finalized and adopted by the SC-SDG Outreach and awareness to achieve the SDGs are conducted SDGs are coordinated and advocated to political parties which the chamber deems will be helpful in accelerating progress 	2025	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			NEDA PSA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber
Chamber recommends and inputs to the 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber consultations conducted for 2025 VNR 	2025	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		

			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			NEDA PSA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber
SDG innovation through overlaid maps are published on SPACE in time for the 2025 VNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of the SDG mapping initiatives are published on the web app "SPACE" 	2025	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)
			NEDA PSA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber UNDP
Evaluation of 2023-2025 and planning for 2026-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance of Chamber from 2023-2025 based on its 3-year roadmap evaluated 	2025	Lead: PNVSCA and PRRM		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.,)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber's succeeding roadmap/Plan for 2026-2028 drafted 		NEDA	All members of the Chamber	All members of the Chamber UNDP
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State actors involved	Donald James Gawe Executive Director Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA)

	<p>Philippine Statistics Authority</p> <p>Securities and Exchange Commission</p>
<p>CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute • Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) • 2030 Youth Force in the Philippines • Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines (CMA) • Centre for Neighbourhood Studies (CENS) • Children of Asia Philippines • Civil Society Network for Education Reforms (E- Net Philippines) • Food for the Hungry Inc. (FH) • France Volontaires • GoodGovPH • Government Watch (G-Watch) • Life Haven Center for Independent Living • National Trade Union Center (NTUC Phi) • National Youth Volunteers Coalition • Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations • Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA) • Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK) • Positive Youth Development Network, Inc. • Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas, Inc. • Waves for Water Organization, Inc. • Yakap at Halik Multi-Purpose Cooperative Quezon 1 • Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) • Unang Hakbang Foundation Inc • World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. • Mindanao Trade Expo Foundation, Inc. • International Care Ministries Foundation • Siklab Pilipinas • Save The Children PH

- Project Smile
- Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.
- ASKI Group of Companies
- Ayala Corporation
- Business for Sustainable Development (BSD)
- Coolaire Consolidated Inc.
- Employers Confederation of the Philippines
- EMS Group
- European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP)
- Evident Integrated Marketing and PR
- First Philippine Holdings Corporation (FPH)
- Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
- GreenSpace
- Halal International Chamber of Commerce and Industries of the Philippines, Inc. (HICCIP)
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- Maranao People Development Center (MARADECA) Inc.
- Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad)
- The Moropreneur Inc (TMI)
- Nickel Asia Corporation
- Novaliches Development Cooperative
- Philippine Business for Education
- Philippine Business for Social Progress
- Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)
- PLDT & Smart Communications
- Rublou Group of Companies
- SGV & Co
- Social Watch Philippines
- SUSTAINARUMBLE!
- Adarna Group Foundation Inc.
- Association of Foundations Philippines, Inc.
- Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc
- Jollibee Group Foundation

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|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manila Water Foundation• Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc.• SEOIL Foundation Inc• Zuellig Family Foundation Inc.• United Nations Development Programme• UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
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ANNEX A

Executive Order No. 31, s. 2023

**Institutionalizing the Philippine Open Government
Partnership and for Other Purposes**



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 31

**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIP AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article XIII of the Constitution provides that the right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged;

WHEREAS, in September 2011, the Philippines became one of the eight (8) founding members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a broad international partnership that includes members from national and local governments, and civil society organizations (CSOs);

WHEREAS, as a member country, the Philippines endorsed a high-level Open Government Declaration, committing itself to co-creating a National Action Plan (NAP) with the CSOs, anchored on the values of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and technology and innovation, and subjecting said NAP to the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) of the OGP;

WHEREAS, over a decade of engagement in the OGP and employing significant innovations in government processes, the Philippines is recognized as a trailblazer in promoting transparency, strengthening social accountability, and empowering citizens;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) has evolved into a vital platform for introducing governance reforms through harnessing technology, creating synergy with CSOs, and mainstreaming these innovations in various levels of government; and

WHEREAS, to further strengthen the engagement of government and non-government champions, there is a need to institutionalize the PH-OGP as a mechanism for the delivery of more effective and sustainable actions to address current social concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR., President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested upon me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

Section 1. Institutionalizing the Philippine Open Government Partnership.
The PH-OGP is hereby institutionalized as a multi-stakeholder partnership responsible

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

partnership responsible for overseeing and implementing the country's commitments to the OGP. The PH-OGP, through its Steering Committee, shall also ensure that open government values are embedded in government policies and programs.

Section 2. PH-OGP Steering Committee. The PH-OGP Steering Committee, a multi-stakeholder forum composed of representatives from the government and CSOs, is hereby constituted to stand as a policy and decision-making body for PH-OGP. It shall be chaired by the Secretary of the DBM and shall be composed of the following members:

- a. Executive Secretary;
- b. Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority;
- c. Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- d. Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- e. Four (4) government sector representatives identified by the Chairperson as non-permanent members;
- f. National President, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines; and
- g. Ten (10) CSO representatives

The four (4) non-permanent members shall be identified from the government sector based on future directions set in national government priorities.

The PH-OGP Steering Committee may invite representatives from the Legislative and Judicial branches of government, to effect synchronization and complementation of open government initiatives and programs.

Authorized representatives, preferably with the rank of Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary, or their equivalent, shall be designated as the principal's alternate and second alternates, respectively, to the PH-OGP Steering Committee.

The CSO members shall be elected through a selection process designed independently by the incumbent CSO members and confirmed by the PH-OGP Steering Committee. They shall in turn elect from among themselves the Co-Chairperson of the PH-OGP Steering Committee.

The non-permanent members and CSO members shall have a term equivalent to the period of the PH-OGP NAP cycle.

Section 3. Powers and Functions of the PH-OGP Steering Committee. The PH-OGP Steering Committee shall set the direction, programs, and activities of the PH-OGP, and promote open and participatory governance through advocacy and outreach activities. Specifically, it will conduct the following:

- a. Set the policy direction of the PH-OGP in the development and formulation of the PH-OGP NAP;
- b. Integrate open and inclusive government principles in national and local governance processes;
- c. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the PH-OGP NAP;

- d. Publish an annual monitoring and evaluation report on the accomplishments of the PH-OGP NAP, to be presented in a public forum;
- e. Develop a communication and advocacy plan focusing on the PH-OGP processes and goals; and
- f. Such other related powers and functions to be defined in the Terms of Reference of the PH-OGP Steering Committee.

Section 4. Meetings. The PH-OGP Steering Committee shall hold regular quarterly meetings and call for special meetings when necessary. The quorum for such meetings shall require the presence of at least eleven (11) members, maintaining significant representation from both the government and CSOs. Decisions of the Committee shall be based on consensus.

Section 5. The PH-OGP Point of Contact (POC) and Secretariat. The PH-OGP Chairperson shall designate the POC, who shall be responsible for coordinating local and international OGP activities, engaging and convening stakeholders on a regular basis, and organizing OGP activities and initiatives. The POC shall also lead and support engagements with stakeholders, OGP Support Unit, and IRM, spearhead participation in regional and international events and peer-exchange activities, and act as a government and non-government liaison and coordinator. The POC shall be supported by the PH-OGP Secretariat under the DBM and a CSO counterpart identified by the incumbent CSO Steering Committee members.

The PH-OGP Secretariat shall be composed of DBM personnel who shall provide the necessary technical and administrative assistance and support to the PH-OGP Steering Committee in carrying out its mandates and functions.

Section 6. The PH-OGP National Action Plan. The PH-OGP NAP shall contain commitments from the government, which shall be co-created through a multi-stakeholder process. It shall also embody a concrete set of actions, composed of government programs and projects that conform to the OGP values. The NAP shall incorporate the country's commitment to the OGP, that will be assessed through the IRM.

Section 7. Funding. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Order shall be charged against the available appropriations of the PH-OGP Steering Committee member-agencies, subject to pertinent budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations. Operational expenses of the PH-OGP, including the activities of the PH-OGP Steering Committee, shall be charged against available appropriations of the DBM.

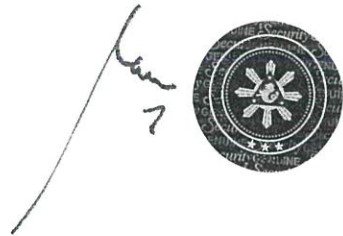
Thereafter, the funding requirements for the succeeding years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act, under the respective appropriations of each of the member-agencies, subject to the usual budget preparation process.

Section 8. Separability. If any part of this Order is held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repeal. All other orders, guidelines, rules, regulations and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 20th day of June, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three



By the President:



LUCAS P. BERSAMIN
Executive Secretary

Office of the President
MALACAÑANG RECORDS OFFICE
CERTIFIED COPY
ATTY. CONCEPCION ZENY E. FERROLINO-ENAD
DIRECTOR IV
6-21-2023

ANNEX B

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ANNEX C

OGP Citizens Agenda

CITIZENS AGENDA FOR 2023-2027

Philippine Open Government Partnership

This **Agenda for Good Governance** is the result of discussions by non-government members of the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) and other civil society actors which form part of a broader Citizens Agenda. The consultation was done by requesting civil society organizations (CSOs) to fill up a survey form through an online platform. The survey was opened by March to April 2023. The survey form was also distributed to different sectors in the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) during the NAPC meetings. The survey questions were also discussed in face-to-face consultations from March to April 2023. In total over 100 respondents answered the survey. The result is a **ranking** of the identified agenda by the PH-OGP non-government members enumerated in the Agenda for Good Governance.

The resulting priority agenda from these consultations was presented to government counterparts during the OGP Week in May 2023 for possible inclusion as national commitments to the OGP international community. **Beyond the NAP**, this agenda shall serve as Philippine civil society's engagement framework in other arenas for constructive engagement.

1. **Safeguard civic space and strengthen social accountability** - refers to promotion and protection of democratic principles and ensuring that citizens are able to participate freely and safely in public life. This involves taking steps to prevent restrictions on free speech, peaceful assembly, and other civil liberties, as well as creating systems and structures that allow for transparency, feedback, and evaluation of government and other institutions. By safeguarding civic space and strengthening social accountability, communities and societies can build trust, promote good governance, and work towards a more just and equitable world.
 1. Pursue reforms in the budget process for greater accountability, transparency and participation.
 2. Empower grassroots citizen formations and expand civil society participation in local and national policy-making bodies especially youth and child-led organizations.
 3. Fully implement provisions in the Local Government Code 1991 and other relevant laws for the inclusion and meaningful participation of civil society in decision-making processes for government programs and policies.
 4. Review the government's anti-insurgency program to ensure human rights of citizens are upheld and protected.
 5. Implement budget reforms to ensure the judicious utilization of government resources.
 6. Repeal or amend the Anti-Terrorism Act.
 7. Institutionalize social dialogue and tripartism in the public and private sector through an issuance of EO from the Office of the President; Localize social dialogue through ordinances in the LGUs.
 8. Maximize sectoral and academic participation in the regulation of extractives, emphasizing the opportunities provided by PH-OGP and PH-EITI in subnational Natural Resource Governance (NRG) discourse.

9. Ensure a bottom-up approach for the mandated social and environmental payments of extractives to complement the local development process.
10. Ensure participating in earmarking of the subnational shares of extractives and discourse of their utilization.
11. Respond to DFA note issued in 2021 requiring diplomatic missions to course through the DFA foreign funding to NGOs.

2. **Promote truth-telling and responsible digital citizenship** - the need to address the spread of misinformation and disinformation online, and to encourage responsible behavior among individuals and organizations when using digital platforms. This involves promoting the importance of factual information, critical thinking, and media literacy, as well as creating mechanisms to identify and combat fake news and other forms of misleading content. Responsible digital citizenship also entails using online platforms and technologies in ways that promote constructive dialogue, respect for diverse perspectives, and ethical conduct. By promoting truth-telling and responsible digital citizenship, we can foster a more informed, engaged, and responsible online community.

1. Enact/amend laws to impose penalty against those who knowingly proliferate false narratives.
2. Harness technology to create and promote trusted, fact-based news sources.
3. Conduct campaigns/capacity building activities on responsible use of information and technology.
4. Pass the Freedom of Information Law.
5. Mainstream truth-telling in the code of conduct and ethical standards of public servants and institute a mechanism to safeguard truth-tellers in government.
6. Explore directions at digital open resource for capacity development on NRG for digital citizens.
7. Enact the Whistleblowers Protection Law.
8. Strengthen citizen-led monitoring of government performance and set up a protection mechanism for citizens who give feedback.

3. **Engender governance reforms** - the need to promote gender equality and empower women in all aspects of decision-making and governance. This involves taking steps to address systemic barriers and biases that prevent women from participating fully in political, economic, and social life, and creating opportunities for women to take on leadership roles and contribute their unique perspectives and experiences to policy-making processes. Engendering governance reforms also entails promoting gender-responsive budgeting, ensuring that resources are allocated in ways that address the specific needs and priorities of women and girls. By engendering governance reforms, we can create more inclusive and representative systems of governance that are better equipped to meet the needs and aspirations of all members of society.

1. Enhance GAD in all instrumentalities and levels of government
2. Capacitate grassroots women for political participation and meaningful engagement in governance bodies
3. Increase the capacity and skills to engender political party and electoral reforms
4. Ensure gender parity in employment and corporate decision-making,
5. Improve equitable access of women and disability sectors in the mandated social and environmental payments of extractives.

6. Broaden the political space for contestation to include the public sector, the private sector or the market, the civil society and the family/household.
7. Expand GAD menu of projects / services to address gender differentiated needs.
8. Increase political awareness and civic education for grassroots women.
9. Review LGU / NGA budget form to include gender tracking.
10. Ensure more participation of organized women in the gender focal system.
11. Appointment of Labor Sector Representatives to tripartite / bipartite bodies – at least 50% of appointments are women

4. **Strengthen institutions for fiscal transparency** - the need to promote accountability and transparency in the management of public finances. This involves creating and enforcing policies and regulations that require governments and other institutions to disclose their budgets, expenditures, and financial transactions in a clear and accessible manner. Strengthening institutions for fiscal transparency also entails promoting the use of independent auditors and other oversight mechanisms to ensure that public funds are being used in a responsible and effective manner. By promoting fiscal transparency, we can create more trust in government, promote more effective use of public resources, and prevent corruption and other forms of financial mismanagement.

1. Strengthen and sustain CSOs participation in government procurement processes.
2. Institutionalize People's Bottom Up Budgeting Mechanism.
3. Strengthen citizens monitoring of government projects and service delivery programs.
4. Modernize PhilGEPS to include adoption of open contracting standards.
5. Institutionalize programs to ensure beneficial ownership disclosure of companies engaged in the extractive industry and in other projects undertaken by companies in partnership with government.
6. Reform the Procurement Service – Department of Budget and Management.
7. Review of Procurement Law specific to strengthening the role of CSOs.

5. **Improve access to justice and institute judicial reforms** - the need to ensure that all individuals have access to a fair and effective justice system. This involves taking steps to remove barriers to justice, such as legal and financial obstacles, and to ensure that marginalized and vulnerable groups are able to access legal services and protections. Improving access to justice also entails instituting reforms to make the judicial system more efficient, transparent, and accountable, and to promote the rule of law. These reforms may include measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, enhance legal education and training, and promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. By improving access to justice and instituting judicial reforms, we can promote a more equitable and just society, and ensure that the rights and freedoms of all individuals are protected.

1. Enhance public access to information and legal services.
2. Assert actively the role of CSOs in the protection of judicial independence.
3. Realize the government's commitments as signatory to international treaties.
4. Strengthen the Barangay justice system, the *Lupon Tagapamaya*, by instituting continuing capability training for Lupon members and legal awareness for communities.
5. Strengthen legal aid initiatives.

6. Judicial proceedings and court processes must be free from society-ingrained practices that are gender discriminatory and insensitive.
7. Strengthen the foundations of Shari'ah Justice.

6. **Build up economic resilience, uphold labor rights of people and enhance social protection** the need to promote economic stability and protect individuals and communities from financial shocks and economic crises. This involves creating and implementing policies and programs that support economic growth and development, and that provide social protections, such as access to healthcare, education, and social safety nets. Building up economic resilience also entails promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation, and ensuring that individuals have access to the resources and support they need to succeed in the labor market. By building up economic resilience of people and enhancing social protection, we can create more stable, prosperous, and equitable societies that are better able to withstand economic challenges and support the well-being of all members of society.

1. Provide assistance to the SMEs to support job creation and economic growth (including support for enterprises through establishment of business incubators, accelerators, mentorship programs).
2. Implementing policies and programs that support access to education and vocational training to improve workforce skills and employability; Developing and expanding social safety net programs to provide economic support to vulnerable populations during times of crisis or economic hardship.
3. Expand microfinance programs to provide access to credit and financial services.
4. Implement the salary standardization law uniformly in all LGUs.
5. Regularize job orders and contract of service employees in the public sector.
6. Review and update the National Employment Strategic Action Plan.
7. Revisit the Philippine Decent Work Action Plan.
8. Expand social insurance programs (include unemployment, climate/ disaster insurance).
9. Set legislation on the national minimum living wage (in public and private sectors).
10. Stop labor only contracting schemes.
11. Enact the Security of Tenure Act (for Private and for Public Sector).
12. Qualify the role of critical minerals on energy transition and set rules on how they are extracted.
13. Subsidize wages for SMEs to ensure payment of minimum wage.
14. Incrementally increase budget for Health, Social Services, Education and Agriculture.
15. Ensure the implementation of ILO High Level Tripartite Mission 2007 and 2023 recommendations
16. Ensure implementation of the Freedom of Association Roadmap
17. Ratify ILO C190 – Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work

7. **Strengthen resilience of natural ecosystems and promote sustainable economic growth** - the need to promote sustainable development practices that protect and preserve natural resources and ecosystems, while also supporting economic growth and development. This involves implementing policies and programs that support the conservation and

restoration of natural ecosystems, and that promote the sustainable use of natural resources, such as water, land, and forests. Strengthening resilience of natural ecosystems also entails promoting the use of clean energy and reducing carbon emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Additionally, this action point involves promoting sustainable economic growth that creates jobs and opportunities while also protecting the environment and natural resources for future generations. By strengthening resilience of natural ecosystems and promoting sustainable economic growth, we can create more sustainable and resilient societies that support the well-being of all members of society.

1. Provide support to small-scale farmers and fishers to adopt sustainable agricultural and fishing practices that protect natural resources and promote economic growth.
2. Protect and conserve natural ecosystems: promote reforestation, protect habitats, etc.
3. Invest in green infrastructure projects, such as public transportation, bike lanes, and green roofs, to reduce carbon emissions and support sustainable economic growth.
4. Institute or strengthen multi-stakeholder oversight mechanisms on reclamation projects (Philippine Reclamation Authority), mining and other extractive activities, and other environmentally destructive projects.
5. Encourage the co-creation of a national roadmap on just and equitable energy transition with emphasis on the rational use of transition minerals.

ANNEX D

Action Plan Development Workshop Toolkit

6th PH-OGP National Action Plan (NAP) Regional Consultations: Action Plan Development Workshop

Summary

The Action Plan Development Workshops for the 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan (NAP) held in Quezon City, Tagbilaran City, Cagayan De Oro, and Naga City, marked a significant milestone in advancing open government principles. The series of consultation workshops aimed to foster collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity in shaping the nation's future through the development of actionable commitments.

The workshops yielded valuable insights, building bridges between government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs), encouraging dialogue, and identifying critical regional priorities. Key outcomes include the identification of action item in the commitments presented, the formation of strategic partnerships, and increased understanding of the OGP principles.

Each regional workshop provided a unique perspective, with participants sharing best practices, innovative ideas, and challenges specific to the commitment proposals presented. The workshops showcased the diversity and dynamism of the Philippines, emphasizing the need for tailored commitments at the national and local levels.

Background and Objectives

The Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) has been at the forefront of promoting transparency, citizen participation, and accountability in the government. Over the years, the platform has made significant strides in fostering a culture of openness and collaboration. The Philippines' previous action plans have witnessed numerous successful initiatives that brought about positive change in governance and public service delivery.

As the PH-OGP embarks on the second phase of the development process of the 6th National Action Plan (NAP), it recognizes the importance of continued engagement with the general public. The collective efforts and perspectives of civil society organizations (CSOs), grassroots communities, academe, business and private sectors have proven instrumental in shaping effective policies and programs.

The action plan development workshop aims to build upon the achievements of past action plans and further strengthen the collaboration between the government and its partners. Specifically, the workshop aims to:

1. Foster meaningful engagement and active participation of citizens in the development of the 6th NAP;
2. Facilitate a co-creation process wherein government representatives and non-government stakeholders collaborate to identify key challenges, generate innovative ideas, and develop concrete solutions;
3. Recognize the importance of accountability in ensuring the successful implementation of the 6th PH-OGP NAP; and
4. Foster lasting partnerships between government agencies and non-government stakeholders.

Through the 6th PH-OGP NAP development workshop, the PH-OGP aspires to harness the power of collaborative action, innovation, and accountability. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, it aims to co-create a robust and impactful action plan that will drive positive change and will contribute to the realization of an open, transparent, and participatory government for the benefit of all Filipinos.

Locations and Dates

The series of consultation workshops took place on the following location and schedules:

VENUE	DATE	TIME	THEMATIC GROUP
Luxent Hotel Quezon City, Metro Manila	August 17, 2023	7:30 AM to 11:30 AM	Accountability Group A and B
		1:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Transparency Group A and B Participation Group B
	August 18, 2023	7:30 AM to 11:30 AM	Participation Group A and C
Kew Hotel Tagbilaran City, Bohol	August 24, 2023	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Participation Group A and C
Limketkai Luxe Hotel Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental	August 31, 2023		Accountability Group A and B
Summit Hotel Naga City, Camarines Sur	September 21, 2023		Transparency Group A and B Participation Group B

Thematic Groups

Thematic Group	Agency/Commitment
Accountability Group A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSWD – Strong SP Families • DepEd – SPBMS for CSOs • SC – Improved Access to Quality, Free, or Affordable Legal Service
Accountability Group B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DILG – SLGP • DOF – SET-UP-GO • BOC – National Time Release Study • DILG-PNP – RPK
Transparency Group A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCO – FOI • DOH – NHWSS • DBM – Project DIME
Transparency Group B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DILG Project TAB-G • DOLE – T3K • GPPB - Procurement Diagnostics Hub

Thematic Group	Agency/Commitment
Participation Group A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DILG – Earthquake Preparedness • PCUP – Empowering Urban Poor Communities • DSWD – Community GARDEn PH • DA-PCAF – Participatory Monitoring Tracking System
Participation Group B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOLE – Regulatory Impact Assessment • COMELEC – Voter’s list • COMELEC – Field Registration Activities for Oversees Voters • COMELEC - Election Laws and Codification
Participation Group C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEDA – Stakeholders’ Chamber SGDs • SC – Justice Zones • COA – Building Stronger Relationship between COA and CSOs • DOH – Mental Health Program

Workshop Program

Half-day session (NCR Program)

August 17 and 18, 2023

Duration	Activity	Resource Person
30 minutes	Registration	PH-OGP Secretariat
5 minutes	On-boarding of Participants Background and Objectives of the Workshop	Ericka N. Blas <i>DBM</i>
10 minutes	Opening Remarks (video)	DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman <i>PH-OGP Steering Committee Chairperson</i>
10 minutes	PH-OGP Action Plan Development Process Overview	Adir. Andria C. Labudahon <i>DBM</i>
5 minutes	Workshop Mechanics	Francis Capistrano <i>UNDP</i>
120 minutes	Workshop Proper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lightning Talks: Brief Overview of Proposed Commitments • Discussion with Participants 	Facilitators: PH-OGP Secretariat (Gov & Non-Gov) & UNDP
15 minutes	Plenary Discussion	Francis Capistrano <i>UNDP</i>

Duration	Activity	Resource Person
5 minutes	Wrap-up and Ways Forward	Executive Director Sandino J. Soliman <i>CODE-NGO</i>
10 minutes	Closing Message (video)	Ms. Andrea Maria Patricia M. Sarenas <i>PH-OGP Steering Committee Co-Chairperson</i>

Whole day session (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao Program)

August 24, 30 and September 21, 2023

Time	Activity	Resource Person
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Registration	PH-OGP Secretariat/DBM RO
9:30 – 9:35 AM	On-boarding of Participants Background and Objectives of the Workshop	Ericka N. Blas <i>DBM</i>
9:35 – 9:45 AM	Opening Remarks	DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman <i>PH-OGP Steering Committee Chairperson</i>
9:45 – 10:35AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Open Gov and OGP (20 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction of open government principles and OGP ○ Introduction to PH-OGP, Action Plan Development Process Overview ○ What's in it for governments, what's in it for civil society • Q&A (20 min) • Self-led discussions in small tables/groups on what OGP principles mean to the participants (10 minutes) 	Adir. Andria C. Labudahon <i>DBM</i>
10:35 – 10:40AM	Workshop Mechanics	Ericka N. Blas <i>DBM</i>
10:40 – 12:40 PM	Workshop Proper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lightning Talks: Brief Overview of Proposed Commitments (30 min max) • Discussion with Participants (90 min) 	Facilitators: PH-OGP Secretariat (Gov & Non-Gov) & UNDP

Time	Activity	Resource Person
12:40 PM – 1:40 PM	Lunch Break	
1:40 – 2:40 PM	Presentation of Workshop Outputs and Plenary Discussion	Participants
2:40 – 2:45 PM	Wrap-up and Synthesis	Ericka N. Blas <i>DBM</i>
2:45 – 2:50 PM	Next Steps	Ericka N. Blas <i>DBM</i>
2:50 – 3:00 PM	Closing Message	Ms. Andrea Maria Patricia M. Sarenas <i>PH-OGP Steering Committee Co-Chairperson</i>

Participants

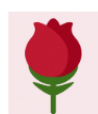
Venue	Date	Agencies	No. of Participants
NCR – Luxent Hotel, Quezon City	August 17 & 18, 2023	All commitment proponents except for PCUP and DOLE-ILS	89
Visayas – Kew Hotel, Tagbilaran City, Bohol	August 24, 2023	DSWD – Community Garden, NEDA – SDG Stakeholder Chamber, SC – Justice Zones, DA-PCAF – Participatory Monitoring, DILG-PPSC – Earthquake Preparedness	83
Mindanao – Limketkai Luxe Hotel, Cagayan De Oro City	August 31, 2023	DILG – SLGP, DepED – SBMS, SC – Free Legal Aid	71
Luzon – Summit Hotel, Naga City	September 21, 2023	Verification and Certification of Voters List, COMELEC – Codification of Election Laws, COMELEC – Overseas Voting, PCO - FOI, GPPB-TSO – Procurement Diagnostic Hub, DBM – Project DIME	62

Workshop Methodology

The “speed dating” activity was used to facilitate the discussion of the highlights and salient features of the commitment proposal. In a modified world café/ speed dating workshop type, the Secretariat used the Roses-Thorns-Buds template to facilitate conversation between the participants and commitment holders. Participants were able to converse with three commitment proposal proponents and provide feedback on what they liked about the commitment proposal, its areas for improvement and the opportunities for stretch and broader partnerships.

Roses, Buds and Thorns

CSOs have an open discussion with the agency on the proposed commitment:



- 1. ROSES:** what do you like about it? E.g. how the problem is framed, how the solution is designed, how it promotes open government, etc.



- 2. THORNS:** what seems missing in the proposal? E.g. in terms of problem framing, clarity of solution, degree of openness, etc.



- 3. BUDS:** what opportunities do you see to stretch open governance & broaden partnerships through the proposal?

After the workshop activity, participants requested to join the commitment they are most interested in to discuss and synthesize responses from the Roses-Buds-Thorns activity through the questions below:

Discussion Questions	Responses/ Suggestions
a. Does the problem statement resonate with you as something that needs to be addressed? How does the problem affect you and your communities? Does the commitment capture these problems?	
b. What are the potential root causes of these problems? Does the proposed commitment identify address those root causes?	
c. In what ways can the current commitment be strengthened? What is missing from the solution(s) proposed? What other actions may be needed to address the problems or specific aspects of them? How can both government and civil society contribute to these actions? (Note to facilitators: good if the discussion can focus on open government actions to address problems, but this is not necessary and can be tackled in later stages of the co-creation process too)	

Workshop Mechanics

Modified World Café/Speed Dating

Within 90 minutes, agencies had the chance to pitch to potential partners & CSOs had the chance to choose & input to the proposed commitments of agencies:

1. First 60 minutes: three 20-minute “dating” rounds
 - a. Agencies pitch their commitment (3 mins)
 - i. What public problem are you trying to solve? What open government result are you trying to achieve?
 - ii. What is the proposed commitment in a nutshell? What are its key features?
 - iii. Why should the CSOs support your proposed commitment? What kind of help or input do you need from CSOs?
 - b. CSOs ask questions and provide inputs following the prompts on the “Roses-Thorns-Buds” canvas.
 - i. ROSES: what do you like about it? E.g. how the problem is framed, how the solution is designed, how it promotes open government, etc.
 - ii. THORNS: what seems missing in the proposal? e.g. in terms of problem framing, clarity of solution, degree of openness, etc.
 - iii. BUDS: what opportunities do you see to stretch open governance & broaden partnerships through the proposal?
 - c. Both agencies & CSOs capture ideas using sticky notes
2. Last 30 minutes: Wrap-Up Reflections

During the end of the session, agency representatives discussed the result of the discussion – feedback from the CSO participants, lessons, and ways forward.

ANNEX E

Waitlisted Commitments

Commitment Proposals under the Wait List

Agency	Commitment Proposal	Secretariat Assessment
Department of Social Welfare and Development	Strong SOLO Parents Families	<p>Commitment for redesigning to optimize its gender component and clearly show alignment to OGP values</p> <p>Office handling the program is new to OGP and its processes but has strong potential as champions once foundation is built</p>
	Community Generative Action towards Reformative Development and Ending Poverty and Hunger	<p>For revisiting to strengthen alignment to OGP values in the commitment</p> <p>Office handling the program is new to OGP and its processes but has strong potential as champions once foundation is built</p>
DILG – Philippine Public Safety College	Achieving Public Safety and Security thru Situational Awareness on Natural Calamities particularly Earthquake Preparedness	<p>For revisiting to strengthen alignment to OGP values in the commitment</p> <p>Commitment is limited to earthquake preparedness whereas the country experiences more devastating effects from typhoons annually</p> <p>Office in charge is new to OGP and needs to build better understanding of the process to secure more solid buy-in</p>
DOLE – Institute for Labor Studies	Regulatory Impact Assessment	<p>For revisiting to strengthen alignment to OGP values in the commitment</p> <p>Office in charge is new to OGP and needs to build better understanding of the process to secure more solid buy-in</p>
DOLE – National Wage and Productivity Commission	Tamang Kaalaman sa Kita at Kakayanan	<p>For revisiting to strengthen alignment to OGP values in the commitment</p> <p>Office in charge is new to OGP and needs to build better understanding of the process to secure more solid buy-in</p>
Bureau of Customs	National Time Release Study	<p>For revisiting to strengthen alignment to OGP values in the commitment</p> <p>Office in charge is new to OGP and needs to build better understanding of the process to secure more solid buy-in</p>
Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor	Empowering Urban Poor Communities through Community Organizing and Community Development Approach	<p>Commitment enrolled in the 4th PH-OGP NAP but new government actors are currently handling the program</p> <p>Commitment has not addressed the IRM recommendations from the previous cycle where it was enrolled.</p> <p>Government actors are new to OGP and needs to build better understanding of the process to</p>

Agency	Commitment Proposal	Secretariat Assessment
Department of Health	Mental Health Program	<p>secure more solid buy-in</p> <p>For revisiting to strengthen alignment to OGP values in the commitment</p> <p>Office in charge is new to OGP and needs to build better understanding of the process to secure more solid buy-in</p>
Anti-Red Tape Authority	Report Card Survey 2.0	<p>For revisiting to strengthen alignment to OGP values in the commitment</p> <p>Office in charge is new to OGP and needs to build better understanding of the process to secure more solid buy-in</p>
	Philippine Ease of Doing Business Reporting System	<p>Commitment enrolled in the 4th PH-OGP NAP but new government actors are currently handling the program</p> <p>Commitment has not addressed the IRM recommendations from the previous cycle where it was enrolled</p> <p>Government actors are new to OGP and needs to build deeper buy-in and understanding of the process</p>
DILG – Philippine National Police	PNP’s Child Protection Program	Office in charge is new to OGP and needs to build better understanding of the process to secure more solid buy-in
Department of Education	School Building Program Monitoring System for CSOs	Recommendation to widen spaces for CSO involvement in all phases of the commitment and to explore possible interface with other DepEd strands for a more holistic approach to program implementation
Commission on Audit	Building Stronger Relationship Between COA and CSOs	Transition to new leadership and has to be introduced to OGP

ANNEX F

Steering Committee Review of Shortlisted Commitments

Approved Commitment Criteria and Review Tool

No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based		
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem		
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)		
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)		
5	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)		
6	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the "feedback loop" is closed		
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. ¹ criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)		
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e. stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)		
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)		
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery		
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem		

¹ Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound

Steering Committee Decision and Comments to Shortlisted Commitment Proposals

Passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Law and Localization of the FOI Program <i>Presidential Communications Office</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	No	Access is not well-defined in the commitment description
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	No	Refer to comment in item no. 1 to refine proposed solution; Frame statements for better appreciation of FOI
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	N/A
5	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
6	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the “feedback loop” is closed	No	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	Yes	PCO to involve the Congress in implementing the legislation aspect of the commitment
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	No	Show in which part of the commitment are the IRM recommendations from the previous cycles considered
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	No	FOI should be embedded in the government process
<p>Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Non-Government Steering Committee recommends to retain the passage of the bill in the commitment. However, the Government Steering Committee acknowledges that this is out of the PCO’s control. It was suggested to explore/consider bringing in the Legislative (Senate or House of Representatives) as co-commitment holder for the legislation component to ensure that there are champions in both houses of Congress who will spearhead the implementation of the specific milestone. If this cannot be done, instead of passage of the FOI law, PCO can focus the commitment on increasing the number of LGUs adopting FOI versus the total number of LGUs in the Philippines. • Partner with other government institutions such as DILG, local chief executives (LCEs), or ULAP especially on the localization component of the commitment. 			

**Passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Law and
Localization of the FOI Program**
Presidential Communications Office

- Consider learnings and IRM recommendations from the previous NAP cycles in finalizing the commitment.

Steering Committee Decision: CONDITIONAL

Agency Action Point:

- Respond to Steering Committee comment on engaging champions from the Senate and the House of Representatives for the legislation component of the commitment. Otherwise, commitment can focus on the localization of FOI.

Enhancement of the Administration of Justice through Improved Public Access to Quality, Free, or Affordable Legal Services <i>Supreme Court of the Philippines</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	Yes	N/A
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	Yes	N/A
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	Involve alternate/other law groups
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the "feedback loop" is closed	Yes	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	Yes	N/A
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	N/A
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Steering Committee Decision: APPROVED			
Agency Action Point:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider additional public comments until December 7, 2023 but can start working on finalizing commitment form for submission on December 14, 2023. 			

Enhancement of the Administration of Justice at the Local Level through Establishment of More Justice Zones and Enhancement of Existing Ones <i>Supreme Court of the Philippines</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	Yes	N/A
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	Yes	N/A
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	N/A
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the “feedback loop” is closed	Yes	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	Yes	N/A
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	N/A
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 			
Steering Committee Decision: APPROVED			
Agency Action Point:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider additional public comments until December 7, 2023 but can start working on finalizing commitment form for submission on December 14, 2023. 			

Establishment of an Efficient and Effective Technology Enabled Validation and Reporting Mechanism for Selected Government Infrastructure Projects that Supports the Monitoring and Evaluation Policies of the Department through Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) Project <i>Department of Budget and Management</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	Yes	N/A
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	Yes	N/A
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	N/A
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the "feedback loop" is closed	Yes	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	Yes	N/A
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	N/A
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define in the commitment description the term "big-ticket infrastructure projects" by identifying thresholds (i.e. infrastructure projects of more than 100 million) 			
Steering Committee Decision: APPROVED			
Agency Action Point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider additional public comments until December 7, 2023 but can start working on finalizing commitment form for submission on December 14, 2023. 			

Institutionalizing the Participation of Accredited Citizen's Arm in the Verification and Certification of List of Voters <i>Commission on Elections</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	Yes	N/A
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	Yes	N/A
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	Expand constituency
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the "feedback loop" is closed	Yes	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	Yes	N/A
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	N/A
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand constituency by involving more civil society groups beyond election lawyers • Ensure that CSOs are consulted and/or actively engaged during the process of defining the accreditation requirements and process 			
Steering Committee Decision: APPROVED			
Agency Action Point:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider additional public comments until December 7, 2023 but can start working on finalizing commitment form for submission on December 14, 2023. 			

Conduct of More Overseas and Local Field Registration Activities for Overseas Voters <i>Commission on Elections</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	No	Identify baseline of registered overseas voters versus the population of OFWs eligible to vote
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	No	There were no identified milestones for 2024-2026
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	N/A
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the "feedback loop" is closed	No	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	No	Establish partnership with DFA, DMW, and CFO to maximize available resources
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	Review use of technology in milestone implementation
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in the commitment narrative baseline number of registered overseas voters compared with the number of OFWs eligible to vote. This should be done before departure of OFWs. • Clarify if the two million registered voters is on top/addition to the current registered OFWs. • Establish partnership with Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in rolling-out activities. • Explore including in the list of pre-departure requirements of OFWs voter registration. • Review the use of civic technology in the field registration activities for OFWs. • Specify what the commitment aims to achieve in 2024-2026. • Explain how the additional budget request will be used in accessibility of information and mechanisms for conducting overseas field registration activities. 			
Steering Committee Decision: CONDITIONAL			
Agency Action Point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address comments from the Steering Committee particularly on the milestones, workarounds of COMELEC while the proposal is not yet funded, and how the additional budget for <i>plantilla</i> positions will be used in project implementation. 			

Strengthen Election Laws through Codification and Updating of All Election-Related Statutes			
<i>Commission on Elections</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	Yes	N/A
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	Yes	N/A
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	N/A
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the "feedback loop" is closed	Yes	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	No	Milestones for 2025 until end-of-term not identified; involve Committees in Congress as co-commitment implementer for the legislation component of the commitment
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	N/A
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify what does the commitment aim to achieve until end-of-term Identify co-commitment holder from the Senate and/or House of Representatives to support implementation of milestones on legislation 			
Steering Committee Decision: MOVED TO WAITING LIST			
Agency Action Point:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For improvement of the commitment proposal before the 6th PH-OGP NAP updating, establish partnerships with identified legislators in Congress for the legislation component of the commitment especially the proposed law is still in its preliminary stage Learn from previous action plan commitment holders on their supplementary milestone activities in support of or in lieu of passage of a law. 			

DRIVE: Driving Responsive and Innovative Participation of Vulnerable Sectors towards Empowerment in Local Governance			
<i>Department of the Interior and Local Government – Support to Local Governance Project Management Office</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	Yes	N/A
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	Yes	N/A
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	N/A
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the “feedback loop” is closed	Yes	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	Yes	N/A
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	N/A
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include LGUs as partner agencies • Recommendation to expand coverage to include SDG-related projects in partnership with NEDA 			
Steering Committee Decision: APPROVED			
Agency Action Point:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider additional public comments until December 7, 2023 but can start working on finalizing commitment form for submission on December 14, 2023. 			

Subnationalizing Extractives Transparency – Ushering Participatory Governance (SET-UP-Go) <i>Department of Finance</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	Yes	N/A
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	Yes	N/A
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	N/A
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the “feedback loop” is closed	Yes	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	Yes	N/A
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	N/A
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include local development councils (LDCs) in capacity-building alongside LGUs and CSOs • Cite the reason for the non-participation of mining companies in EITI • Include how the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) fund is used and how the Multi-Partite Monitoring Teams (MMTs) can be included or identified in the LDCs, if possible 			
Steering Committee Decision: APPROVED			
Agency Action Point:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider additional public comments until December 7, 2023 but can start working on finalizing commitment form for submission on December 14, 2023. 			

Stakeholders Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals <i>National Economic and Development Authority</i>			
No.	Commitment Criteria	Yes/No	Remarks
1	The public problem is well-defined, specific, and evidence-based	Yes	N/A
2	The proposed commitment directly responds/contributes in addressing the problem	Yes	N/A
3	The commitment includes elements of data publication and use (transparency)	Yes	N/A
4	The commitment ensures citizen engagement (participation)	Yes	N/A
5	The commitment has feedback mechanisms in place and ensures that the “feedback loop” is closed	Yes	N/A
6	Public accountability mechanisms are embedded in the commitment (accountability)	Yes	N/A
7	Milestones are properly identified and they respond to the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (preferably, outcome level milestones vs outputs)	Yes	N/A
8	The commitment fosters innovation (i.e stretches the government beyond its current state of practice, has potential for scalability, replication, and institutionalization)	Yes	N/A
9	The commitment could yield high-impact results (i.e. significantly improves status quo)	Yes	N/A
10	The commitment contributes to improving public service delivery	Yes	N/A
11	The commitment addresses an urgent public problem	Yes	N/A
Steering Committee Comments/Recommendations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider including the LGU SDG commitment targets in the NEDA monitoring of SDG implementation 			
Steering Committee Decision: APPROVED			
Agency Action Point:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider additional public comments until December 7, 2023 but can start working on finalizing commitment form for submission on December 14, 2023. 			

ANNEX G

Co-creation Process and Timelines



LIST OF PH-OGP NAP CO-CREATION PROCESS AND TIMELINES

01



Call for Commitment Proposal for 6th PH-OGP National Action Plan 2023-2027

The PH-OGP through its Chairperson, DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman released the call for commitment proposal for the 6th PH-OGP NAP 2023-2027 on **February 1, 2023** to forty-three (43) national government agencies (NGAs).

02



PH-OGP Forum with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

The PH-OGP Forum with CSOs was held online via Zoom videoconference last **February 8, 2023**. The forum was attended by thirty-two (32) participants representing various organizations around the country.

03



PH-OGP Forum with National Government Agencies (NGAs)

Following the call for commitment proposal for the 6th PH-OGP NAP 2023-2027, the PH-OGP Forum with NGAs was held last **February 9, 2023** at the DBM Multi-Purpose Hall which aimed to provide NGAs a better understanding of the PH-OGP process. The forum was attended by one hundred thirty nine (139) government representatives from thirty-three (33) NGAs.

04



Open Gov Week 2023

The PH-OGP led the annual celebration of the country's **#OpenGovWeek** with exciting activities co-created by the national government and civil society organizations.

Open Gov Week 2023

05



The theme of the four-day event, which ran from **8 to 11 May**, is "Co-create. Collaborate. Contribute." The annual celebration of the OGW was held at the Century Park Hotel, Manila and was participated by government representatives in both local and national, civil society organizations, development partners . representatives from the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM), and the OGP Support Unit (OGP SU). The event was attended by approximately three hundred (300) participants.

06

Commitment Outcomes Design Workshop



Commitment Outcomes Design Workshop

To further advance the process and ensure the successful implementation of the commitments that will be included in the 6th PH-OGP NAP, a commitment outcomes design workshop was conducted. This workshop aims to facilitate meaningful discussions, foster collaboration, and collectively design the outcomes and milestones for the commitments proposed by NGAs. The workshop was conducted in two (2) sessions on **July 25 & 28, 2023**. The first session was held online via Zoom videoconferencing and the second session was conducted in-person at the DBM Multi-Purpose Building.

07



Action Plan Development Workshop (NCR Leg)

A series of consultation activities was conducted to gather comments and recommendations from the CSOs on the ground. The first leg of the Action Plan Development Workshop was held at the Luxent Hotel, Quezon City on **August 17-18, 2023** and was participated by eight-nine (89) representatives from the government and CSOs.

08



Action Plan Development Workshop (Visayas Leg)

The second leg of the action plan development workshop series took place at Kew Hotel Tagbilaran, Bohol on **August 24, 2023** and was attended by eighty-three (83) various sectors representatives.

09



Action Plan Development Workshop (Mindanao Leg)

The third leg of the action plan development workshop series took place at Limketkai Hotel, Cagayan De Oro City on **August 31, 2023** and was attended by seventy-one (71) various sectors representatives.

10



Action Plan Development Workshop (Luzon Leg)

The last leg of the action plan development workshop series took place at Summit Hotel, Naga City on **September 21, 2023** and was attended by sixty-two (62) various sectors representatives.

11



OGP Consultation with Kids (UNICEF-led)

For the first time in the history of PH-OGP, the DBM together with UNICEF, Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Positive Youth Development Network (PYDN), and Unang Hakbang Foundation Inc. (UHF) engaged one of the most vulnerable and under consulted sectors of our society, children and adolescents. The workshop was held from **September 30 to October 1, 2023** at Novotel Araneta Cubao.

12



Commitment Refinement and Finalization Workshop

In partnership with the United Nations Development Program, a commitment refinement and finalization workshop was conducted to provide assistance to the commitment proponents to further refine the commitments based on feedback from the consultations. The workshop was held last **November 13-15, 2023** at the Bayleaf Intramuros and was participated by commitment holders representatives, CSOs, and policy experts.

13



Public Commenting Period

To ensure that the general public can provide their comments and inputs on the commitment proposals that will be enrolled in the 6th PH-OGP NAP, the Secretariat provided an online platform where anyone can provide their input. The public commenting period started last **November 28, 2023** and ended last **December 12, 2023**.

ANNEX H

Reasoned Response Form



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Updated Reasoned Response Form

Presidential Communications Office (PCO) - Freedom of Information-Program Management Office (FOI-PMO)

Commitment Name: Localization of the Freedom of Information (FOI) FOI Program

Program Name: FOI Program

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
Regional Consultations/Agency Consultations (NCR and Luzon Leg)	
1. Expedite lobbying work for the certification of FOI as an urgent legislative policy agenda of the President / Office of the President.	Doable by implementing milestone activity number 4 within the mid-year and end-term deliverable period; and by establishing coordinations with the legislative-executive development advisory council (LEDAC) and the Legislative Branch (Senate and House of Representative).
2. Add more pronounced disability inclusion efforts for the vulnerable and marginalized sectors; make the platform and portal more inclusive for PWDs.	Doable by implementing milestone activity number 9 specifically by exploring application of AI-powered voice-command function and feature into the Electronic FOI (eFOI) Portal.
3. Scale up PCOO-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2018-01 on the Reiteration of EO No. 2, s. 2016 for better FOI Program implementation and localization in LGUs; provide clear capacity development and local lobbying engagements with LGUs; and engage directly with Barangays.	Doable by implementing milestone activities number 5, 6, and 7; by principally revisiting the JMC and re-iterating said provisions alongside enhanced capacity-development engagements for the LGUs; prioritize targeted engagements with more barangays for succeeding local lobbying activities nationwide.
4. Conduct a more bottom-up approach of public consultations to form part of the national policies and programs on FOI.	Doable by conducting milestone activities number 3 and 10; by conducting more public consultations in partnership with key CSOs partners.
5. Provide more local dialect translations of the FOI Program manual/brochures and orientation.	Doable. To be considered in the Information, Education, Communications (IEC) campaigns of the FOI-PMO under milestone activity number 10.

Rafael

6. Post more FOI stories/data of government public services.	Doable. To be considered in the Information, Education, Communications (IEC) campaigns of the FOI-PMO under milestone activities number 9 and 10.
7. Explore researches on FOI to implement further best practices	Doable by conducting research related activities or incorporating research components to various FOI programs/activities in order to enhance policies for FOI implementation under milestone activity number 9.
Public Commenting Period (to be provided by the Secretariat)	
8. While we value that PCO is committing the passage of the FOI Law, in reality, this is out of the Executive's control. PCO can commit this all they want but this is within Congress' purview. For consideration, PCO can still retain the first four bullets of this milestone just to ensure that they are still making efforts to support the law's passage but not commit to it unless they identify someone from the Congress (one from the lower house and upper house respectively) to undertake the commitment of passing the law.	Doable and has been considered and applied in the updated commitment proposal by implementing milestone activity number 4 and by establishing connections with FOI Champions in the legislative branch (Senate and House of Representative) as early as the first quarter of 2024 to ensure that the office is still making efforts to support the passage of the bill while highly focusing on the localization of the FOI Program as the primary commitment.
9. Commit on the capacity being developed instead of the number and identify what it is they are consulted about (is it for the localization strategy, etc.).	Doable and has been considered and applied in the updated commitment proposal by implementing milestone activity number 5 focusing on the FOI Ordinance Writeshop among others.
10. What is the current baseline and what is the targeted increase being in the number of FOI Champions from national and local governments.	This is an ongoing effort to map the FOI Champions from national and local governments given the transitions of various partners and stakeholders.
Steering Committee Review/OGP Support Unit (to be provided by the Secretariat)	
11. Consider providing feedback channels and monitoring to support effective implementation of local FOI Ordinances.	Doable by implementing milestone activities number 3 and 5 and through memorandum advisories and consultations specifically designed to assist Local Government Units (LGUs) in their local FOI Program endeavors.
12. Consider directly engaging the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, and legislators in both houses of Congress into development and implementation of the commitment.	Doable by implementing milestone activity number 4 and by establishing connections with FOI Champions in the legislative branch (Senate and House of Representative) as early as the first quarter of 2024.

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13. It would be particularly valuable to target IECs to stakeholders with higher chances of using the eFOI, like researchers, media and civil society leaders.	Doable by implementing milestone activity number 10 which caters to the various sectors of the society.
14. In addition to the planned milestones, consider an effort to improve the appeals system, which is critical in ensuring that the public can seek redresses if the right information is not met. It is recommended that the government pursue a prioritization system to manage this challenge. For example, cases of denial of access to information on "high-profile" requests, in other words, those involving core policies affecting the most fundamental rights or with nationwide/encompassing effect could be the first ones to be reviewed and resolutions could be made publicly available.	Doable by implementing milestone activities number 3 and 10 and by conducting a public forum or consultation meeting which will enable the FOI-PMO to consolidate the suggestions and recommendations of various stakeholders.
15. Continue to support advocacy and education of legislators around the FOI law.	Doable through the implementation of milestone activity number 4 and creating a partnership with FOI Champions in both Senate and House of Representatives.
16. Access is not well-defined in the commitment description.	The commitment description focuses on the overarching aim of the FOI Program in order to outline the ultimate goal which is to rebuild and shape up the implementation of the FOI Program both at the national and local level; access is well-expounded in the commitment analysis section.
17. Refine proposed solution; frame statements for better appreciation of FOI.	Proposed solutions are well-refined and well-clustered according to the OGP principles such as Transparency, Accountability, and Participation (TAP) which, in all aspects, gives better appreciation of FOI.
18. Involve the Congress in implementing the legislation aspect of the commitment.	Doable and has been considered and applied in the updated commitment proposal by implementing milestone activity number 4 and by establishing connections with FOI Champions in the legislative branch (Senate and House of Representative) as early as the first quarter of 2024.
19. Show in which part of the commitment are the IRM recommendations from the previous cycles considered.	The updated commitment proposal considered the IRM recommendations from the previous cycles by exploring potential for innovation such as the AI-powered tools application in the eFOI Portal and the improved client satisfaction survey/feedback mechanism.
20. FOI should be embedded in the government process.	Doable and has been considered and applied in the updated commitment proposal by implementing milestone activity number 8 which is to increase embeddedness of FOI in government training programs.

Done

21. Explore/consider bringing in the Legislative (Senate or House of Representatives) as co-commitment holder for the legislation component to ensure that there are champions in both houses of Congress. If this cannot be done, instead of the passage of the FOI Law, the commitment can focus on increasing the number of LGUs adopting FOI versus the total number of LGUs in the Philippines.

Partner with other government institutions such as DILG, local chief executives (LCEs), and ULAP on the localization component of the commitment.

Doable and has been considered and applied in the updated commitment proposal by solely focusing the commitment on increasing the number of LGUs adopting FOI versus the total number of LGUs in the Philippines through partnerships with DILG, LCEs, and ULAP.





PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form
Supreme Court of the Philippines

Commitment Name: Establishment of More Justice Zones and Enhancement of Existing Ones
Program Name: Justice Zones

Table with 2 columns: Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions and Agency Response. It contains 5 rows of input and response pairs.

<p>6. Look into cost of litigation, which is a major issue in accessing justice</p>	<p>The cost of litigation has multiple factors (<i>e.g.</i>, paper reproduction, transportation to and from the courthouses to attend hearings, lawyers' fees, filing fees, etc.). Some of these factors can be addressed by revisions of the courts' procedural rules, which are currently being undertaken by the Supreme Court, including the rules on the conduct of video conference hearings. Thus, the solution may not be on the local level through the Justice Zones. Nevertheless, the Justice Zones may take this matter into account in preparing their activities. Indigents can also sue as such and be exempt from fees. Pursuing a claim under the Rules on Small Claims entails minimal fees.</p>
<p>Public Commenting Period (<i>to be provided by the Secretariat</i>)</p>	
<p>7. (<i>from OGP Support Unit</i>): "It is good to see a commitment that seeks to strengthen integration and coordination between different government units and services in order to improve access to justice. Given that the commitment rests on the success of existing justice zones, important information that is missing in the status quo section of the commitment is how existing zones have proven to be effective in terms of coordination. This is stated but not backed up with evidence, particularly from the perspective of end users. <i>How has the effectiveness of existing justice zones been measured and what can be gleaned from that in terms of their effectiveness for opening government?</i>"</p>	<p>The JSCC Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (MELP) was approved by the JSCC Principals in 2022. The MELP was envisioned to assess the progress of the Justice Zones. With the assistance of a developmental partner, GOJUST II, the MELP was rolled out to the existing justice zones. The MELP may need to be revisited to incorporate elements of open government specifically civic participation, transparency, and accountability.</p> <p>The TWG on Processes and Capacity Building is set to adopt a set of metrics for performance evaluation of each Justice Zone. This will be applied by 2024.</p>
<p>8. (<i>from OGP Support Unit</i>): "While the jail decongestion and psychosocial components of the commitment certainly have value, how these particular initiatives open up government is not clear from the commitment. This needs to be made clearer, open government angles added to these components, or removed from the commitment."</p>	<p>The jail decongestion and psychosocial components are the more definite programs in which CSOs can participate as implementing partners in justice zone projects.</p> <p>Anent jail decongestion initiatives, the CSOs envisioned to actively take part are those providing legal aid services to persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the local level. These CSOs' participation in the decongestion efforts is essential to assess the particular needs of the PDLs, advocate for their rights, and assist in addressing the overcrowding of prisons. Ultimately, the CSOs' legal assistance to the PDLs through the justice zones will improve the latter's access to justice.</p> <p>As regards the psychosocial component, the CSOs needed are those with expertise in psychosocial treatment. On their own, the government agencies involved in the justice zones may not be able to provide the necessary and effective psychosocial intervention needed by the PDLs to help them address the root causes behind their criminal offenses (<i>e.g.</i>, sale of drugs) and forestall their return to jail facilities. For this reason,</p>

	<p>the involvement of CSOs with expertise in this area is critical to the success of the justice zones' psychosocial program.</p> <p>All told, these two components (jail decongestion and psychosocial) are the concrete means by which the OGP principle of civic engagement or citizen participation can be integrated into the justice zone projects.</p> <p>Moreover, Puerto Princesa Justice Zone, the first Green Justice Zone, relies heavily on the community, principally the Barangays, for monitoring, reporting, and case build up for violations of environmental laws. They will be the frontliners.</p>
<p>9. <i>(from OGP Support Unit):</i> "Are there activities beyond the transparency boards envisioned? The template suggests that there will be "reach" to different citizens but transparency boards are not sufficient to achieve that. We would be happy to discuss this further on a call with the commitment holders."</p>	<p>The current idea for the transparency board is to provide the public with free and digitally available information on the progress of all the justice sector agencies within the Justice Zones, which is consistent with the transparency and accountability principles of OGP. Once these transparency boards are in place, civic society counterparts may look into the data and see where they can introduce initiatives or suggest improvements, towards the end of making the justice system more efficient through the collective efforts of government and non-government groups.</p> <p>The JSCC priority of raising consciousness/awareness of the public about Justice Zones and their activities are featured in the Philippine Development Plan Chapter as the solution to low public trust and confidence in the sector. A new thrust has been adopted to address this gap with a slew of IEC materials and activities. Effective use of social media is also a priority.</p>
10.	
11.	
Steering Committee Review <i>(to be provided by the Secretariat)</i>	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form
Supreme Court of the Philippines

Commitment Name: Improved Public Access to Quality, Free, or Affordable Legal Services
Program Name: Legal Aid Directory

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
Agency Consultations	
1. Consider areas that have no internet connection	Explore publishing hard copies available in the LGUs
2. Include details on the kinds of cases handled by the legal aid providers, as well as limitations in the jurisdictions	Included in the commitment.
3. cross-post the database on the websites of Local Government Units (LGU)	Adopted in the commitment.
4. consider using native languages/dialects in the LGU websites	Adopted in the commitment.
Public Commenting Period <i>(to be provided by the Secretariat)</i>	
5. Inclusion of paralegals in the community	Will endeavor to discuss the possibility with the relevant offices and committees in the Judiciary, but for now, the focus is to map out the available legal aid services available per locality.
6. consider providing means of accessibility for blind persons	To be discussed with the relevant offices in the Supreme Court, such as the Public Information Office.
7. Indicate services and specialization of lawyers	Adopted in the commitment.
8. Include names of lawyers who can provide training to communities	To be discussed with the various Supreme Court committees overseeing and organizing legal aid projects
9. Children participation (exposure of children and youth to supreme court work)	Not relevant to the commitment on the legal aid directory, but this may be addressed by the Justice Sector Coordinating Council. Justice Zones implement specific projects targeted towards children.
10. Work with Council for the Welfare of Children's <i>Makabata</i> Helpline	Not relevant to the commitment on the legal aid directory, but this may be addressed by the Justice Sector Coordinating Council. Justice Zones implement specific projects targeted towards children.
11. Include alternate lawyers groups (ALGs)	Adopted in the commitment.

12. Lack of access to internet/technology in the rural areas	Explore publishing hard copies, which will be available in the local government units. Parties can likewise head to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines offices for legal aid assistance.
13. Lack of information about the law/legal processes	Not relevant to the Legal Aid Directory commitment, but this may be addressed by the JSCC commitment.
14. Disconnect between the Supreme Court and the other regions.	Not relevant to the Legal Aid Directory commitment. The Supreme Court is already addressing this through stepped-up IEC campaigns, social media activities.
15. Lack of trust/tendency not to avail of legal processes/services. There is a tendency for marginalized sectors not to avail of the legal system because of different factors, e.g. the slow progress of cases and corruption in the judiciary. These also need to be addressed.	
16. How can we get legal information to evacuees in relocation sites?	
17. Addressing dialect/language barriers in the legal process. For example, the need to translate to English in courts where litigants/court staff are better able to communicate in Bisaya.	
18. Include a citizen's charter on appreciating the legal process. IEC to include visuals, e.g., "steps to follow" when filing complaints/cases posted in courts.	
19. Install an information desk in courts/install an "officer of the day."	
20. Explore text blasting/use FB Messenger, traditional media IECs, and 2-way radio in information dissemination	
21. More political will in calling the attention of judges to monitor caseloads and backlogs	Not relevant to the Legal Aid Directory commitment. The monitoring of caseloads and backlogs is included in the eCourt System v. 2.0 program.
22. Include CSO representatives in the monitoring and evaluation teams of the Court. Engage CSOs to help disseminate information using Court-provided templates of the presentations.	Not relevant to the Legal Aid Directory commitment, but consider engaging CSOs through the Public Information Office.
23. How can the Court harmonize BARMM-related laws?	Not relevant to the Legal Aid Directory commitment. This is being addressed through the efforts of the Philippine Judicial Academy's Department on Shari'ah and Islamic Laws and Jurisprudence.
24. Overall, potentially a good commitment, with the focus being to extend the mapping of available legal services in different localities to include community groups and include details about the services they provide. With the benefits of a mapping project, we recommend that the commitment include clear plans, activities, or related milestones around outreach to the public to make users aware of this new tool once it is complete.	Ongoing coordination with the relevant Supreme Court committees and the Public Information Office.
25. Include activities or milestones in relation to the referral system where legal aid providers will refer cases to other suitable providers.	The Mandatory Referral System is included in the commitment. Discussions are ongoing on how to implement this.

<p>26. The citizen participation component of the commitment would benefit from strengthening. The commitment refers to the need for citizen participation in order for the AI-enabled platform for legal services to learn what is needed from end users - and the usefulness of the whole mapping project should rest on this i.e., whether it responds to the needs of users - but there are no activities or milestones planned for soliciting citizen input or feedback. We suggest incorporating this.</p>	<p>The SC website utilizes a feedback form that allows users to email the Court. This can be further developed in coordination with the relevant offices and committees in the Supreme Court.</p>
<p><i>Steering Committee Review (to be provided by the Secretariat)</i></p>	
<p>27.</p>	
<p>28.</p>	
<p>29.</p>	
<p>30.</p>	



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form
Department of Budget and Management

Commitment Name: Digital Information and Monitoring Evaluation
Program Name: Digital Information and Monitoring Evaluation

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
Agency Consultations	
1. Conduct a CSO Forum and Design Thinking Workshop for the Project	Will Adapt, Scheduled on December 2023
2. The Scope is only limited to big projects	Possibly to expand, The expansion will be by phases
3. The website is not up and running	The DIME Project was already procured and possibly up and running by 2nd quarter of 2024
4. Include the up to Barangay level	Currently, the focus is solely on National Government Projects
5. Add functionalities with Citizen engagement (Crowdsourcing)	Possibly to be include on the future functionalities of the system
6. Include the scope of Government Project Housing	Possibly to be include this projects on the next expansion of scoping
7. The Accuracy of data for validation	The DIME will use the integration and automation related technology to reduce the discrepancy in data
8. Sustainability of the Project	This project is one of the prioritize of the government
9. Readiness of other government agencies to use the DIME	The System will rollout by phasing
10. Capacity of ICT Officers to used the DIME	The DIME Project Manager will ensure to conduct project trainings and advocacies
11. Community base validation of data to check if the project status is correct	This is not within the scope of the commitment
12. Accessibility of Monitoring tool	This Project is Accessible Both Government Agency and Publicly open

13. Integration of DIME to the other Social media platform	This is not within the scope of the commitment
14. Involvement of CSO's in the development of Project	Will adapt and involve CSO's partner in the development
15. Government modernize their monitoring system, but the response to the feedback still lacks in action.	Out of Coverage, but we will try to address concerns and feedback raised in DIME
16. Suggested to used infographics for ease of understanding to those without formal education	Will Adapt, To be reflected to the prototype
17. To adopt "Tagalog" language to reduce language barrier.	Possible to be adapt, To be add as Option "language"
19. Limitation of Access to public since some other parts of country still has not internet connection	This is not within the scope of the commitment
Additional based on meeting Nov 13, 2023 -Integration of other systems from other government agencies -To have on the update based on the concerns of the requestor and also to inform in public -Privacy concerns on the Data and images released in the Websites.	
Public Commenting Period <i>(to be provided by the Secretariat)</i>	
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Steering Committee Review <i>(to be provided by the Secretariat)</i>	

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PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Commitment Name: **Verification and Certification of List of Voters**

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
Agency Consultations 1. There should be an integration of the verification and certification of the voters list in the Voter Education	This is a great suggestion. At present, Voter Education/Information drive of COMELEC focuses mainly on registration and voting/choosing candidates wisely. Integrating topics about the importance of verification and certification of voters in our voter education program would be helpful as this would underscore the importance of having a clean and updated voters list.
2. The Election Registration Boards (ERBs) should be more efficient and diligent in performing verification and certification of voters	This is a great suggestion. The COMELEC at present is making efforts to further educate the ERBs/Election Officers as to their role in the verification and certification of list of voters. A Handbook on the Conduct of ERB to be disseminated to all ERB members nationwide, is currently being prepared by the Election and Barangay Affairs Department and the Education and Information Department of COMELEC. Further, COMELEC can allot more time/topics about the verification/certification of the voters list, in the training it regularly conducts among its Election Officers before the resumption of the <u>registration period</u> .
3. There is insufficient openness	The verification and certification (cleansing) of the voters list is the function of the ERB under the law. Involving accredited stakeholders in this process will provide the needed openness and transparency.

<p>4. The commitment does not focus on an overall quality of the voters list, but instead focus narrowly on identifying individual issues at the local level.</p>	<p>The voters list are verified and certified in the local level because it is the Election Officers, after the last ERB hearing, that prepare the voters list of their own cities or municipalities. These verified and certified lists will then be submitted to the Central Office for the updating of the national voters database.</p>
<p>5. The commitment could be dramatically strengthened by providing CSO with comprehensive national voters list from which they could assess the overall quality in terms of accuracy, up to date-ness and completeness.</p>	<p>The accredited CSOs are ACTUALLY provided by the COMELEC with a COMPLETE/FULL list of voters (in soft copy) which they will cascade to their local chapters and which shall be used to verify and certify the local list of voters.</p>



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Commitment Name: **Increasing the number of registered overseas voters**

What Is The Public Problem Trying To Address?

Low number of registered overseas voters

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
<p>Agency Consultations</p> <p>Expanding the franchise to a wider array of overseas voters enhances the inclusiveness of elections and is a valuable objective. <i>(feedback from NDI)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up online registration for overseas voters which is open and accessible to cater Filipinos who are far from the area where the Philippine embassies/consulates are located <i>(suggestion from CSO)</i> 	<p>The COMELEC’s Office for Overseas Voting’s existing Facebook page can be enhanced. A budget can be allocated to boost voter information campaign ads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital engagement – (e.g. leverage social media platforms to increase awareness about the importance of voter registration and participation in Philippine elections) • Online platforms with auto-fillable registration forms can be set up for new overseas voter registrants. There is an existing virtual frontline service for overseas voters but it is limited only to those with existing overseas voter registration records. • Set up online registration for voter registrants with existing voter registration
<p>From an open election data perspective, the EMB making specific commitments to publishing detailed information about the methods for overseas voter registration (including via post) and about the number, locations and dates for overseas voter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active collaboration with various Filipino communities, civil society organizations, and Filipino media operating abroad can be done • Active collaboration with various Filipino communities, civil society organizations, and Filipino media operating abroad can be done

<p>registration would be valuable. EMB should provide detailed systematic information on the number of individuals registered to vote overseas, including disaggregated by mechanism of voter registration, location, date, and broken down by demographics (gender and age at a minimum). Ideally this commitment would be an explicit reference to citizen election observer organizations being permitted to observe overseas voter registration. <i>(feedback from NDI)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out and continue to engage with Filipino communities abroad to encourage qualified Filipinos to register as a voter and exercise their right to vote
<p>Tie up with other government agencies engaged in Filipino migrant workers, immigrants, seafarers and initiate the inclusion of voter information campaigns in their PDOS <i>(suggestion from CSO)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an ongoing collaboration with the Department of Migrant Workers, OWWA, and Commission on Filipino overseas and registration sites for overseas voters are being conducted in their respective offices.
<p>Establish data sharing agreements with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs to share biometric data of voter registrants from the data of the national ID and passport <i>(suggestion from CSO)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is subject to compliance of the data privacy law. Biometric data sharing with the PSA may not be possible because the data contained in the national ID is not complete (there is no signature in the national ID). The current system for overseas voter registration requires a signature of the registrant. • Data sharing with the DFA from the biometric data contained in the Philippine passport may be possible. Agreement with the DFA can be made subject to compliance of the data privacy law



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form

Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office

Commitment Name: Procurement Diagnostics Hub

Program Name:

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response <i>As of 12 October 2023</i>	Agency Response <i>As of 13 December 2023</i>
Agency Consultations		
1. The Hub should be able to monitor the use of goods and services procure, may be it through a citizens watch perspective such as allowing the public to upload a photo in the case of infrastructure projects.	The GPPB-TSO shall explore how this feature would be incorporated in the Hub as it further develops.	Shall be included in the Hub's long-term plan.
2. Identify the percentage of budget allocated for public procurement projects in the data analytics	Reflected in data sets.	-
3. Incorporate data analytics in annual capacity development programs pending the completion of the Hub for awareness campaign.	Already incorporated in annual programs since the year 2020.	In view of the Office's shift to training request automation earlier this year, the Office now generates data analytics on Procuring Entities trainings ¹ real-time. This effort shall be incorporated in the Hub to offer a bigger picture in public procurement health, most especially during Senate Committee Hearings and the like.
4. Utilize data storytelling to help further entice readers, especially those who are not from the technical side.	Reflected in milestones.	-
5. Prepare data visuals using Power Bi and incorporate the same in data storytelling presentation.	Already in the transition process from Airtable to Power Bi.	The Hub shall make use of both Airtable and Power Bi for observations.

B-18

¹ Based on training requests received

<p>6. Pending the implementation of the GPPB-TSO automation system project and given the limited human resources in the GPPB-TSO at the moment, the Hub should prioritize within 4 years line agencies especially DPWH, DepED, and DOH.</p>	<p>Already part of the original plan.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>7. The Hub should go beyond identifying agencies who perform poorly in their procurement undertakings. Calling agencies to be accountable for their actions on the use of public funds is not enough for taxpayers.</p>	<p>The GPPB-TSO representative² explained that although the suggestion falls beyond the scope of the Office mandate, the same will explore ways on how to address this suggestion.</p>	<p>The Office is still in discussions with partners and clients on how the suggestion may be incorporated in the Hub or other entry points in other GPPB-TSO reforms.</p>
<p>8. The local government should be covered by the hub with the 4 years of the NAP.</p>	<p>The GPPB-TSO representative³ assured the group that the local government will be covered within the 4 years, provided that the latter would be able to submit their procurement reports and that the timeline for the development of the automation system will push through as planned. Nevertheless, the Hub would definitely be able to cover at least some local government units within Metro Manila and that there is a possible collaboration with various Mayors for the CY 2024 Procurement Forum where they will form pledge in public procurement studies.</p>	<p>The Office has been coordinating with the Department of the Interior and Local Government to follow through on the GPPB-TSO request letters in 2019, 2020, and 2022 regarding the inclusion of procurement compliance as an additional criteria on the grant of the Seal of Good Local Governance.</p>
<p>9. Instead of having an online forum feature in the Hub, there should be a separate and independent platform where reports or complaints on public procurement be lodged to.</p>	<p>The GPPB-TSO representative⁴ took note of the suggestion and explained that given the limited human resources in the Office, the Office finds it best to streamline its work platforms to avoid overlooking of reports and complaints. This consideration was made which arrived at the integrated online forum feature in the Hub. Nevertheless, the Office shall explore the possibility of having the said suggestion. Currently, the Office is considering utilizing Airtable for this purpose.</p>	<p>Upon further studies and testing, the Office concluded to use Airtable for this purpose and pursue streamline of works.</p>

B-18

² Regina Maria Nina M. Ruiz

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

<p>10. Any digitization initiatives made by the government would be put to waste unless the government appoints competent public officials and employees.</p>	<p>The GPPB-TSO representative⁵ shared that the GPPB-TSO proposal for the amendment of Republic Act (RA) No. 9184 includes professionalization of public procurement which involves the creation of plantilla positions based on a competency framework since the same Office saw through its studies, consistent with studies made by development partners, the need to appoint competent public procurement practitioners in the conduct of public procurement undertakings to ensure efficient use of public funds.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>11. The local government will not be able to make use of the Hub if the Department of Information and Communications Technology won't resolve the problem on internet connectivity; and if the Procurement Service (PS) won't be able to procure reliable laptops and computers.</p>	<p>The GPPB-TSO representative took note of the concerns and assured the group that the undersigned will explore other options on how the information available in the Hub would be available at their local level pending the concerns on internet connectivity, and laptops and computers procured by PS.</p>	<p>As of the moment, the Office is committed to continuously distribute public procurement care packages during local government trainings on public procurement. This shall include new items such as a briefer on procurement information available in the Hub.</p>
<p>12. The GPPB-TSO should expand its structure so that the same would be able to designate a sole Office to handle local government procurement matters per sector.</p>	<p>The GPPB-TSO representative shared that the GPPB-TSO proposal for the amendment of RA No. 9184 includes professionalization of public procurement which involves the expansion of GPPB-TSO structure for purposes of effectively addressing the concerns of more than 200,000 Procuring Entities by sector.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>13. Although the Hub is already a strong step in strengthening the relationship between governments and the public, it would be better if local governments would actually use the procurement information. How can local governments effectively use the information?</p>	<p>The GPPB-TSO shall explore how could the Hub be further developed to reflect the suggestion. Currently, the Office is studying the trends in public procurement activities in selected local government units within Metro Manila to identify an entry point.</p>	<p>The Interim Review of Procurement Reports serve as the guide of local governments in enhancing its public procurement undertakings as this include practices they may incorporate in their Office. Using data storytelling techniques and incorporation of mother tongue, the local government can have better understanding on the procurement health of their area.</p>
<p>Public Commenting Period (to be provided by the Secretariat)</p>		
<p>14. It seems like what this commitment is trying to address is a government problem, not a problem affecting its stakeholders. Can we</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>The GPPB-TSO cannot timely nor effectively perform its mandate without procurement information. Hence, this government problem</p>

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⁵ Ibid

<p>identify instead the current dilemma faced by the public/stakeholders brought by that the disintegration of procurement data related to transparency and accountability?</p>		<p>likewise affects its stakeholders. Currently, spotlighted public transactions concerning procurement would create different kinds of noise and the Office would take time in generating data on this to help conclude meetings, media queries, hearings and the like. But with the Hub, it is expected that data generation would be an ease especially during investigations.</p> <p>Commitment form revised.</p>
<p>15. How can GPPB-TSO enforce a stringent measure to prevent corruption in government procurement?</p>	-	<p>The GPPB and its TSO as a policy Office provides capacity building activities aimed to train Procuring Entities so they know how to enforce procurement policies and best practices that prevent corruption in government procurement.</p>
<p>16. Where do we see PS-PhilGEPS helping in this commitment?</p>	-	<p>PhilGEPS can help by sharing with the GPPB-TSO their procurement data that cannot be obtained from procurement reports.</p>
<p>17. What is the difference of the Procurement Diagnostics Hub to the PhilGEPS portal? Is there an interface between these two platforms that's why it is stated "centralizing procurement information"?</p>	-	<p>Currently, the PhilGEPS serves as the central repository of procurement data which concerns raw data encoded by Procuring Entities and suppliers themselves.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Hub offers procurement information through the generation of procurement data analytics, an Interim Review of Procurement Performance that identifies the areas of improvement and best procurement practices, and data-storytelling techniques for easy understanding by the readers. All of these sourced from procurement reports submitted to the GPPB-TSO and available procurement data from the PhilGEPS.</p> <p>May I request that the 2nd question be elaborated.</p>
<p>18. How is this different with the procurement information being published in government websites and in the PhilGEPS portal?</p>	-	<p>PhilGEPS portal is where Procuring Entities, as well as suppliers, contractors, manufacturers, distributors and consultants, are mandated to</p>

Bo-18

		register and use the system in the conduct of procurement of goods, civil works and consulting services. On the other hand, the Procurement Diagnostics Hub serves as an avenue where the public can access procurement information on the latest trends in public procurement health through the generation of procurement data analytics, an Interim Review of Procurement Performance that identifies the areas of improvement and best procurement practices, and data-storytelling techniques for easy understanding by the readers.
Steering Committee Review (to be provided by the Secretariat)		
19. Frame the problem as something that affects the public as the initially identified problem seems to be more of an agency problem.	-	Commitment form revised.
20. Align the proposed Procurement Diagnostics Hub to respond to the revised public problem.	-	Commitment form revised.
21. Include in the commitment narrative the demand side (public's perspective) of the Procurement Diagnostics Hub.	-	Commitment form revised.
22. Provide an avenue where CSOs or the citizens can identify the datasets are going to be published in the Hub.	-	Commitment form revised. Kindly note that the target datasets should be within the scope of existing procurement data sources from PhiGEPs and submitted procurement reports.
23. The design of the Hub should be user-friendly for ease of data utilization.	-	Already part of the original plan.
24. Publish data using the Open Contracting Data Standard.	-	Commitment form revised. Already booked for meeting consultations with OGP partners from the same field.

Bo-18



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form

Department of the Interior and Local Government – Support for the Local Governance Program

Commitment Name: DRIVE: Driving Responsive and Innovative Participation of Vulnerable Sectors towards Empowerment in Local Governance

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
Agency Consultations	
1. Does the commitment take into account the participation of the marginalized sector?	The government projects which are being subjected to Third-Party Monitoring or TPM are located in peace-challenged barangays. These peace-challenged barangays are also considered marginalized.
2. Does the commitment consider the actual political scenario on the ground? (For context, LGUs sometimes have preferential treatment to some CSOs/groups for the accreditation process and representation to LDC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A CSO suggested for DILG to regularly publish the list of DILG-accredited CSOs to avoid the "allegedly" usual practice of LGUs in building a family of CSOs for easier representation</i> 	Improving the quality of the spaces provided by local development councils (LDCs) is the utmost objective of the Participatory Government Metrics (PGM) deployment. The PGM is designed to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of LDCs within the context of the political situation on the ground.
3. Suggestion to strengthen/promote children and youth participation in the implementation of the commitment	All CSOs regardless of their focus sectors are welcome and encouraged to participate in the implementation of the commitment.
4. Does the DILG conduct capacity building for accredited CSOs?	Yes, the DILG conducts capacity building for accredited CSOs. The SLGP has an ongoing program meant to provide capacity building for CSOs in the local special bodies (not including Peace and Order Council). Non-accredited CSOs are oftentimes participants to DILG activities which provide IECs relative to specific programs such as Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP), conduct of CSO forums, and conduct of Dagyaw Town Hall sessions.
5. Strengthen monitoring for SGLG	We need clarification on the matter.

6. Include metrics [for PGM] such as gender quotas, children's participation in tools developed and customized for local development councils	For consideration.
7. Creation of CSO Desk is not effective (Assigned CSO Desk Officers are not familiar on how to lobby for CSO participation in governance)	We note the concern on the effectiveness of CSO Desk. We subscribe to the further strengthening of and improving the CSO Desk Officers in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities.
8. Does it require exerting effort to find and accredit organizations of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups?	The effort to support persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are supported in the local development councils (which is the subject of Participatory Governance Metrics).
9. Commended the commitment's focus to strengthening LDCs	The DILG recognizes the importance of local development councils as they are the primary participation institution in local governments for planning, budget formulation, policy-making, and evaluation. This ensures that citizens have a seat and a voice in local governance processes. Complementing this, the Commitment aims to not only protect the civic space but also deepen the quality of civic participation in local governance.
10. Possible duplication of efforts between the LGU and DILG	The local government units (LGUs) are primarily responsible for the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of its projects and activities. On the other hand, the DILG, being an oversight body of LGUs, is responsible for ensuring that LGUs are implementing M&E. The DILG also provides further assistance to LGUs on this matter.
11. How does PGM work and how does it contribute to the Commitment's objectives?	<p>PGM is a diagnostic tool which aims to assess the quality of participation in government programs. For the purpose of this commitment, PGM will be used to assess the "participatory-ness" of LDCs.</p> <p>The PGM is seen by the Department as a strategic tool to pursue outcomes of strengthening local governance institutions, deepening participatory governance, and enabling social accountability.</p>
12. Possible corruption in the co-implementation of programs/projects	<p>The implementation of TPM is in accordance with the established rules and regulations as mandated by the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Section 75 of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of FY 2023 which allows national government agencies to partner with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in implementing certain programs and projects. The 2023 GAA also provides the

	<p>conditions on transferring public funds to a CSO in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. COA Circular No. 2007 - 01 provides the revised guidelines in the granting utilization, accounting and auditing of the funds released to Non-Governmental Organizations/People's Organizations (NGOs/POs); 3. Section 4, "Annex A" of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Resolution No. 12-2007 provides the general guidelines on non-governmental organization participation in the public procurement; 4. Section 53.11 of the 2016 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act states that when an appropriation law or ordinance earmarks an amount to be specifically contracted out to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Procuring Entity may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with an NGO, subject to the guidelines issued by the GPPB for the purpose (Appendix 14 for the Guidelines on Non-Governmental Organization Participation in Public Procurement) 5. Memorandum Circular 2022-005 or the Guidelines on the Accreditation of Civil Society Organizations to Co-implement DILG Programs and Projects
13. Increase the number of CSOs interested to participate in TPM/OGP Commitment to broaden its reach and scope	For consideration.
14. Include CSO representatives in M&E teams in all DILG-led projects and programs	We design M&E in such a way that its framework will always consider CSOs' participation.
15. Inclusion of BARMM in the accreditation process for CSOs	BARMM is not excluded from the CSO Accreditation by LGUs. However, BARMM will have to issue its own guidance to its covered LGUs.
16. Whole-of-government approach: DILG to work with other government agencies to promote and implement TPM	This is what the Commitment also aims to achieve—for the National Government to adopt and replicate TPM in the monitoring of projects under their purview.
17. Tedious accreditation process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for CSO Accreditation • Make CSO Accreditation faster 	This CSO accreditation process is beyond the scope of the proposed NAP of the DILG but these are noted.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the commitment deal with the actual political scenario on the ground? (For context, LGUs sometimes have preferential treatment to some CSOs/groups for the accreditation process and representation to LDC) • A CSO suggested that DILG regularly publish the list of DILG-accredited CSOs to avoid the "allegedly" usual practice of LGUs to build a family of CSOs for easier representation 	
Public Commenting Period <i>(to be provided by the Secretariat)</i>	
18.	
Steering Committee Review <i>(to be provided by the Secretariat)</i>	
19. Include LGUs as partner agencies	Considered. Partner local government units of CSO Commitment Holders for this commitment are now included as part of the <i>Supporting Stakeholders</i> .
20. Recommendation to expand coverage to include SDG-related projects in partnership with NEDA	Considered. The narrative of the commitment was edited to incorporate this suggestion.



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form

Department of Finance - Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (DOF-PH-EITI)

Commitment Name:

Subnationalizing Extractives Transparency - Ushering Participatory Governance (SET-UP-GO)

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
Agency Consultations 1. Cooperation and participation of the extractive industries (THORN Category)	<p>To boost cooperation and participation, the PH-EITI will focus on fostering multi-stakeholder engagement by bringing together government agencies, civil society organizations, local communities, and extractive industry representatives.</p> <p>To further encourage extractive industries, PH-EITI will continuously focus on capacity building programs and raise awareness about PH-EITI and its benefits through sub-national workshops, roadshows, and engagement activities.</p> <p>PH-EITI subnationalization will enjoin the mining industry to cooperate due to the issuance of DENR AO No. 2017-07, which directs mining contractors to participate in the initiative. Meanwhile, subnationalization incentivizes the oil, gas, and coal industries to participate in PH-EITI, especially with efforts to streamline data collection and submission through digitalization.</p>

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
2. Policy GAP on Financial Income Shares (Fair Shares) (THORN Category)	<p>With respect to the fiscal regime as well as other fees set by the government, such as the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP), the policy gap on financial income shares (fair shares) is a matter of Congress, who ultimately decides what the fiscal regime looks like. However, the present fiscal regime currently has income tax, value-added tax, excise tax, and other taxes. There are also mandatory expenditures and funds such as the Annual Safety and Health Program (ASHP) and the Annual Social Development Management Program (ASDMP).</p>
3. Politics on the Ground (THORN Category)	<p>Local empowerment through subnationalization can empower local communities and governments by giving them more control over resource management decisions. This empowerment can help address historical grievances, enhance local participation, and reduce feelings of marginalization.</p> <p>The subnationalization efforts will ensure strong civil society oversight and participation in the different facets of mining operations and their downstream impacts. Through grievance mechanism,</p>
4. It will invite the on-the-ground CSOs and stakeholders (ROSE Category)	<p>The PH-EITI through subnationalization, will ensure effective engagement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local civic actors, including the media, academe, law groups, CSOs, POs, and community representatives • Affected sectors such as IPs, mining communities, and women, among others • Excluded sectors such as labor unions and small-scale miners
5. Capacity building for participating CSOs (BUD Category)	<p>Citizen engagement and participation</p> <p>Build the capacity of communities to use extractive data, enabling them to actively participate in governance mechanisms and provide substantial inputs to the participatory planning and budgeting activities of LGUs and NGAs.</p>

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
6. Involve the CSOs in the monitoring and gathering of lacking data (BUD Category)	<p>Mainstreaming and Digitalization PH-EITI intends to devise a centralized platform that integrates government agency databases to simplify reporting, data collection, validation, and data disclosure in the extractive sector.</p>
7. Relevant policy formulation (BUD Category)	<p>Developed policy recommendations using EITI insights To reinforce the value of EITI for local governance, local authorities will also undergo training on participatory budgeting and policymaking guided by EITI data.</p>
8. Conduct of an actual stakeholders' meeting for post-assessment and corrective measures (BUD Category)	<p>Establish a monitoring and evaluation system Effective monitoring and evaluation processes are essential for ensuring that subnational extractive industries are managed in a way that is sustainable, effective, and beneficial for all stakeholders involved. This will also ensure the continuous improvement of subnational governance structures in the extractives sector.</p>
Public Commenting Period (to be provided by the Secretariat)	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
Steering Committee Review (to be provided by the Secretariat)	
14. Include local development councils (LDCs) in capacity-building alongside LGUs and CSOs.	<p>Capacity-building will be done with respect to existing structures through LDCs. This is now integrated into the second expected output under the "improve capacity for reporting extractives data" milestone.</p>
15. Cite the reason for the non-participation of mining companies in EITI	<p>Context was provided on "Why is there limited stakeholder participation?" explaining the reasons why some mining companies do not participate with EITI due to "being non-operational, uncontactable, or failure to comply with their respective templates."</p>

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
16. Include how the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) fund is used and how the Multi-Partite Monitoring Teams (MMTs) can be included or identified in the LDCs, if possible.	Additional information on what SDMP is used for is included in the paragraph on "Transparency in Financial Flows."



PHILIPPINE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PH-OGP)

Reasoned Response Form

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

Commitment Name: Stakeholders Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals

Program Name: Stakeholders Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
<p>Agency Consultations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The problem statement should include/present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the reason why we need to strengthen collaboration through the Chamber; and - that partnerships built through the Chamber can be used to leverage the efforts of both non-government and government organizations. 	<p>Adopted.</p> <p>As part of a whole-of-the-nation approach, the Stakeholders’ Chamber was formed to serve as the venue for collaboration among non-government organizations, businesses, civil society organizations (including trade unions and professional associations), media, academe, and development partners and the government. Through collaboration, members can form partnerships, pool together efforts, initiate programs and activities, and complement and leverage each other’s efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Create separate working group specifically for the youth and the children. 	<p>Not adopted.</p> <p>Currently, the Stakeholders’ Chamber is organized with six working groups comprised of four sectoral and two functional working groups, namely: (1) Economic, (2) Social, (3) Environment, (4) Peace Security and Governance, (5) Communication and Advocacy, and (6) Measurement and Monitoring. This set-up mirrors the technical working groups of the Subcommittee on the SDGs (SC-SDGs) to better align the program, activities, and projects in the priority sectors of the government.</p> <p>Each TWG will ensure that the concerns of vulnerable groups, including youth and children, are addressed in the Chamber.</p>

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
3. There is a lack of awareness of the SDGs especially at the grassroots level.	It is recognized that SDG awareness at the local level is still low. For this reason, one of the functions of the Chamber as specified in its Terms of Reference (TOR) is to promote SDG awareness through outreach and advocacy initiatives. The recent formation of the working groups within the Chamber includes a communication and advocacy functional working group as an initial step towards promoting the SDGs all over the country.
4. Information and activities relative to the Stakeholders Chamber are centralized only in Metro Manila and are perceived as high-level in representation.	This is recognized as the Chamber is still relatively new. Majority of the current Chamber members are based in Metro Manila. Only 17/60 members are located in the regions. To address this, the Chamber Roadmap includes the initiative to further expand the Chamber through the call for membership every three years. The expansion also aims to have all sectors of society be represented in the Chamber, especially the most vulnerable groups.
Public Commenting Period	
<i>No public comment was received through the PH-OGP website</i>	Not applicable.
Steering Committee Review <i>(to be provided by the Secretariat)</i>	
5. On Item 1 of Problem Definition (What problem does the commitment aim to address?) - Elaborate on the Chamber's connection with Regional Development Councils (RDCs), and subnational participatory bodies (set it up in the problem definition).	Adopted. Included this sentence in the problem statement: <i>Further, stakeholders' participation at the regional level will be expanded through the RDCs.</i>
- Specify exactly how NEDA will further strengthen the Chamber to ensure maximum inclusivity and policy coherence between government agencies and non-government stakeholders.	Adopted. NEDA is working on strengthening the Chamber by: (1) organizing the members according to the initiatives and focus sector of their organizations, (2) expanding the membership geographically and by sector representation, and (3) localizing the Chamber.
6. Include inclusion criteria at the regional/sub-national level: is the chamber open for all interested groups and actors?	Adopted. Membership in the Chamber is by application, open to civil society organizations (CSOs), private entities, and vulnerable groups located anywhere in the Philippines. The application is governed by a set of merit criteria that ensures legitimate operation, proper representation, and productive engagement, among others.
7. Could the commitment enhance the government responsiveness results dimension (accountability)?	Adopted. The Chamber will also serve as a platform for private entities, CSOs and other non-state organizations to advocate better SDG governance

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
	(greater accountability) and improved government responsiveness to SDG-related actions and initiatives
<p>8. On Commitment description Item 3 (What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?), explain how “greater public awareness of the SDGs” can be achieved.</p>	<p>Adopted. As specified in the Stakeholders’ Chamber’s TOR, one of its strategic objectives is to conduct outreach and communication. This can be achieved by self-organizing a team within the chamber to conduct outreach to prospective members and promote awareness of the SDGs. Currently, the Chamber is organizing a communication and advocacy working group that will support NEDA SDG Secretariat in expanding SDG awareness by synergizing the efforts of the government and the partners from the non-government organizations.</p>
<p>9. On Commitment Analysis Item 3 (How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?; How does the commitment narrative better reflect when “regular and deeper level of engagement” is being achieved?)</p>	<p>Adopted. When regular and deeper engagement is established through the Chamber, the government will be able to establish a whole-of-society approach to achieving the country’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.</p>
<p>10. Consider adding metrics on the Chamber ‘participation’ element (evaluation is midterm 2023-2025 – can the narrative and metrics elaborate what would be evaluated?)</p>	<p>Adopted. Indicated the following under Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of Chamber from 2023-2025 based on its three-year roadmap evaluated • Chamber’s succeeding roadmap/Plan for 2026-2028 drafted
<p>11. On commitment description. Consider if the Chamber can adapt and adopt some of the OGP Participation and co-creation standards.</p> <p>Link: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/ogp-participation-co-creation-standards/</p>	<p>The following are the roles and functions of the Stakeholders’ Chambers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate partnership projects between non-government stakeholders and the government; 2. Assist in funneling non-government actions towards SDG-relevant initiatives through pledging sessions by non-government actors; 3. Setting and communicating clear engagement objectives, and creating an engagement design and plan; 4. Consolidate inputs and feedback from different stakeholders through reports, program, and partnership recommendations and position statements for consideration of the Sub-Committee on the SDGs <p>Based on the above, NEDA agrees that the OGP participation and co-creation standards can be adopted in the following manner:</p>

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 1: Establishing a space for ongoing dialogue and collaboration between government, civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders. - <i>Pursuant to DBCC-SDC Resolution No. 2, the Stakeholders' Chamber was created along with the four TWGs to support the Sub-Committee on the SDGs by providing inputs to the SC-SDG. In particular, the Chamber is the platform where non-government organizations, businesses and civil society organizations and the government collaborate and leverage each other's efforts to ensure a whole-of-the nation approach on advancing the SDGs.</i> • Standard 2: Providing open, accessible, and timely information about activities and progress within a member's participation in OGP. - <i>This goal is addressed through the development of the Web Application for the Stakeholders' Chamber, this goal is being addressed. This is also met through the conduct of regular Chamber meetings.</i> • Standard 3: Providing inclusive and informed opportunities for public participation during co-creation of the action plan. - <i>Similar to the NAP of the PH-OGP, the three-year Roadmap of the Chamber contains planned activities and projects of the Chamber in the next three years.</i> • Standard 4: Providing a reasoned response and ensuring ongoing dialogue between government, civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders as appropriate during co-creation of the action plan. - <i>The Chamber has regular semestral meetings where members can request the inclusion of agenda items for discussion as well raise any concerns during the meeting</i>

Stakeholder Inputs / Questions / Comments / Suggestions	Agency Response
	<p data-bbox="1189 106 2065 208"><i>proper. An informal core group¹ was also formed to ensure that the Chamber is able to act more swiftly on matters that require their attention or action.</i></p> <ul data-bbox="1144 247 2065 561" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1144 247 2065 349">• Standard 5: Providing inclusive and informed opportunities for ongoing dialogue and collaboration during implementation and monitoring of the action plan. <li data-bbox="1144 388 2065 561">- <i>The Chamber, through the TWGs, will be partners of the SC-SDG in accelerating the SDGs as they implement their Stakeholders' Chamber Roadmap. As partners, they will also be consulted in the development and monitoring of the strategic and indicator framework.</i>
<p data-bbox="163 636 1104 738">12. On the Chamber's TOR and Roadmap. Clarification was sought if the TOR and Roadmap were published. Without public availability of these, it is hard to determine what the specific future steps will be.</p>	<p data-bbox="1128 605 2065 667">Information related to the Chamber and the guidelines on how to join the Chamber are available to the public through the NEDA SDG Website.</p> <p data-bbox="1128 707 2065 769">The official publication of the TOR and the three-year roadmap is being considered to promote transparency.</p>
<p data-bbox="163 1012 1104 1075">13. On the development of a web application for the Chamber. Consider the example from Georgia (https://sdg.gov.ge/intro)</p>	<p data-bbox="1128 785 2065 918">If the intention is to show the overall performance of the country on the SDGs, we also have similar websites that are being maintained by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and NEDA. These websites can be accessed through the following:</p> <p data-bbox="1128 958 1503 989">PSA: https://psa.gov.ph/sdg</p> <p data-bbox="1128 997 2051 1028">NEDA: https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/about-sustainable-development-goals/</p> <p data-bbox="1128 1067 2065 1296">The web application will be developed initially to attend to the needs of the member Stakeholders' Chamber as a one-stop shop for all relevant information for SDG implementation in the Philippines. Further, the web app will serve as a tool for NEDA and the SC-SDG Stakeholders' Chamber members to share data and information on SDG-related programs, projects, investments, and opportunities for partnership and financing for the SDGs.</p>

¹ The informal core group is composed of the Working Group Leads, the Chairperson, Co-Chairperson and the NEDA SDG-Secretariat.



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