

Commitment 5	
Thematic Area: Public Participation	
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Empowering Communities in Crafting Impactful Legislation	
June 2026 to April 2028	
Lead Implementing Agency/Actor	Provincial Cooperative Development Officer, Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Although South Cotabato fosters its supportive CSO community, there are still improvements to be made in terms of their involvement in planning, budgeting, legislation, and other government processes that should be as participative as can be. The existing commitment on Open Legislation has also metaphorically opened the doors to what goes on behind the weekly Sanggunian sessions by livestreaming weekly Sangguniang Panlalawigan sessions, but citizens are only allowed to view and comment. But their comments, though noted, are not necessarily taken up during the sessions. For senate and congressional hearings, i.e., legislative bodies on the national scale, not only plenary hearings, but also committee hearings are made available to the viewing public. This is also another way to make legislation even more transparent.
What is the current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan?	Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are represented well in local special bodies such as the Provincial Development Council, whose composition is almost 50% CSOs (compared to the required 25%), and yet there are instances where their involvement in the preparation of provincial plans is limited. This was the case for the Executive Legislative Agenda 2022-2025, and the Annual Budget, among others, where the plans were only presented to them, i.e., they were not involved in as many stages of the preparation as possible. Outside of the province, other Philippine Local Government Units (LGUs) also comply with the provisions of the law regarding the participation of CSO's in government programs on a surface level, such as the new Department of the Interior and Local Government Memorandum Circular 2025-060 on the representation of CSOs in Local Special Bodies.
What is the commitment?	Aside from the reintegrating of the Legislative Tracking System (LTS) into the IPOD as part of the commitment on Digital Governance, livestreaming committee meetings will be institutionalized via an ordinance issued by the SP. The current livestreaming as part of the Open Legislation commitment will also be improved by integrating mechanisms where the comments of the public will be processed by assigned personnel in real-time and brought up during the sessions themselves. Livestreaming of Committee meetings, as opposed to only SP sessions, will be strongly considered in the revamping. At the provincial level and for LGU partners Banga and Sto. Niño, there will also be capacity building and a series of workshops with the sole goal of coming up with at least one (1) proposed legislation that will emanate from the participants, which will be composed of various sectors of civil society. In tandem with this, they will also be trained so they can meaningfully participate in future plan and budget formulation activities, in tandem with the CSO Academy.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Capacitating members of the civil society sector to be able to participate meaningfully in said processes directly responds to the identified demand of civil society to participate in major government processes. Additionally, enriching the current livestreaming process also fulfills the issue of citizen participation in legislation.

What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?	In the long run, directly empowering the grassroots by not only listening to them, but also enabling them to meaningfully participate in legislation and other government processes will increase rural-urban integration, and support economic growth. Hence, this commitment impacts the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As for the outcome, the relevant SDGs include 10 (Reduce Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
Primary Policy Area	Civic Space, Legislative Openness
Primary Sector	Legislature
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Livestreaming SP sessions down to the committee level and including the community in planning and budgeting is one way to make government processes more transparent. Including more eyes on the legislation process makes legislators more accountable. And lastly, directly involving the civil society in legislation is a huge step in allowing the public to participate.
Additional information	

Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Responsibility	Source of Fund	Start Date	End Date
AIP and Budget proposal - Finalizing the plan and submitting it for funding	OPG-ITD, OPIO		June 2026	October 2026
Community-proposed Legislation <u>a. Training/Capacity Building</u> - Furnish all LGU's copies of the provincial ordinance no FS. S. 2022 - CSOs and Peoples' Councils to pass resolution to the P/MCDO to fund trainings - Lobbying funding from DILG - Requesting LGU officials to have conduct benchmarking activities with LGUs who also promote CSO participation <u>b. Meetings and Workshops</u> - Training of CSOs on government processes with CSO Academy - Workshops and Writeshops on the Community-based Legislation - Seminars for elected officials on CSO participation in government programs <u>c. Institutionalization</u> - Passing of relevant resolutions and ordinances	OSP, OPCDO, P/C/MLGU	OPCDO	September 2027	March 2028
Relaunching of the Improved LTS <u>a. Institutionalization of Livestreaming of Committee Meetings</u> <u>b. Development of New Way of Processing Public Comments During the Livestreams</u>	OSP, OPG-ITD		September 2027	March 2028