

Independent Reporting Mechanism

Midterm Review: The
Republic of Korea

2023–2027

Open
Government
Partnership



Independent
Reporting
Mechanism

Key Findings

Implementation of the Republic of Korea's 2023–2027 action plan advanced across all commitments. During the first two years, commitments amended whistleblower legislation, launched an online one-stop-shop for administrative appeals, and released new government data. This steady progress is commendable given the political turmoil and change in government between 2024 and 2025. In December 2025, Korea refreshed its action plan following a year-long co-creation process. It did not introduce new commitments or significantly amend existing commitments. Rather, revisions focused on strengthening implementation of pending commitments. New milestones were added to strengthen the public participation dimensions of Commitments 7 and 8. The refresh process suggests a need to continue widening participation during the remainder of the action plan period, raising awareness of open government.

About the Report

The **Open Government Partnership (OGP)** is a multi-stakeholder initiative focused on improving government transparency, ensuring opportunities for citizen participation in public matters, and strengthening mechanisms for public accountability. OGP brings together government and civil society champions of reform who believe governments are more effective and credible when they open their doors to public input and oversight.

The **Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM)** is OGP's accountability arm and the main means of tracking progress in participating countries. Since 2011, the IRM has provided independent, evidence-based, and objective reporting to hold OGP members accountable and support their open government efforts. This is done through reports and timely recommendations during key moments in the action plan cycle.

The IRM provides a **Midterm Review** to countries undertaking four-year action plans, who are expected to undertake a refresh process at the two-year mark. The refresh process is an opportunity for countries to take stock of implementation progress thus far and update the action plan as needed. The Midterm Review analyzes significantly amended or new commitments (Section I), provides a general update on implementation progress (Section II), and evaluates the refresh process (Section III).

Section I. Action Plan Refresh

In 2025, the Republic of Korea reviewed the implementation progress of its sixth OGP action plan and refreshed its commitments through a year-long co-creation. The government did not introduce new commitments or significantly amend existing commitments. Instead, revisions focused on strengthening the implementation of pending commitments.

The Ministry of Interior and Safety (MOIS) led the midterm refresh process alongside the 4th Open Government Committee (OGC), Korea's OGP multi-stakeholder forum (MSF). The refresh process included five OGC meetings (December 2024–December 2025),¹ a public contest soliciting commitment proposals (March 2025),² a World Open Government Week Public-Private Joint International Forum, at which civil society and youth representatives provided input on the action plan refresh (May 2025),³ and an online public comment period for the draft revised action plan (October–November 2025).⁴ The contest yielded only one proposal, submitted by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries,⁵ while the public comment period yielded only three comments.⁶ Civil society members of the OGC provided the bulk of public input that informed the refresh process.

Rather than introducing new commitments or significantly amending existing commitments, the government and the OGC focused on clarifying existing commitments and supporting their implementation. For Commitment 7 on preventing hate speech and Commitment 8 on a universal design system, new milestones were added to make participation more explicit and practical, creating repeated opportunities for dialogue, evidence-gathering, and policy reflection.⁷ The anticipated outcome for Commitment 7 was also revised from “Enhancing the capacity of government to respond to hate speech through communication with the public” to “Develop the basis for hate speech response through communication with the public.” The National Human Rights Commission made this revision to strengthen the commitment’s public participation dimension and align it more clearly with open government principles.⁸ Additionally, a Commitment 1 milestone was strengthened from aiming to “advocate for” to “pursue” legislation.

Overall, MOIS noted that the light-touch refresh reflected the soundness of the original action plan, as well as the desirability of consistently implementing mid-to-long-term policy plans.⁹ According to a civil society member of the OGC, this also reflected the limited number of public proposals received during the refresh process. He suggested that Korea could strengthen its next co-creation process with more opportunities for participation beyond the OGC itself, supported by outreach that begins earlier and leverages more diverse communication channels.¹⁰

¹ Open Government Committee Meeting Records, Innovation 24,

https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsListPage.do?board_id=242&menu_id=593.

² “제 6 차 열린정부 실행계획 개정 국민제안 공모 안내” [Information on Public Proposal Contest for the Revision of the 6th Open Government Action Plan], Innovation 24, 24 February 2025,

https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsView.do?miv_pageNo=2&miv_pageSize=15&LISTOP=%3D%3Bmiv_pageNo%3D1%3B_SERIALISVALID%3DT%3Bmiv_pageSize%3D10%3B&mode=W&contents_id=17780&board_id=242&searchkey=T&searchtxt=&addon_year=&pcaa=&searchkey2=&searchtxt2=&search_title_content=&search_title_content_cal=&search_agencyNm=&cldr_begin_dttm=&cldr_end_dttm=&date_range_cldr=&search_regdate_begin=&search_regdate_end=&addon_year_begin=&addon_year_end=&search_task=&search_agency=&date_range=&menu_id=593.

³ “2025 세계열린정부주간(Open Government Week) 민관합동 국제포럼 개최 결과” [Summary of the 2025 World Open Government Week Public-Private Joint International Forum], Innovation 24, 5 June 2025,

https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsView.do?miv_pageNo=1&miv_pageSize=15&LISTOP=%3D%3Bmiv_pageNo%3D1%3B_SERIALISVALID%3DT%3Bmiv_pageSize%3D10%3B&mode=W&contents_id=18059&board_id=242&searchkey=T&searchtxt=&addon_year=&pcaa=&searchkey2=&searchtxt2=&search_title_content=&search_title_content_cal=

[&search_agencyNm=&cldr_begin_dttm=&cldr_end_dttm=&date_range_cldr=&search_regdate_begin=&search_regdate_end=&addon_year_begin=&addon_year_end=&search_task=&search_agency=&date_range=&menu_id=593.](#)

⁴ Open Government Committee Meeting Records, Innovation 24.

⁵ “제 6 차 열린정부 실행계획 신규 제안 과제 평가 결과 공고” [Evaluation of Proposals for New Commitments for Revised 6th Action Plan], Innovation 24, 15 July 2025,

https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsView.do?miv_pageNo=1&miv_pageSize=15&LISTOP=%3D%3Bmiv_pageNo%3D1%3B_SERIALISVALID%3DT%3Bmiv_pageSize%3D10%3B&mode=W&contents_id=18150&board_id=242&searchkey=T&searchtxt=&addon_year=&pcaa=&searchkey2=&searchtxt2=&search_title_content=&search_title_content_cal=&search_agencyNm=&cldr_begin_dttm=&cldr_end_dttm=&date_range_cldr=&search_regdate_begin=&search_regdate_end=&addon_year_begin=&addon_year_end=&search_task=&search_agency=&date_range=&menu_id=593.

⁶ “토론게시판” [Discussion Board], Innovation 24, <https://sotong.go.kr/front/discuss/discussListPage.do>.

⁷ Yohan Chang (Civil Society Member of the Open Government Committee), interview by IRM researcher, March 2026.

⁸ Ministry of the Interior and Safety, interview by IRM researcher, March 2026; Chang, interview.

⁹ Ministry of the Interior and Safety, interview.

¹⁰ Chang, interview.

Section II. Implementation Update¹

Implementation of Korea’s sixth action plan progressed as planned across all commitments, with only minor adjustments in the timeline of three commitments. Commitments identified as promising in the Action Plan Review have amended whistleblower legislation, launched an online one-stop-shop for administrative appeals, and released new government data. The action plan’s steady progress is commendable given the political turmoil and change in government in 2024 and 2025.

All action plan commitments made headway during the first two years of implementation. Only Commitments 2, 4, and 5 saw minor timeline adjustments. Below is a high-level and informal overview of the implementation status of commitments identified as promising in the Action Plan Review.² This action plan’s steady progress during a period of political turmoil in Korea, which included an impeachment of the sitting President and subsequent change of administration in 2025, speaks to the institutional resilience of Korea’s open government institutions.

Implementation benefited from public engagement, albeit varied by commitment. A civil society member of the Open Government Committee (OGC) reported that beyond the committee, implementers incorporated participation channels like public-civic forums, the Open Data Forum, living labs, policy discussions, public idea contests, and user satisfaction surveys. OGC members shared these opportunities with colleagues in civil society, academia, professional associations, and others.³ In the December 2025 OGC meeting, four civil society members flagged the need to engage the broader public more actively,⁴ indicating that there remains an opportunity to continue widening public participation for the remainder of implementation.

Under Commitment 1, the government reported finishing its planned milestones on whistleblower protections.⁵ This commitment was identified as promising in the Action Plan Review⁶ and was submitted to the Open Gov Challenge. In September 2023, the Parliament amended Article 26 of the Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act, which expands the grounds for paying whistleblowing rewards from “recovery of central or local government revenue” to “recovery of public institution revenue.”⁷ By March 2026, a total of 27 laws closely linked to public interest and with a need for whistleblower protection were added to the list of laws subject to public interest infringements, bringing the total number of such laws to 498.⁸ In March 2026, legislation to ensure the same standard of protection and support measures for whistleblowers across five anti-corruption laws was submitted to the National Assembly, namely the Protection of Public Interest Reporters Act and the Act on the Establishment and Operation of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission.⁹ This progress exceeded the target originally set in the action plan.

Commitment 2, also identified as promising in the Action Plan Review,¹⁰ progressed most of its efforts on administrative appeals as planned. The government launched the first phase of its EASY Administrative Appeals System in February 2023, enabling people to submit “auto-complete” assisted appeals regarding the actions of 51 central and provincial agencies via an integrated platform. By June 2025, this was upgraded to a one-stop system, which integrates the legal requirements of different institutions and regulations as well as technical requirements derived from BPR-ISP-ISMP.¹¹ By 2025, the majority of citizens (78.1 percent) used the online system to file administrative appeals compared to offline channels, a substantial increase from the previous year (54.5 percent), with an 85-percent satisfaction rate.¹² As of March 2026, the number of onboarded agencies had grown to 90 in total.¹³ The process for developing this system fulfilled an IRM recommendation on stakeholder consultation¹⁴ by organizing a

stakeholder conference, 13 working-level meetings, and 3 workshops that collected 497 requirements to guide the system’s development.¹⁵ In 2026 and 2027, implementers plan to onboard more agencies, incorporate artificial intelligence to assist citizens in filing administrative appeals, provide 24/7 legal counseling services, and enable both public and private sectors to utilize accumulated big data related to administrative appeals.¹⁶

Commitment 3 progressed open data milestones as planned. It was also identified as promising in the Action Plan Review¹⁷ and voted as one of the initiatives with the most potential for social change during Korea’s 2025 World Open Government Week Public-Private Joint International Forum.¹⁸ The government reported that it exceeded the annual Mid-to-Long-Term Public Data Opening Plan targets by releasing 14,198 pieces of data between October 2022 and September 2023, and then 21,925 between October 2023 and September 2024. Following the conclusion of the 4th Public Data Basic Plan’s (2023–2025) implementation in December 2025,¹⁹ the government published the 5th Public Data Basic Plan (2026–2028) and began implementation.²⁰ Assessment reports on the status of public data provision were being published annually. An Expert Task Force, established in September 2023, will continue to research and advise on opening previously undisclosed data during the remainder of the implementation period. From 2023 to 2025, the government designated 58,154 pieces of data to be opened,²¹ bringing the overall count to 107,494, exceeding the target of 106,930 set in the 4th Public Data Basic Plan.²² By end of 2027, the government plans to designate 23,295 additional pieces of data to be opened, which would bring the total to 130,789—more than 40% of all undisclosed public data.²³

Information on action plan implementation is accessible in OGC meeting records published on Korea’s e-government website, Innovation 24, as well as in the mid-term performance report. Moving forward, the Ministry of Interior and Safety and the OGC could consider publishing monthly sub-committee meeting records and annual performance reports. The performance reports could also provide greater detail on activities and achievements along with links to related reports, such as the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) Annual Reports. More frequent and dynamic sharing of commitment progress could foster greater public interest and engagement.

¹ Note: This section provides an informal overview of the action plan’s implementation status at the midpoint. It is based on information available online or, if necessary, on evidence provided by key stakeholders. It focuses on commitments identified as promising in the Action Plan Review, submitted under the Open Gov Challenge, or where there is notable evidence of progress online. The IRM will carry out a formal and comprehensive assessment of commitments’ level of completion and early results in the Results Report at the end of the implementation period.

² “IRM Action Plan Review: Republic of Korea 2023–2027,” Open Government Partnership, 4 November 2024, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/republic-of-korea-action-plan-review-2023-2027>.

³ Yohan Chang (Civil Society Member of the Open Government Committee), interview by IRM researcher, March 2026.

⁴ “제 4 기 대한민국 열린정부위원회 제 4 차 전체회의 개최” [4th Plenary Meeting of 4th Open Government Committee], Innovation 24, 26 December 2025, https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsView.do?miv_pageNo=1&miv_pageSize=15&LISTOP=%3D%3Bmiv_pageNo%3D1%3B_SERIALISVALID%3DT%3Bmiv_pageSize%3D10%3B&mode=W&contents_id=18899&board_id=242&searchkey=T&searchtxt=&addon_year=&pcaa=&searchkey2=&searchtxt2=&search_title_content=&search_title_content_cal=&search_agencyNm=&cldr_begin_dttm=&cldr_end_dttm=&date_range_cldr=&search_regdate_begin=&search_regdate_end=&addon_year_begin=&addon_year_end=&search_task=&search_agency=&date_range=&menu_id=593.

⁵ “제 6 차 열린정부 국가실행계획 2 개년 성과 공유” [Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan], Innovation 24, 30 March 2025, https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsView.do?miv_pageNo=2&miv_pageSize=15&LISTOP=%3D%3Bmiv_pageNo%3D1%3B_SERIALISVALID%3DT%3Bmiv_pageSize%3D10%3B&mode=W&contents_id=18038&board_id=242&searchkey=T&searchtxt=&addon_year=&pcaa=&searchkey2=&searchtxt2=&search_title_content=&search_title_content_cal=

[&search_agencyNm=&cldr_begin_dttm=&cldr_end_dttm=&date_range_cldr=&search_regdate_begin=&search_regdate_end=&addon_year_begin=&addon_year_end=&search_task=&search_agency=&date_range=&menu_id=593.](#)

⁶ “IRM Action Plan Review: Republic of Korea 2023–2027,” Open Government Partnership.

⁷ “Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan,” Innovation 24.

⁸ Ministry of the Interior and Safety, pre-publication comments, 9 July 2026; “Annual Report 2024,” Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, 13 August 2025,

https://www.acrc.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20302000000&bid=64&act=view&list_no=95833.

⁹ “Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan March 2025,” Innovation 24.

¹⁰ “IRM Action Plan Review: Republic of Korea 2023–2027,” Open Government Partnership.

¹¹ “Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan,” Innovation 24; “Annual Report 2024,” Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission.

¹² “Annual Report for 2024,” Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission; Seo Yoon-jeong, “2025 년 국민권익백서” [2025 White Paper on Civil Rights and Interests], Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, 26 March 2026,

https://www.acrc.go.kr/board.es?mid=a10502030000&bid=47&act=view&list_no=106554.

¹³ Ministry of the Interior and Safety, pre-publication comments; “Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan,” Innovation 24; “Annual Report for 2024,” Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission.

¹⁴ “IRM Action Plan Review: Republic of Korea 2023–2027,” Open Government Partnership.

¹⁵ “Annual Report 2024,” Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission.

¹⁶ “Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan,” Innovation 24; “Annual Report 2024,” Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission; Yoon-jeong, “2025 White Paper on Civil Rights and Interests.”

¹⁷ “IRM Action Plan Review: Republic of Korea 2023–2027,” Open Government Partnership.

¹⁸ “2025 세계 열린정부주간(Open Government Week) 민관합동 국제포럼 개최 결과” [Summary of the 2025 World Open Government Week Public-Private Joint International Forum], Innovation 24, 5 June 2025,

https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsView.do?miv_pageNo=1&miv_pageSize=15&LISTOP=%3D%3Bmiv_pageNo%3D1%3B_SERIALISVALID%3DT%3Bmiv_pageSize%3D10%3B&mode=W&contents_id=18059&board_id=242&searchkey=T&searchtxt=&addon_year=&pcaa=&searchkey2=&searchtxt2=&search_title_content=&search_title_content_cal=&search_agencyNm=&cldr_begin_dttm=&cldr_end_dttm=&date_range_cldr=&search_regdate_begin=&search_regdate_end=&addon_year_begin=&addon_year_end=&search_task=&search_agency=&date_range=&menu_id=593.

¹⁹ “Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan,” Innovation 24.

²⁰ “제 5 차(26~28) 공공데이터 제공 및 이용 활성화에 관한 기본계획” [5th Basic Plan for the Provision and Use of Public Data (5th Basic Public Data Plan) 2026–2028], Ministry of the Interior and Safety, 13 February 2026,

https://www.data.go.kr/bbs/ntc/selectNotice.do?originId=NOTICE_0000000004513.

²¹ “Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan,” Innovation 24;

“공공데이터활용지원센터_법정부 공공데이터 미제공(개방예정데이터) 목록” [Public Data Utilization Support Center: List of Government-wide Public Data Not Currently Provided (Data Scheduled for Opening)], Ministry of the Interior and Safety, <https://www.data.go.kr/data/15127106/fileData.do>; Ministry of the Interior and Safety, interview by IRM researcher, March 2026.

²² “Two Year Performance Report of the 6th Open Government Action Plan,” Innovation 24.

²³ Ministry of the Interior and Safety, pre-publication comments.

Section III. Participation & Co-Creation

The IRM uses the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards to assess countries' participatory practices throughout the action plan cycle.¹ Countries are encouraged to aim for the full ambition of the standards and to meet the minimum requirements.² As the Republic of Korea's action plan falls under a grace period, this assessment does not have implications for its status in the partnership.

Table 2. Alignment with Minimum Requirements at the Midpoint

Minimum requirement	Met?
1.1 Space for dialogue: The Open Government Committee (OGC) oversees the OGP process in Korea. Its membership comprises 15 civil society and 9 government representatives. The 4 th OGC served from February 2024 to January 2026. The 5 th OGC was appointed in February 2026 for another two-year term. It met as a plenary body twice a year and held meetings across its three sub-committees on anti-corruption, digital, and public participation as well. ³ The OGP website publishes meeting records ⁴ as well as the OGC rules and mandate. ⁵	Yes
2.1 OGP website: Innovation 24, an e-government website, provides an OGP overview and hosts the OGP repository. The OGP overview includes a link to the current OGP action plan. ⁶ The OGP repository includes links to the current and previous two action plans. ⁷	Yes
2.2 Repository: The OGP repository on Innovation 24 includes documents related to co-creation and implementation. These cover OGC meetings and performance reports, as well as information on participation opportunities and draft documents for comment during co-creation. ⁸ The repository is updated regularly, with OGC meeting minutes posted at least twice a year. ⁹ Sub-committee meeting records are posted with less regularity.	Yes
3.1 Advanced notice: A timeline and overview of opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the refresh was published on the OGP repository at least two weeks before the start of the refresh process. ¹⁰ Public comments on the draft revised action plan were solicited in the OGP overview section. ¹¹	Yes
4.1 Reasoned response: Contributions from stakeholders related to the refresh and feedback on those contributions were documented in a report published on the OGP repository before the refresh process concluded. ¹²	Yes
5.1 Open implementation: During the first two years of implementation, the OGC plenary met twice a year, while each of its three sub-committees scheduled meetings on a monthly basis. At these meetings, members discussed commitment implementation progress.	Yes

This brief was written by IRM researcher, Nancy Y. Kim, in collaboration with IRM staff and reviewed by external reviewer Thomas Kalinowski. It was prepared in accordance with the IRM Procedures Manual¹³ and guidance on artificial intelligence. For more information, refer to IRM webpage¹⁴ or the glossary of IRM and OGP terms,¹⁵ or contact the IRM at irm@opengovpartnership.org.

¹ "OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards," Open Government Partnership, 2021, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/ogp-participation-co-creation-standards>; "Open Government Partnership National Handbook," Open Government Partnership, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/national-handbook>.

² "IRM Guidelines for the Assessment of Minimum Requirements," Open Government Partnership, 31 May 2022, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/IRM-Guidelines-for-Assessment-of-Minimum-Requirements_20220531_EN.pdf.

³ Yohan Chang (Civil Society Member of the Open Government Committee), interview by IRM researcher, March 2026; Ministry of the Interior and Safety, correspondence with IRM, May 2026.

⁴ Open Government Committee Meeting Records Innovation 24,
https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsListPage.do?board_id=242&menu_id=593.

⁵ “대한민국 열린정부위원회” [Open Government Committee], Innovation 24,
https://sotong.go.kr/front/intropage/intropageShow.do?page_id=1bbe6c37f4ee42c6b32d15950ee36277&menu_id=657.

⁶ “Open Government Committee,” Innovation 24.

⁷ “열린정부파트너십” [Open Government Partnership], Innovation 24,
https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsListPage.do?board_id=242&menu_id=593.

⁸ “Open Government Partnership,” Innovation 24.

⁹ Open Government Committee Meeting Records, Innovation 24.

¹⁰ “제 6 차 열린정부 실행계획 개정 국민제안 공모 안내” [Information on Public Proposal Contest for the Revision of the 6th Open Government Action Plan], Innovation 24, 24 February 2025,
https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsView.do?miv_pageNo=2&miv_pageSize=15&LISTOP=%3D%3Bmiv_pageNo%3D1%3B_SERIALISVALID%3DT%3Bmiv_pageSize%3D10%3B&mode=W&contents_id=17780&board_id=242&searchkey=T&searchtxt=&addon_year=&pcaa=&searchkey2=&searchtxt2=&search_title_content=&search_title_content_cal=&search_agencyNm=&cldr_begin_dttm=&cldr_end_dttm=&date_range_cldr=&search_regdate_begin=&search_regdate_end=&addon_year_begin=&addon_year_end=&search_task=&search_agency=&date_range=&menu_id=593.

¹¹ “토론게시판” [Discussion Board], Innovation 24, <https://sotong.go.kr/front/discuss/discussListPage.do>.

¹² “제 6 차 열린정부 실행계획 신규 제안 과제 평가 결과 공고” [Evaluation of Proposals for New Commitments for Revised 6th Action Plan], Innovation 24, 15 July 2025,
https://sotong.go.kr/front/board/boardContentsView.do?miv_pageNo=1&miv_pageSize=15&LISTOP=%3D%3Bmiv_pageNo%3D1%3B_SERIALISVALID%3DT%3Bmiv_pageSize%3D10%3B&mode=W&contents_id=18150&board_id=242&searchkey=T&searchtxt=&addon_year=&pcaa=&searchkey2=&searchtxt2=&search_title_content=&search_title_content_cal=&search_agencyNm=&cldr_begin_dttm=&cldr_end_dttm=&date_range_cldr=&search_regdate_begin=&search_regdate_end=&addon_year_begin=&addon_year_end=&search_task=&search_agency=&date_range=&menu_id=593.

¹³ “IRM Procedures Manual,” Independent Reporting Mechanism, 2025, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/IRM-Procedures-Manual-2025-EN.pdf>.

¹⁴ “IRM Overview,” Open Government Partnership, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/irm-guidance-overview/>.

¹⁵ “OGP Glossary,” Open Government Partnership, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/glossary/>.