



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

A photograph of Independence Square in Accra, Ghana, featuring a large archway, a central monument, and a fountain. The image is partially obscured by green diagonal graphic elements.

October 2017



Contents

Acronyms	ii
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Challenges Developing the Action Plan	1
2.0 Country Context.....	2
2.1 Transparency and Accountability.....	2
2.1.1 Anti-Corruption	2
2.1.2 Access to Information	3
2.1.3 Transparency in the Extractive Industries.....	3
2.2 Citizens' participation and Accountability	3
2.3 Technology and innovation.....	4
3.0 Planned Actions and Targets for the Third Action Plan	4
3.1 Transparency and Accountability.....	4
3.1.1 Open Contracting and Contract Monitoring.....	4
3.1.2 Anti-Corruption Transparency	5
3.1.3 Beneficial Ownership	6
3.1.4 Fiscal Transparency and Accountability.....	6
3.1.5 Extractives Sector Transparency	7
3.1.6 Right to Information.....	8
3.2 Civic Participation and Accountability	8
3.3 Technology and Innovation.....	10
4.0 Implementation Framework	10
4.1 OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat Implementation Strategy.....	11
5.0 Conclusion.....	11
Appendices.....	12

Acronyms

AG	Attorney General
BNI	Bureau of National Investigation
CBA	Centre for Budget Advocacy
CDD	Centre for Democratic Development
CHRAJ	Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CHRI	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CRTI	Coalition on the Rights to Information Bill
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSU	Client Service Unit
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EOCO	Economic and Organized Crime Office
FDU	Fiscal Decentralization Unit
GACC	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition
GII	Ghana Integrity Initiative
GODI	Ghana Open Data Initiative
IEA	Institute of Economic Affairs
IRM	Independent Reporting Mechanism
LGS	Local Government Service
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agency
MDF	Minerals Development Fund
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
MMDA	Metropolitan Municipal and District Assembly
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOV	Means of Verification

NACAP	National Anti-Corruption Action Plan
NAP	National Action Plan
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NITA	National Information and Technology Agency
NRGI	Natural Resource Governance Institute
ODI	Open Data Initiative
ODP	Open Government Partnership
OGPI	Open Government Partnership Initiative
OHCS	Office of the Head of the Civil Service
OHLGS	Office of Head of Local Government Service
OSP	Office of Special Prosecutor
PRAD	Public Records and Archive Division
PFM	Public Financial Management
PIAC	Public Interest and Accountability Committee
PID	Public Investment Division
PPP	Public –Private Partnership
OSM	Office of the Senior Minister
RTI	Right to Information
SA	Social Accountability

1.0 Introduction

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

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

Ghana's commitment to developing and implementing OGP activities is unflinching. This is because the Government of Ghana considers OGP as one of many important mediums for shaping concrete and effective policies to positively impact the quality of life of the ordinary people. By the OGP criteria, Action Plans are developed every two years. To sustainably foster government-civil society relationship as well as deepening and bringing governance to the doorstep of citizens, the Office of the Senior Minister (OSM) collaborated with CSOs to organize the necessary meetings to develop the action plan. The Government of Ghana and the Office of the Senior Minister greatly acknowledge the contribution of the CSOs in sponsoring the initial workshops and meetings for putting together this Action Plan. The initial meeting was a consultative workshop held in September, 2017 at Koforidua where stakeholders from government, quasi-governmental institutions, and civil society organizations were invited to a 2 day consultative meeting to openly and freely contribute issues to be included in the third National Action Plan (NAP 3). The second Action Plan was also reviewed and emerging issues relating to OGP values were also thoroughly discussed at the meeting. Another consultative workshop was held in October, 2017 at Koforidua to further consult and engage on the draft action plan.

Issues gathered from the consultative meetings; findings and recommendations for OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism's (IRMs) review reports; findings from the self-assessment reports; inputs submitted by civil society organizations (CSOs) who were not part of the consultative meeting; and, the review of key national legal documents to identify some outstanding issues regarding transparency, accountability and participation led to the formulation of commitments in this action plan. The draft action plan was also submitted to both civil society and government stakeholders for validation in November 2017. Having completed the implementation of the second Action Plan in June 2017, Ghana developed this third Action Plan which will span the period November 2017 and October 2019.

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

1.1 Challenges Developing the Action Plan

Limited time and other resources could not enable OSM carry out wider consultations across the length and breadth of the country. However, the key stakeholders were identified and

brought to the consultative meetings to submit and discuss issues relevant to the action plan. In future, OSM hopes to extend the consultations to the zonal and regional levels as well as collate inputs using information technology approaches.

2.0 Country Context

Ghana has since 1992 continuously pursued a path of sustained political liberalization and democratization. A liberal democratic constitution promulgated in 1992 provides a framework for the people to commit themselves to open government under ‘The Directive Principles of State Policy’

2.1 Transparency and Accountability

The 1992 Constitution espouses equality of opportunity, justice, probity and accountability and provides a *Code of Conduct for Public Officers*. The Constitution of Ghana also guarantees to all the right to information, among many other rights. Freedom, justice, accountability and the rule of law constitute important constitutional requirements as the preamble to the Constitution clearly states, ‘The Sovereignty of Ghana resides in the people of Ghana in whose name and for whose welfare the powers of government are to be exercised in the manner and within the limits laid down in this Constitution’.

The 1992 Constitution contains adequate provisions for ensuring financial discipline and effective management of resources and economic governance in general. There are provisions for raising taxes and authorizing expenditure through parliamentary approval. Constitutionally and practically, the Government of Ghana remains committed to its obligation of accounting to the people for its stewardship.

Once a year, the President accounts for his stewardship through “the State of the Nation” address to parliament. The content of the statement is then subjected to parliamentary debate with the public contributing to the discussions through platforms offered by the Ghanaian media.

The country’s supreme audit institutions, particularly the Auditor General’s Department play a critical role in ensuring accountability of public office holders. The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament for instance, receives annually from the Auditor General, the audited accounts of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and subjects these to scrutiny. The Committee holds public hearings and makes recommendations for sanctions and restitution where necessary.

2.1.1 Anti-Corruption

The Constitution has created a Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) with an anti-corruption and administrative justice mandate that covers the investigation of private persons and public officials alleged to have been involved in all forms of corruption. In addition, an Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO) has been established, since 2010, with the primary goal of investigating and detecting organized crime and facilitating the retrieval of proceeds of crime. The Financial Intelligence Centre, also

created in 2010, has the mandate to receive reports on suspicious financial transactions and relay financial intelligence about money laundering and financing of terrorism to the appropriate institutions established to deal with these matters. Ghana has also developed Special Prosecutors' Bill.

2.1.2 Access to Information

As mentioned earlier, the 1992 Constitution of Ghana guarantees to all the right to information, among many other rights. Efforts to pass the Right to Information Bill commenced almost two decades now. Civil society, Attorney General's Office and Parliament have engaged extensively on the bill. Cabinet has approved the Right to Information Bill years now. However as a result of a change in Government, the Bill has to be re-laid before Parliament for consideration and passage.

2.1.3 Transparency in the Extractive Industries

Ghana is endowed with substantial natural resources (e.g. gold and petroleum). Sadly however, Ghana has not been able to unleash the development potential of its natural resources to propel economic growth and reduce extreme poverty among its people. The main public bodies coordinating policies on natural resources are the Forestry Commission, the Minerals Commission and the Petroleum Commission. The Constitution, in addition, empowers several commissions to co-ordinate policies for the management of natural wealth.

Even though efforts are being made at transparency in the management of resources from the extractives sector, a lot more needs to be done. Ghana in 2003 acceded to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) with the stated objective of enhancing the development outcomes of natural resource extraction. The implementation of the Initiative has led to several policy reforms particularly in respect of fiscal arrangements in the mining industry. It has also led to the development of guidelines to govern the use of host communities' share of mineral royalties disbursed by the Central Government.

Since the production of petroleum in commercial quantities commenced in Ghana, Parliament has enacted the Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2011 (Act 815) to provide arrangements in accordance with clear, transparent and accountable procedures. The Act requires the establishment of a Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) constituted largely by CSO representatives, to play the role of an independent oversight body on the collection, allocation and application of oil revenue. So far, the independence of PIAC and its integrity have not been assailed in anyway by Government.

2.2 Citizens' participation and Accountability

Under Ghana's 1992 Constitution, an elaborate system of local government and decentralized administration has been created. The rationale behind the decentralization efforts in Ghana is to bring governance to the doorstep of the people. Citizens' participation is not limited to the local government level but also covers national level institutions as well as Parliament.

2.3 Technology and innovation

In 2011, Ghana joined the global Open Data Initiative (ODI). The objective of the initiative includes promoting transparency in government transactions and creating business opportunity for re-use of open government data. The initiative involves a bold and innovative approach to governance and how public services should adapt their procedures to meet the demands and necessities of citizens. The Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI)'s goal is to facilitate data collection and dissemination by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and trigger innovation and development through the use of the data so disseminated.

3.0 Planned Actions and Targets for the Third Action Plan

This third Action Plan intends to address the challenges identified in the development and implementation of the two previous action plans and build on the progress and achievements made. It is designed to respond to identified implementation gaps and also to demonstrate the will of the Government of Ghana to continue working to achieve the agreed objectives of the Ghana OGP. The commitments are outlined below while the summarized list of the commitment actions have been provided in appendix table 1.

3.1 Transparency and Accountability

From the lessons learned in the implementation of the two national action plans, it became necessary to fuse transparency with accountability. The commitments under transparency and accountability include Open Contracting and Contract Monitoring, Anti-Corruption Transparency, Beneficial Ownership Disclosure, Fiscal Transparency and Accountability, Right to Information and Transparency in the Extractives Sector.

3.1.1 Open Contracting and Contract Monitoring

As part of efforts to ensure open contracting, the government commits to provide information on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and contract monitoring information to the public. Government still maintains significant investments in some sectors of the economy despite substantial offloading of Government interest in a large number of commercial activities. The government also commits to ensure open and transparent tracking of its investments. The actions build on the second action plan commitment to initiate action to monitor contract executions to ensure effective service delivery.

- Public Investment Division (PID) of Ministry of Finance (MoF) to provide comprehensive monitoring information on PPP by December 2018;
- PID of MoF to track government investments to ensure effective service delivery by December 2018;
- PID of MoF to report on contractors who have been blacklisted and debarred by December 2018; and,
- PID of MoF to provide comprehensive monitoring information for all public infrastructure by December 2018.

Responsible Agencies:

Ministry of Finance, and Local Government Service

Collaborating Institutions

Centre for Budget Advocacy (CBA) Ghana, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Centre for Democratic Development (CDD) and Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition

3.1.2 Anti-Corruption Transparency

One of the major strategies initiated by the Government of Ghana to address corruption is a National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) developed and adopted as a non-partisan strategy for a ten-year implementation period. To minimize the misuse of entrusted power for private gain, there is the need to pass all outstanding anti-corruption enhancing bills and also ensure that anti-corruption institutions and quasi security agencies report on their activities. For example, asset declaration by public office holders in its current form is not meaningful when it comes to transparency. Public office holders need to be transparent when it comes to asset declaration. The key issues regarding asset declaration by public office holders relate to asset declaration, verification, and publication. There is the need to gradually amend Asset Declaration Act (Conduct of Public Office Holders Bill) to enable verification and publication of assets declared by public office holders. There is also the need for investigative bodies (like Criminal Investigation Department -CID and Bureau of National Investigation - BNI), anti-corruption institutions (like CHRAJ), and quasi security institutions (like EOCO) charged to investigate corruption related issues to make public reports of their investigations.

- Attorney General's (AGs) Department and Parliament to ensure the amendment and passage of Conduct of Public Office Holders Bill to include thorough declaration and verification by December 2018;
- Investigative bodies (CID and BNI), anti-corruption institutions (like CHRAJ), and quasi security institutions (like EOCO) to periodically make public (publish on their websites) corruption related reports that have been generated (quarterly) by December 2018;
- Attorney General's Department and Parliament to work together to pass the Witness Protection Bill by December 2018;
- Attorney General's Department and Parliament to work together to pass the Whistle Blower Amendment Bill by December 2018; and,
- Attorney General's Department to establish the Office of Special Prosecutor (OSP) to promote investigations and prosecution of corruption offenders by December 2018.

Responsible Agencies:

Parliament, Attorney General's Department, Police Criminal Investigation Department, Bureau for National Investigation, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Office of the Head of Civil Service, and Economic and Organized Crime Office

Collaborating Institutions

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Centre for Democratic Development (CDD) and Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)

3.1.3 Beneficial Ownership

To minimize corruption and tax evasion, the Government of Ghana commits to ensure the publication of information on the beneficial owners of entities winning public contracts. The government commits within the next two years to open up its contracting processes, publish contracts and provide information on the beneficial owners of the contracts. The government identifies the need to build on the Registrar General's existing infrastructure to comply with the requirements for the development and maintenance of Beneficial Ownership data base.

- Registrar General's Department and Attorney General's Department to develop regulations for the implementation of the amended Companies Act (Act 920, 2016) by September 2018;
- Registrar General's Department to improve infrastructure to ensure compliance with Beneficial Ownership disclosure by September 2018; and,
- Attorney General's Department and Parliament to ensure the passage of the substantive bill to replace the Amended companies Act, (Act 1963) as amended (Act 920, 2016) by August 2019.

Responsible Agencies:

Registrar General's Department and Attorney General's Department

Collaborating Institutions

Oil and Gas Platform; Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative, National Information Technology Agency (NITA) and Centre for Democratic Development

3.1.4 Fiscal Transparency and Accountability

There has been the tendency for successive governments to overspend and over borrow money, therefore creating imbalance in the management of the economy. There is the need to manage public expenditure to avoid budget overruns especially in a manner that endangers national fiscal stability. Gradually, it is becoming incumbent on government to set limits for budget deficits and government borrowing. The government commits to be accountable by frequently making available to the public information on fiscal deficits, government's borrowing and debt management. This will enable the public to know how the debt situation is being addressed and also enable civil society to engage meaningfully with government on issues of debt management. The government will also establish an independent body to advice government on issues of fiscal responsibility. The government also commits to

improve reporting on budget implementation by incorporating non-financial information for citizens to know the extent of budget implementation.

- MoF to develop regulations for the new Public Financial Management (PFM) Act by August 2018;
- MoF to facilitate the building of national consensus on the need to amend the new PFM Act to set limits for budget deficits and government borrowing by August 2018;
- The Executive to establish Independent Fiscal Council by September 2018;
- MoF to publish pre-budget statements by September 2018;
- MoF to amend the new PFM Act to strengthen the fiscal responsibility provision (setting limits for budget deficits and government borrowing) in the Act by December 2018; and,
- MoF to incorporate non-financial information in budget implementation reporting by November 2018

Responsible Agencies:

Ministry of Finance and Office of the President

Collaborating Institutions

CBA Ghana, IEA, CDD and SEND Ghana,

3.1.5 Extractives Sector Transparency

The Government proposed to pass the Minerals Development Fund (MDF) Bill in the second action plan and this has been carried out. However, there is the need to pursue this by developing regulations for the Minerals Development Fund Act (MDFA). In the second action plan also the government proposed to develop regulations (Legislative Instruments) for the Petroleum Revenue Management Act of 2011 (Act 815) to effectively operationalize the amended law so as to detail out how the various clauses are to be interpreted and applied. The process commenced during the period of the second plan but was not completed. The government commits to develop the Legislative Instruments for Minerals Development Fund Act and complete the LI for PRMA. PIAC will also be supported to enforce its recommendations.

- MoF and AG to finalize the development of regulations to Petroleum Revenue Management Act 2011 (Act 815) by September 2018;
- MoF and AG to develop regulations to the MDFA by August 2019;
- MoF to provide financial and non-financial information as well as the status of implementation of petroleum revenue funded projects by November 2018;
- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and the Minerals Commission to establish the necessary structures for the management of MDF (Governing Board, Fund Manager, and office) by December 2018;

- MoF and Local Government Service (LGS) to ensure Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) provide quarterly reports on the usage of mineral royalties by December 2018;
- MoF and Parliament to review PIAC's mandate to ensure PIAC enforce its recommendations by June 2018

Responsible Agencies:

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Minerals Commission, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Auditor-General, and Attorney-General's Department.

Collaborating Institutions

The Petroleum Commission, Oil and Gas Platform, Public Interest and Accountability Committee, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and Africa Centre for Energy Policy

3.1.6 Right to Information

The Government undertook to enact a Right to Information (RTI) Law both in the first and second action plan. However, the RTI bill has not been passed. Government still recognizes the importance of unfettered access to information in contributing to stability in governance and therefore commits to passing the Right to Information Bill by June, 2018.

- Parliament to pass RTI bill by June 2018; and,
- Ministry of Information to develop strategies for the implementation of the RTI law by September 2018.

Responsible Agencies:

Parliament and Ministry of Information

Collaborating Institutions

Coalition on the Rights to Information Bill (CRTI) and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

3.2 Civic Participation and Accountability

As part of efforts to strengthen citizen's engagement at the sub-national level, a framework on participatory planning and budgeting has been developed by the Local Government Service (LGS) to guide Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in citizens' engagement. The new Local Governance Act (Act 936) passed by Parliament in 2016 dedicates a whole section to popular participation. The Inter-Ministerial Coordinating

Committee on Local Government have consequently developed a manual and an action plan to guide its implementation.

In 2013, the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) commenced implementation of the Local Government Capacity Support Project (LGCSP) in some 46 selected Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs). An integral component of this project is the establishment of Social Accountability (SA) units, development and use of public financial management templates by the participating assemblies to improve citizens' education, communication and engagement.

In the second action plan the government proposed to establish Client Service Units (CSU) in all the District Assemblies. This action has been substantially implemented. The government is committed to move this process further to promote effective citizens' participation in decision-making processes. The government is committed to strengthening mechanisms for ensuring that citizens can receive feedback from elected officials (both Members of Parliament and Assembly Members). This can be accomplished through innovative ways that ensure citizens' engagement and open civic space. The decentralized institutions at the sub-national level are to be accountable to citizens by annually reporting on budget implementation to include non-financial information.

- MLGRD through the Local Government Service (LGS) to expand the establishment of SA units in all the 216 MMDAs (46 Metropolitan and Municipals already have accountability units and Focal Persons) by December 2018;
- MLGRD through the Local Government Service (LGS) to integrate and strengthen the CSUs and SA desks in line with the social accountability role of MMDAs by August 2019;
- MLGRD and LGS to monitor the implementation of the popular participation (civic participation) framework by March 2019;
- MLGRD and Office of the Head of Local Government Service to ensure all MMDAs adequately support Accountability Units and Client Service Units to obtain feedbacks from citizens by August 2019;
- MoF Fiscal Decentralization Unit (FDU), MLGRD, and LGS to ensure MMDAs comprehensively report on budget implementation (both financial and non-financial information) annually to citizens by March 2019; and,
- Parliament to provide quarterly reports on petitions and feedbacks received from the public by December 2018.

Responsible Agencies:

Parliament, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Finance FDU, Office of the Head of Local Government Service, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Office of the Senior Minister, Office of the Head of the Civil Service (OHCS) and CHRAJ

Collaborating Institutions

SEND Ghana, Center for Democratic Development and Institute of Democratic Governance

3.3 Technology and Innovation

Government commits to improve records management by providing a framework for all public institutions to manage information so that they can efficiently provide information when the RTI law is passed. The Ghana Open Data Policy is currently not finalized. In addition, there is the need to improve information flow both internally (within public institutions) and externally (to the public) to bring about transparency and accountability. Not all the MDAs and MMDAs have the necessary infrastructure (including internet and intranet connectivity), personnel, and logistics to improve information management. National Information and Technology Agency (NITA) and Public Records and Archive Division (PRAAD) will work together to improve the infrastructure for ensuring proper management of information (recording, storage and retrieval) in all public institutions.

- Ministry of Communication (MOC), Ministry of Information (MOI) and NITA to finalize Ghana Open Data Policy by November 2018;
- NITA and PRAAD to improve connectivity (internet and intranet) facilities for MDAs and MMDAs by August 2019;
- PRAAD and NITA to expand the digitization of data in all MDAs to improve records management by August 2019;
- MDAs and MMDAs to expand automation of services by August 2019;
- NITA and PRAAD to support all MDAs and MMDAs have functional websites with periodic and frequent updates by March 2019;
- MoF to support Data Protection Agency to work effectively by November 2018; and,
- NITA to support Parliament to come out with a framework to provide feedback to citizens by December 2018

Responsible Agencies:

Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Information, NITA, PRAAD, MoF and All MDAs and MMDAs

Collaborating Institutions

Ghana News Agency, Ghana Journalists Association, Ghana Statistical Service and Penplusbytes

4.0 Implementation Framework

The Office of the Senior Minister (OSM), the Government Agency responsible for OGP remains the coordinating and facilitating agency for the purpose of implementing the Ghana National Action Plan. The OSM and the OGP National Steering Committee shall provide coordinating and facilitating leadership to give effect to the translation of the third Action Plan into concrete actions.

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

In the second Action Plan, the Office of the Head of the Civil Service (OHCS) was considered a key partner in the implementation of this OGP Action Plan. To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of this plan, the OHCS will be called upon to help identify the modalities to ensure proper collaboration with all the MDAs identified in the plan.

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

4.1 OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat Implementation Strategy

Based on lessons learned from implementing two previous action plans, measures were taken to ensure effective implementation by preparing an elaborate list of activities outlined in appendix table 2 below for the OGP National Steering Committee and the Secretariat to implement. The activities include among others extensive collaborations and engagements with key stakeholders, funding and reporting.

5.0 Conclusion

Ghana has learnt a lot of lessons during the implementation of the first and the second OGP Action Plans. This third Action Plan has taken measures to address the shortcomings during the implementation of the previous plans and also build on the progress and achievements of the earlier plans. Ghana is still committed to the spirit of the Open Government Partnership and that it is only through strong collaboration between government and civil society organizations that effective policies can be made and concrete steps taken to implement them for the improvement of the quality of life of the ordinary Ghanaian. In this regard, conscious and consistent efforts will be made to sustain the productive partnership between government and civil society organizations in the interest of Ghana and Open Government Partnership.

Appendices

Table 1: Broad Framework for the Commitments

Commitment By Commitment Details		
1. Open Contracting and Contract Monitoring		
November 2017 – December 2018		
Ongoing commitment		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Finance	
Commitment description		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Government still maintains significant investments in some sectors of the economy despite substantial offloading of Government interest in a large number of commercial activities. Information on the implementation these investments to the public is very scanty. The first and second action plan recognized the need to ensure open and transparent tracking of public investments.	
What is the commitment?	The commitment builds on the second action plan's commitment to initiate action to monitor contract executions to ensure effective service delivery.	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The commitment will provide an opportunity for citizens to have access to information on all contracts entered into by Government through follow ups on the implementation of public investments. This will also help to ensure value for money on all transactions.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	The commitment is relevant to increasing the level of transparency by improving accessibility of information on public contracts.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Public Investment Division (PID) of Ministry of Finance	November	December

(MOF) to provide comprehensive monitoring information on PPP		2017	2018
PID of MOF to provide comprehensive monitoring information for all public infrastructure by		November 2017	December 2018
PID of MOF to report on contractors who have been blacklisted and debarred		November 2017	December 2018
PID of MOF to track government investments to ensure effective service delivery		November 2017	December 2018
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Irene Addo-Dankwah	
Title, Department		Head, Public Private Partnership Advisory Unit	
Email and Phone		laddo-danquah@mofep.gov.gh +233501290096	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Local Government Service	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Centre for Budget Advocacy (CBA) Ghana, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), and Ghana Anti- Corruption Coalition	

2. Anti-Corruption Transparency		
November 2017 – December 2018		
New		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Parliament, Attorney General’s Department, Police Criminal Investigation Department, Bureau for National Investigation, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, and Economic and Organized Crime Office	
Commitment description		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	One of the major strategies initiated by the Government of Ghana to address corruption is a National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACAP) developed and adopted as a non-partisan strategy for a ten-year implementation period. To minimize the misuse of entrusted power for private gain, there is the need to pass all outstanding anti-corruption enhancing bills and also ensure that anti-corruption institutions and quasi security agencies report on their activities. For example, asset declaration by public office holders in its current form is not meaningful when it comes to transparency. Public office holders need to be transparent when it comes to asset declaration. The key issues regarding asset declaration by public office holders relate to asset declaration, verification, and publication.	
What is the commitment?	The commitment is in two parts namely: gradually amend Asset Declaration Act (Conduct of Public Office Holders Bill) to enable verification and publication of assets declared by public office holders; and ensure investigative bodies (like Criminal Investigation Department -CID and Bureau of National Investigation -BNI), anti-corruption institutions (like CHRAJ), and quasi security institutions (like EOCO) charged to investigate corruption related issues to make public reports of their investigations.	

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Making public reports on corruption related investigations will let the public know the outcome of corruption related investigations. It will also help citizens to know actions taken by the government to address issues of corruption.		
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	The commitment is relevant to increasing the level of transparency by improving accessibility of information on corruption related investigations. It will also help to improve rules, regulations, and mechanisms to publicly hold government officials answerable to their actions.		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Attorney General's (AGs) Department and Parliament to ensure the amendment and passage of Conduct of Public Office Holders Bill to include thorough declaration and verification.		November 2017	December 2018
Investigative bodies (CID and BNI), anti-corruption institutions (like CHRAJ), and quasi security institutions (like EOCO) to periodically make public corruption related reports that have been worked on (quarterly).		November 2017	December 2018
Attorney General's Department and Parliament to work together to pass the Witness Protection Bill.		November 2017	December 2018
Attorney General's Department and Parliament to work together to pass the Whistle Blower Amendment Bill.		November 2017	December 2018
Attorney General's Department to establish the OSP to promote investigations and prosecution of corruption offenders.		November 2017	December 2018
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Hon. Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah		
Title, Department	Member of Parliament		

Email and Phone		ekbedzrah@gamil.com - +233 244 364 644
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Office of the Head of Civil Service
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) and Centre for Democratic Development (CDD)
3. Beneficial Ownership		
November 2017 – August 2019		
Ongoing commitment		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Registrar General's Department and Attorney General's Department	
Commitment description		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	The identity of the real owners – the 'beneficial owners' – of the companies that have obtained rights to extract oil, gas and minerals is often unknown, hidden by a chain of unaccountable corporate entities. This problem also affects	

	<p>other sectors and often helps feed corruption and tax evasion. Publishing information on the beneficial owners of entities winning public contracts as part of EITI requirements. This commitment builds on the OGP second action plan's commitment on Open Contracting.</p>	
What is the commitment?	<p>The commitment is to provide information on the beneficial owners winning public contracts.</p>	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	<p>The commitment will make public all information on the beneficial owners of public contracts to enable citizens support government to fight corruption as well as minimize tax evasion. It will also help Ghana meet other international requirements.</p>	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>The commitment is relevant to increasing the level of transparency by improving accessibility of information on the beneficial owners of entities winning public contracts. It will also help to improve rules, regulations, and mechanisms ensure full disclosure of beneficial owners of public contracts.</p>	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		
	Start Date:	End Date:
Registrar General Department and Attorney General's Department to develop regulations for the implementation of the new Companies Act (Act 920, 2016).	November 2017	September 2018
Registrar General Department to improve infrastructure to ensure compliance with Beneficial Ownership disclosure.	November 2017	September 2018
Attorney General's Department and Parliament to ensure substantive bill to replace the Amended companies Act, (Act 1963) as amended (Act 920, 2016) passed by;	November 2017	August 2019
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Doris AmpaduAmeyaw	

Title, Department		Registrar-General's Department
Email and Phone		Doris.ameyaw@rgd.gov.gh +233 244 644 602
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Oil and Gas Platform; Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative and Centre for Democratic Development (CDD)
4. Fiscal Transparency and Accountability		
November 2017 – December 2018		
Ongoing commitment		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Finance and Office of the President	
Commitment description		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	There has been the tendency for successive governments to overspend and over borrow money, therefore creating imbalance in the management of the economy. There is the need to manage public expenditure to avoid budget	

	<p>overruns especially in a manner that endangers national fiscal stability. Gradually, it is becoming incumbent on government to set limits for budget deficits and government borrowing.</p>	
<p>What is the commitment?</p>	<p>The commitment will ensure the government makes available to the public information on fiscal deficits, government's borrowing and debt management; establish an independent body to advise government on issues of fiscal responsibility; and, improve reporting on budget implementation by incorporating non-financial information.</p>	
<p>How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?</p>	<p>The commitment will enable citizens to know how the national debt is being managed. An independent body (a Fiscal Council) can advise government on issues of fiscal responsibility. Citizens will not only have access to financial information on budget implementation but also non-financial information. By having detailed information on budget implementation, citizens can engage meaningfully on issues regarding budgets.</p>	
<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>By providing key information on budget implementation, this commitment will help improve quality of the information disclosed as well as creating opportunities for the public to influence fiscal policy decisions.</p>	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
<p>MOF to develop regulations for the new PFM Act.</p>	<p>November 2017</p>	<p>August 2018</p>
<p>MOF to facilitate the building of national consensus on the need to amend the new PFM Act to set limits for budget deficits and government borrowing.</p>	<p>November 2017</p>	<p>August 2018</p>
<p>The Executive to establish Independent Fiscal Council.</p>	<p>November 2017</p>	<p>September 2018</p>
<p>MOF to publish pre-budget statements.</p>	<p>November 2017</p>	<p>September 2018</p>

MOF to amend the new PFM Act to strengthen the fiscal responsibility provision (setting limits for budget deficits and government borrowing) in the Act.		November 2017	December 2018
MOF to incorporate non-financial information in budget implementation reporting.		November 2017	November 2018
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Evelyn Arthur	
Title, Department		Head of Budget Planning	
Email and Phone		+233 501 290 125	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	/	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups		
5. Extractives Sector Transparency			

November 2017 – August 2019	
Ongoing commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Minerals Commission, and Attorney General's Department.
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Ghana is endowed with substantial natural resources (e.g. gold and petroleum). Sadly however, Ghana has not been able to unleash the development potential of its natural resources to propel economic growth and reduce extreme poverty among its people. Even though efforts are being made at transparency in the management of resources from the extractives sector, a lot more needs to be done.
What is the commitment?	The commitment will help develop the LI for (MDF) Act; finalize the LI for PRMA; and support PIAC to enforce its recommendations.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The commitment is to make public all information on the usage of resources from the extractive sector. By developing the LIs for the key extractive sector's legal documents, the legal documents can then be operational. The commitment also provides financial and non-financial information as well as the status of implementation of petroleum revenue funded projects for citizens to know the usage of proceeds from oil sector. MMDAs will provide information to citizens on the usage of mineral royalty revenues.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	The commitment will help disclose more information on the usage of resources from the extractive sector. It will also help to improve rules and regulations regarding the extractive sector to bring about transparency and accountability.

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
MOF and AG to finalize the development of regulations to Petroleum Revenue Management Act 2011 (Act 815).		November 2017	September 2018
MOF and AG to develop regulations for the MDFA.		November 2017	August 2019
MOF to provide financial and non-financial information as well as the status of implementation of petroleum revenue funded projects.		November 2017	November 2018
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) to establish the necessary structures for the management of MDF (Governing Board, Fund Manager, and office).		November 2017	December 2018
MOF and Local Government Service (LGS) to ensure MMDAs provide quarterly reports on the usage mineral royalty revenues.		November 2017	December 2018
MOF and Parliament to review of PIAC's mandate to ensure PIAC's enforce its recommendations.		November 2017	June 2018
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Bash Mohammed Abdul Razak	
Title, Department		Ministry of Finance	
Email and Phone		Babdul-razak@MoFep.gov.gh / bashct@gmail.com - +233 264 203 479	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	The Petroleum Commission, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, and Auditor General	

	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Oil and Gas Platform, Public Interest and Accountability Committee, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and Africa Centre for Energy Policy
6. Right to Information		
November 2017 – September 2018		
Ongoing commitment		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Parliament and Ministry of Information	
Commitment description		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	The 1992 Constitution of Ghana guarantees to all the right to information, among many other rights. Efforts to pass the Right to Information Bill commenced almost two decades now.	
What is the commitment?	The commitment is to pass the Right to Information Bill	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The Government undertook to enact a Right to Information (RTI) Law both in the first and second action plan. However, the RTI bill has not been passed. Passing the bill will help address the unfulfilled commitments the two previous action plans. The commitment is also helping to develop strategies for the implementation of the RTI Bill so that when the bill is passed public institutions will be able to provide the	

	necessary information to the public.		
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	The commitment is enabling the right to information.		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Parliament to pass RTI bill by; and,		November 2017	June 2018
Ministry of Information to develop strategies for the implementation of the RTI law by		November 2017	September 2018
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah	
Title, Department		Member of Parliament	
Email and Phone		ekbedzrah@gmail.com - +233 244 364 644	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved		
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Coalition on the Rights to Information Bill (CRTI) Centre for Democratic Development and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)	

7. Civic Participation and Accountability		
November 2017 – August 2019		
Ongoing commitment		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Parliament, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Office of the Head of Local Government Service, and, Ministry of Finance FDU,	
Commitment description		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>As part of efforts to strengthen citizen’s engagement at the sub-national level, a framework on participatory planning and budgeting has been developed by the Local Government Service (LGS) to guide Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in citizens’ engagement. The new Local Governance Act (Act 936) passed by Parliament in 2016 dedicates a whole section to popular participation. The Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Local Government have consequently developed a manual and an action plan to guide its implementation.</p> <p>In 2013, the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) commenced implementation of the Local Government Capacity Support Project (LGCSP) in some 46 selected Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs). An integral component of this project is the establishment of Social Accountability (SA) units, development and use of public financial management templates by the participating assemblies to improve citizens’ education, communication and engagement.</p> <p>In the second action plan the government proposed to establish Client Service Units (CSU) in all the District Assemblies. This action has been substantially implemented. There is the need to move further the process to promote effective citizens’ participation in</p>	

	decision-making processes.		
What is the commitment?	The commitment is to strengthen mechanisms for ensuring that citizens can receive feedback from elected officials (both Members of Parliament and Assembly Members).		
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The commitment is to expand the civic engagement process through innovative ways to ensure that citizens can receive feedback from elected officials (both Members of Parliament and Assembly Members). In addition, the decentralized institutions at the sub-national level are to be accountable to citizens by annually reporting on budget implementation to include non-financial information.		
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	The commitment will help improve opportunities for the public to influence the decisions by the elected officials (both at the local and national levels). It will also help to improve the quality and accessibility of information to the public.		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
MLGRD through LGS to expand on the establishment of accountability units in all the 216 MMDAs (46 Metropolitan and Municipals already have accountability units).		November 2017	December 2018
MLGRD through LGS to integrate and strengthen the CSUs and SA desks in line with the social accountability role of MMDAs		November 2017	August 2019
MLGRD and LGS to monitor the implementation of the popular participation (civic participation) framework		November 2017	August 2019
MLGRD and LGS to ensure all Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) adequately support accountability units and Client Service Units to obtain feedbacks from citizens.		November 2017	August 2019
MOF FDU, MLGRD and LGS to ensure MMDAs		November	March 2019

comprehensively report on budget implementation (both financial and non-financial information) annually to citizens.		2017	
Parliament to provide quarterly reports on petitions and feedbacks from the public that have worked on by		November 2017	December 2018
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Joseph A. Ankamah	
Title, Department		Office of the Head of Local Government Service	
Email and Phone		+233 243 127 564	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Office of the Senior Minister, Office of the Head of the Civil Service (OHCS) and CHRAJ	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	SEND Ghana, Center for Democratic Development and Institute of Democratic Governance	
8. Technology and Innovation			
November 2017 - March 2019			

Ongoing commitment		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Information, NITA, PRAD, and, MOF.	
Commitment description		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Many public institutions do not have adequate infrastructure (including internet and intranet connectivity), personnel, and logistics to manage information efficiently and effectively. There is the need to improve public records management by providing a framework for all public institutions to manage information so that they can efficiently provide information when the RTI law is passed.	
What is the commitment?	The commitment is to improve records management by providing a framework for all public institutions to manage information so that they can efficiently provide information when the RTI law is passed.	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The commitment is to improve the infrastructure for ensuring proper management of information (recording, storage and retrieval) in all public institutions so that the public to easily access information.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	The commitment is to use technology and innovation to improve quality and accessibility of information to the public.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Information and NITA to finalize Ghana Open Data Policy	November 2017	November 2018
NITA and PRAG to improve connectivity for MDAs internet facilities.	November 2017	August 2018
PRAG and NITA to expand the digitization of data in the all	November	August2018

MDAs to improve records management.		2017	
MDAs and MMDAs to expand automation of services		November 2017	August 2018
NITA and PRAG to support all MDAs have functional websites with periodic and frequent updates.		November 2017	March 2019
MOF to support data protection agencies to work effectively.		November 2017	November 2018
NITA to support Parliament come out with framework to provide feedback to citizens.		November 2017	December 2018
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Wisdom Donkor	
Title, Department		National Telecommunication Agency	
Email and Phone		Wisdom.dk@gmail.com / wisdom.donkor@data.gov.gh - +233 208 128 851	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	All MDAs and MMDAs	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana News Agency, Ghana Journalists Association and Penplusbytes	

Table 2: The OGP Steering Committee and Secretariat Implementation Strategy for NAP 3

SN	Activity	Period	Cost in (GHC)
1	The Office of President and OSM to strengthen and beef up the OGP Secretariat by increasing the staff strength, logistics and financial support for OGP Secretariat by March 2018	November 2017 – March 2018	70,000
2	OGP Steering Committee to ensure political commitment to OGP NAP 3 (including the need to strengthen OGP Secretariat)	November 2017 – June 2018	5000
3	The Office of President, OSM and OGP Steering Committee to source funding for implementation of activities in the work plan by June 2018	November 2017 – June 2018	10,000
4	a) OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to develop memo for NAP 3 to Cabinet through Senior Minister for approval and also to brief the Presidency on issues hindering OGP implementation.	November – December 2017	-
	b) OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to meet with M&E Minister to partner on OGP NAP 3	November 2017– February 2018	700
	c) Publication and Dissemination of the Action Plan	December 2017 – February 2018	50,000
5	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to engage with stakeholders mentioned in NAP 3 to ensure shared ownership of all commitments and activities in the plan by June 2018 (identify designated desk officers and orient them)	November 2017 – June 2018	120,000
6	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to frequently engage with lead institutions to deliver on the commitments by June 2018	November 2017 – June 2018	90,000
7	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to design and adopt a monitoring framework for NAP 3 implementation by March 2018	November 2017 – March 2018	7,000
8	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to discuss the monitoring framework with lead agencies and collaborating institutions by June 2018	April 2017 – June 2018	90,000
9	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to commission a study to review performance in all the four thematic areas (namely transparency, accountability, civic participation, and, technology and innovation) since NAP 1 to the current situation and outline future course of action for OGP.	August – September 2018	48,000
10	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to Prepare OGP Mid-Term Self-Assessment Report	August – September 2018	13,000
11	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to organize mid-year stock-taking retreat	November 2018	150,000

12	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to carry out periodic public and media awareness creation on OGP issues	November 2017 – August 2019	240,000
13	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to organize forums for Chief Directors and other policy makers to sensitize them on OGP by June 2018	November 2017 – June 2018	90,000
14	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to come out with strategies to take OGP downward to the local level	November 2017 – June 2018	7,000
15	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to collaborate with OHCS to ensure Chief Directors of Lead agencies performance on OGP implementation are assessed	November 2017 – June 2018	90,000
16	OGP Steering Committee to put in place measures for sanctioning inactive Steering Committee members	November 2017 – March 2018	-
17	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to advertise in the newspapers request for inputs into OGP NAP 4 by July 2019	April 2019 – July 2019	7000
18	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat prepare and submit End-of-Term Report	August- September 2019	16,000
19	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat to organize consultative meeting	August- October 2019	250,000
20	OGP Steering Committee and the Secretariat Prepare and submit NAP 4	August- October 2019	280,000
	TOTAL		1,633,700