



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**OPEN GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIP**

**5TH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP
5)**

December 2023

Table of Contents

ACRONYMS	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 The Global Context	8
1.2 National Context	9
1.3 The Global OGP Strategy	10
1.4 The Centrality of OGP Co-creation	11
1.5 The Four Pillars of OGP	12
1.6 Ghana's OGP NAP 5 Road Map	12
2.0 POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS OF NAP 4 / PERFORMANCE REVIEW	14
2.1 Accountability Commitments	16
2.1.1 Office of Special Prosecutor	16
2.1.2 Asset Declaration	17
2.1.3 Witness Protection Act	17
2.1.4 Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Audit Report Implementation	18
2.1.5 Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)	18
2.1.6 Strengthen CHRAJ to discharge its Administrative Justice delivery mandate	19
2.2 Transparency Commitments	19
2.2.1 Beneficial Ownership Transparency	19
2.2.2 Citizens' Complaints Centre: (CCC)	20
2.2.3 Open and Transparent Tracking of Public Investment	20
2.2.4 Restoration of the Fiscal Responsibility Act	21
2.2.5 Commodity Trading Transparency	21
2.2.6 Right to Information	22
2.3 Commitments under Citizens Participation	22
2.3.1 Ensure Passage of Affirmative Action Bill to Enhance Women's Participation in Politics	22
2.3.2 Enhance Citizens' Participation in Local Gov't through Election of MMDCs	23
2.3.3 Enhance Opportunities for Political Participation of Persons with Disability	23
2.4 Commitments under Technology and Innovation	23
2.4.1 Ensuring the Delivery of Public Services is Improved through the Sustained Implementation of the Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI).	23
2.5 Open Parliament Commitments in Ghana's OGP NAP-4	24
2.5.1 Background	24
2.5.2 Open Parliament Commitments in NAP 4	25

3.0 UNMET OGP COMMITMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION/ RE-PRIORITISATION	26
4.0 NEW ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND INCLUSION IN NAP 5	27
5.0 GHANA'S FINAL NAP 5 COMMITMENTS	28
5.1 ACCOUNTABILITY	28
5.1.1 Asset Declaration	28
5.1.2 Accountability: Witness Protection	29
5.1.3 Accountability: Public Accounts Committee and Audit Report Implementation	29
5.1.4 Accountability: Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)	30
5.1.5 Accountability: Enabling CHRAJ's administrative justice delivery mandate	31
5.1.6 Accountability: Health Service Delivery	32
5.2 TRANSPARENCY	33
5.2.1 Power Purchasing Agreements	33
5.2.2 Transparency: Right to Information	34
5.2.3 Transparency: Fisheries	34
5.3 PARTICIPATION	35
5.3.1 Citizens Complaint Centre	35
5.3.2 Participation: Gender Equality	36
5.3.3 Participation: Citizen Participation in Local Government	37
5.4 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	38
5.4.1 Misinformation and Disinformation	38
5.4.2 Technology and Innovation: Data sharing and intermediation of public service delivery platforms ³⁹	
5.5 OPEN PARLIAMENT	40
6.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK	42
6.1 Role of Collaborators	42
6.2 Conclusion	43
APPENDIX I	44
5.1.2 Accountability: Witness Protection Act	46
5.1.3 Accountability: Public Accounts Committee and Audit Report Implementation	48
5.1.4 Accountability: Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)	50
5.1.5 Accountability: Enabling CHRAJ's Administrative Justice Delivery Mandate	52
5.1.6 Accountability: Health Service Delivery	54
5.2.2 Transparency: Right to Information	58
5.2.3 Transparency: Fisheries	60

5.3 PARTICIPATION	62
5.3.1 Citizens’ Complaints Centre: (CCC)	62
5.3.2 Participation: Gender Equality	64
5.3.3 Participation: Citizen Participation in Local Government	66
5.4 Technology and Innovation	68
5.4.1 Misinformation and Disinformation	68
5.4.2 Technology and Innovation: Data Sharing and Intermediation of Public Service Delivery Platforms	70
5.5 Open Parliament	72

List of Tables

<u>Table 1. Roadmap for Co-creation of Ghana's 4-year 5th National Action Plan 2024 - 2027</u>	10
<u>Table 2. Key Considerations for Re-prioritisation of Unmet Commitments</u>	24

ACRONYMS

ACEP	Africa Centre for Energy Policy
AML/CTF	Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing
BOD	Beneficial Ownership Disclosure
CCC	Citizens' Complaints Centre
CDD-Ghana	Centre for Democratic Development - Ghana
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CHRI	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EOCO	Economic and Organised Crime Office
FIC	Financial Intelligence Centre
GACC	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition
GII	Ghana Integrity Initiative
GODI	Ghana Open Data Initiative
GPMON	Ghana Parliamentary Monitoring Network
IDEG	Institute of Democratic Governance
IRM	Independent Reporting Mechanism
MFWA	Media Foundation for West Africa
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MSF	Multi-Stakeholder Forum
MSG	Multi-Stakeholder Group
NAP	National Action Plan
NITA	National Information Technology Agency
NRGI	Natural Resource Governance Institute
OGP	Open Governance Partnership
ORC	Office of the Registrar of Companies
OSP	Office of the Special Prosecutor
PAC	Public Accounts Committee

PFMA	Public Financial Management Act
PNAfrica	Parliamentary Network- Africa
PSRS	Public Sector Reform Secretariat
PWD	Persons with Disability
RTI	Right to Information
WACSI	West Africa Civil Society Institute
WFD	Westminster Foundation for Democracy

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ghana has been an ardent implementer of governance reforms since the country signed on to the Open Governance Partnership (OGP) initiative in 2011. The OGP processes, which are hinged on mutual respect and collaboration between citizens and government, have over the years, led to several policy and practice changes, which have gone a long way to deliver democratic dividends that Ghanaians can be proud of.

The achievements of Ghana's OGP include reforms to the country's oil and gas licensing regime, under which Open Contracting has been made the preferred mode of license allocation by law; establishment of a Beneficial Ownership Disclosure (BOD) regime, backed by law Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992), which is helping to combat Illicit Financial Flows through tax avoidance, Transfer Pricing (TP) manipulations etc.

Other reforms achieved in recent times are:

- The passage of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) to remove restrictions in accessing public information, critical in fighting corruption and crimes against the state.
- The establishment of the State Interests and Governance Authority Act, 2019 (Act 990), to improve governance of State-Owned Enterprises and to ensure their viability.
- The passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982), to curb arbitrary (extra-budgetary) and uncontrolled spending by the executive, especially in elections years, leading to steep growth in public debt.
- The passage of the Witness Protection Act, 2018 (Act 975), to provide safeguards and personal security for persons whose witness help in prosecuting public officers and private individuals who commit crimes against the state.
- Promotion of transparency in the Extractive Sector, especially in the areas of revenue management and commodity trading.

So far, Ghana has developed and implemented four National Action Plans (NAPs), in 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2021. The 4th NAP ended in June 2023, however, the processes leading to the development, approval and submission of the country's 5th NAP began in March 2023, with the adoption of the NAP 5 co-creation roadmap. The Ghana OGP Secretariat announced the inception of the 5th NAP in April, 2023 and began to receive inputs for consideration and inclusion, between July and September 2023, two consultative meetings were held between the OGP Secretariat and representatives of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) on one hand,

and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in the Fisheries, Health and the Power sectors on their proposals. These were with a view to understanding the two sectors and the need for reforms to unleash their development potential on the country's economy.

Ghana's delegation to the 2023 Global OGP Summit also seized the opportunity to learn from other countries' experiences with co-creation, and how to leverage on OGP-inspired reforms to address issues of poverty, quality of public services, democratic freedoms, and inclusiveness.

The 5th NAP takes a great deal of inspiration and guidance from the Ghana Co-Creation Brief of 2023, authored by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) team. The Brief diagnoses challenges to previous co-creation processes which in the view of the authors affected implementation of the commitments. These include misalignment between workplans, budgets, and OGP commitments, and lack of awareness and sometimes misunderstanding of commitments, on the part of implementing agencies. The problem of uncontrolled ambition, leading to broad, unrealistic commitments was also identified. These have all been considered in developing the 5th NAP.

1.1 The Global Context

Ghana's NAP 5 considers global geo-political developments, most of which have had severe impact on less resilient economies, warranting national economic, social, and environmental reforms to shore up resilience and address vulnerabilities arising out of the turbulence of the time.

Events such as COVID 19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, China's threat of aggression against Taiwan; North Korea's grandstanding against the U.S., instability in the Middle East, including Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip in response to an unprovoked attack by Hamas, beginning from October 2023, have all had adverse ramifications on the global economic order and international security.

Global energy security was deeply undermined by COVID 19, with severe disruptions to supply chains. Even though some easing can be observed now, the world has still not recovered fully. In fact, the global energy security situation has been compounded by the Russian – Ukraine war, pushing prices of petroleum products beyond limits, and eroding

hopes of recovery for many developing economies that have taken a beating from these conflicts and periods of geo-political instability.

Furthermore, climate emergency is intensifying globally, as demand for fossil fuels keeps soaring in the post COVID recovery era. This underpins the need for economies to accelerate their energy transition to win themselves off fossil fuels. Energy transition and achieving global energy needs can be supported by open government – transparency, data availability, participation, accountability, co-creation and good governance. Governments and civil society alike can use the OGP platform to act and subsequently share their innovations to help mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

1.2 National Context

At the national level, substantial macro-economic gains achieved in the years preceding 2020 have been wiped off by the effects of COVID 19 and pushed millions of citizens into poverty.

Just when Ghana was beginning to pull out of its worst COVID 19 moments, the Russian – Ukraine war set in and compounded an already bad situation.

The government has maintained, and the IMF has affirmed, that current difficulties within the Ghanaian economy are because of COVID 19 and its containment measures, many of which became a drag on corporate productivity. Many jobs were lost as companies either shut down completely or cut back on production.

Subsequently, worsening macroeconomic conditions brought on by the effects of the Russian – Ukraine war thwarted the country's post COVID recovery efforts, as GDP growth declined from 5.1% in 2021 to 3.1% in 2022.

To help restore macroeconomic stability, Ghana has secured a three-year IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) programme of about US\$3 billion and has embarked on a debt restructuring mission to achieve debt sustainability.

The World Bank projects that the country's economic growth in 2023 will slump to 1.5 percent and will see a sluggish climb to 2.8 percent in 2024, before setting out on a path of sustainable recovery. The Bank anticipates that ongoing fiscal consolidation, corrective monetary policies, high inflation, interest rates, and macroeconomic uncertainties will keep private consumption and investment low¹.

This is the socio-economic context within which NAP 5 of Ghana's OGP is situated, suffice it to say, that COVID 19 and its containment measures invariably infringed on the civic space, curtailing in the process, citizens' right of assembly, to protest, and to public action. The lost spaces appear, however, to have been clawed back in the post pandemic era.

Ghana's NAP 5 therefore depicts a certain convergence of priorities of citizens and government, in terms of which governance reforms are most critical for sustained economic growth and durable democratic governance.

1.3 The Global OGP Strategy

The focus of OGP since 2011 has been on advancing its founding values and principles to make governments more transparent, accountable, participatory, and inclusive. The OGP's 2023-2028 Strategy strives to build on these values and principles. This is expected to be achieved by pursuing five mutually reinforcing goals:

- Building a growing, committed, and interconnected community of open government reformers, activists, and champions;
- Making open government central to how all levels and branches of government function and deliver on their priorities;
- Protecting and expanding civic space;
- Accelerating collective progress on open government reforms;
- Becoming the home of inspirational open government.

The goals of the OGP are designed to be pursued in an integrated way, with roles for everyone in the OGP community and with implementation strategies adapted according to the prevailing context, which is the reason OGP action plans ought to be set within the global and national contexts.

The OGP strategic focus, principles and goals are not lost on Ghana's OGP. The country's NAP 5 has endeavoured to build consensus among stakeholders on what reforms are crucial to achieving the development aspirations of its people and sustaining the country's democratic governance.

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ghana/overview>

1.4 The Centrality of OGP Co-creation

At the heart of the OGP process is for members at the national and local levels and the thousands of CSOs and other key actors to co-create action plans with concrete reforms across a broad range of issues. This unique model of public participation aims at ensuring that CSOs and other key actors have a role in shaping and exercising oversight over governments.

The development of NAP 5 has benefitted immensely from the guidance provided under the updated OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards of 2021, which took effect on 1st January, 2022²

In particular, the Ghana OGP has responded to the injunction to provide space and mechanism for ongoing dialogue throughout the action plan cycle, by first announcing the inception of NAP 5, inviting / keeping its doors open for proposals on commitments for the action plan, convening technical sessions with proponents of specific reform commitments, to delve deeper into the proposed commitment areas, with a view to obtaining better insight into the proposed reforms, and inviting proponents to participate in the IRM-supported co-creation workshop, which set the tone for the framing of commitments.

Again, it responded to the injunction under Standard 2 i.e. to promote shared responsibility for action plan development and implementation between government and civil society; by convening both CSOs and relevant government agencies to deliberate on the proposals, and to jointly frame the commitments. This is expected to engender ownership and sustain interest throughout the implementation cycle.

While OGP Standard 3 enjoins stakeholders to encourage ambition and innovation in the development of their action plans, experiences, and feedback from the IRM have guided the Ghana OGP to temper ambition with a touch of reality. The commitments outlined in NAP 5 are therefore manifestly realistic even though ambitious. The information asymmetry between CSOs and the implementing agencies have been resolved by bringing the relevant state agencies to the table during the co-creation process.

² The OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards are a set of 5 principles intended to guide and shape the consultations, design, and implementation of OGP action plans by implementing countries.

The fourth Standard, requiring that the Ghana OGP ensures a clear understanding of the minimum requirements expected of all members in terms of participation and co-creation, was taken care of during the co-creation workshop. This is expected to be further bolstered during bilateral meetings with implementers and CSOs collaborators.

The 5th Standard, which requires the facilitation of assessment of compliance with the Standards for greater accountability and learning, is expected to be incorporated into the Ghana OGP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework.

1.5 The Four Pillars of OGP

The OGP fundamentally focuses on the following four pillars of governance:

- Transparency
- Accountability of public office holders
- Participation in governance
- Use of modern technology to enhance good governance.

It is around these pillars that the commitments under Ghana's NAP 5 have been clustered.

1.6 Ghana's OGP NAP 5 Road Map

To help with compliance with the co-creation Standard, Ghana's MSF, comprising government (implementers) and CSOs (Collaborators) deliberated and adopted a roadmap that captures all required steps and activities within the co-creation Standard, with timelines.

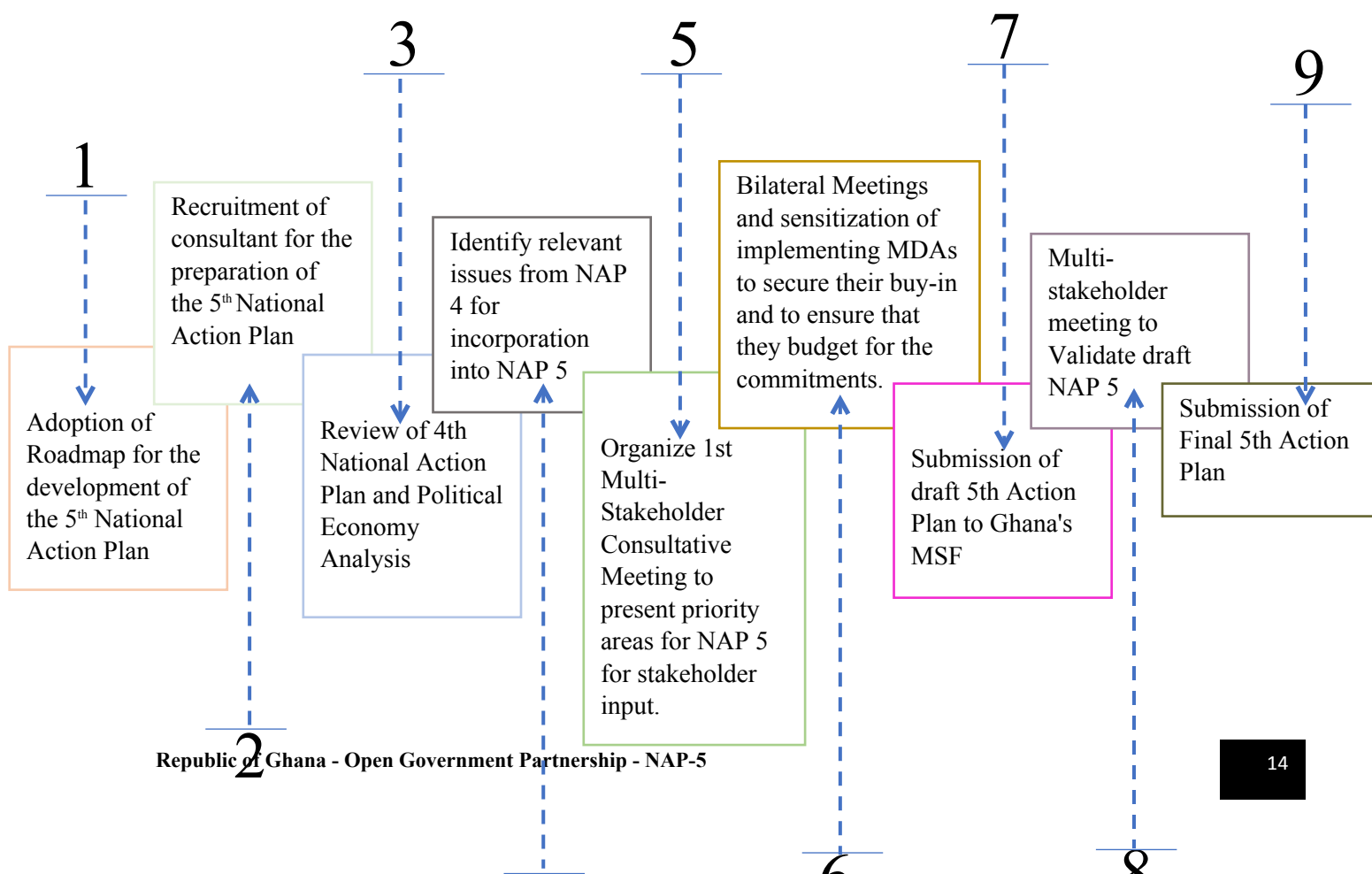
Guided by experience, the MSF decided to adopt a 4-year programming cycle, which gives ample time for budgeting and implementation of commitments. Within the 4-year cycle, the MSF shall document and submit progress reports midstream as part of its monitoring and evaluation activities.

The agreed roadmap is presented below:

Table 1. Roadmap for Co-creation of Ghana's 4-year 5th National Action Plan 2024 - 2027

S/n	Responsibility	Activities to be Undertaken	Timelines
1.	Steering Committee (SC) Members /Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) members	Adoption of Roadmap for the development of NAP 5	30 th March, 2023

2.	SC members	Recruitment of consultant for the preparation of NAP 5	May 2023
3.	SC/MSG member consultant	Review / Political Economy Analysis of NAP 4	June 2023
4.	Steering Committee /MSG members	Identification and collation of new commitments	July 2023
5.	SC / MSG members/ Point of Contact	1 st Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting to present and agree on priority areas for NAP 5	August 2023
6.	SC /MSG members/Point of Contact Implementing Institutions/Agencies	Bilateral Meetings with implementing MDAs to secure their buy-in and to ensure that they budget for the commitments.	September 2023
7.	SC/MSG member consultant	Submission of draft of NAP 5	October 2023
8.	SC/MSG members/Point of Contact	Multi-stakeholder meeting to Validate commitments agreed to at the consultative and bilateral meetings with stakeholders.	October 2023
9.	SC/MSG members/Point of Contact	Submission of Final 5 th Action Plan	December 2023



2.0 POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS OF NAP 4 / PERFORMANCE REVIEW

In reviewing the performance of Ghana in respect of its commitments under NAP 4, the main reference document has been the Ghana OGP Self-Assessment report and the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) Co-creation Brief on Ghana (2023).

The Self-Assessment was based on 14 commitments clustered around the four OGP pillars of Transparency, Accountability, Participation, and the use of ICT to facilitate progress on the three pillars.

The political, economic and social contexts within which NAP 4 was developed and implemented are important, in the same way as it has become for NAP 5. It helps among others, to appreciate the enabling and the challenging factors that either facilitated or impeded implementation.

Ghana's Fourth OGP National Action Plan (2021-2023) was prepared within the context of a global pandemic (COVID 19) and a post-electoral process, which saw the incumbent New Patriotic Party (NPP) retaining power. It was a period that put to test the resilience of Ghana's democracy, as the opposition party protested the outcome of the elections, first in the streets, and subsequently mounted a legal challenge in court.

The retention of power by the incumbent in 2020, meant continuity of reforms that had started since the government assumed office in 2017, however, as the IRM report suggests, the country suffered a few slips on some of its commitments, particularly in the Accountability thematic area, largely as a result of poorly designed Action Plan, with lack of clearly defined milestones, and the absence of stakeholders' review and follow up on implementation. Of course, there are also political economy dynamics, that affect implementation of OGP commitments, such as:

- Vested Interest
- Complacency on the part of the political leadership
- Absence of a citizens – government engagement framework around OGP commitments
- Non-prioritisation of OGP implementation in budgetary allocations.

Vested Interest

A major challenge to good governance reform anywhere in the world is resistance, subtly or overtly, from those who benefit from the status quo. For instance, there is evidence to suggest that the lack of progress on Asset Declaration, contained in NAP 4 is partly the result of vested interest. There doesn't seem to be a consensus on how to proceed. Indeed, some politicians have argued in private and in public, that, declaring their assets and making them public will expose them to criminal attacks, extortion, or untimely death through spiritual means to facilitate early inheritance of their estate by their nephews under customary law.

So, even though the President declared his assets following his assumption of office in 2017 and his second term in 2021 many of his appointees have not complied with the legal obligation, according to an investigation by the Fourth Estate³. Once those vested with power to cause change have interest in maintaining the old order, because it serves their interest, change becomes a difficult battle to wage.

Complacency on the Part of the Political Leadership and Citizens

During electoral campaigning, politicians tend to make promises that they know will resonate with voters' aspirations. Once the elections are over, and power is won, they tend to forget that they ever made such promises. Citizens on the other hand fight hard to get their issues into the manifestoes of competing political parties. Once that is achieved, they deem their mission accomplished and lose the momentum to ensure that the manifesto pledges are fulfilled. A typical example is the case of the 'Affirmative Action Bill' which remains in limbo despite manifesto commitment by the ruling party.

Absence of a Citizens – Government Engagement Framework around OGP

Commitments

Citizens – Government engagement appears to be structured and more intense during the co-creation process. However, the same structure and intensity is not seen during the

³ <https://www.fact-checkghana.com/asset-declaration/>

implementation phase, at least not beyond the MSF. This tends to hinder monitoring and assessment of progress.

Non-prioritisation of OGP Implementation in Budgetary Allocations

The national budget is the single most important tool for ensuring that OGP commitments are met. Though the Government allocates the needed resources to implementing agencies to enable them carry out their assigned reform programmes, budget for coordination and Secretariat support are often not prioritised. This has been the case since inception of OGP in Ghana, leading to ineffective coordination of implementation activities. During NAP 4, the MSF developed a monitoring framework and planned to convene performance review meetings on quarterly basis, but the Secretariat has lacked the financial resources to operationalise its coordination plan.

Following this section, is a review of the Ghana OGP performance relative to its commitments under NAP 4.

2.1 Accountability Commitments

2.1.1 Office of Special Prosecutor

Under NAP 4, the government was to ensure that the Office of the Special Prosecutor was adequately supplied with the necessary human, financial and other resources, and to safeguard its independence by allowing full freedom in recruitment of staff and the conduct of investigations.

Though the Ghana OGP self-assessment report indicates that, data for the performance assessment was not available, there is evidence, including from newspaper reports, to suggest that though there has been some improvement, the office continues to encounter financial challenges. For instance, the 2022 budget allocated some GHC194,920,000 to the Office of the Special Prosecutor, a fact that was disclosed by the Commissioner of CHRAJ in a rebuttal to claims by the Special Prosecutor that his outfit was under funded⁴. Again, on 23rd March 2023, The Africa Report disclosed that, the Special Prosecutor had not been paid salary for

⁴ <https://chraj.gov.gh/news/it-is-not-the-money-alone-that-can-fight-corruption-chraj-boss-advises-special-prosecutor/>

17 months.⁵ Perhaps if the M&E reporting template developed by the MSF had been operationalized, the mix signals would have been averted.

2.1.2 Asset Declaration

Again, under NAP 4, the government of Ghana committed to provide for a transparent and verifiable asset declaration regime. This commitment was not new. It was carried over from the previous Action Plan. To make progress on the commitment, NAP 4 identified three main challenges associated with it:

- i. Assets declared are not verified by any officer.
- ii. Many officers required to declare their assets are in default.
- iii. Article 286 (A) of the Constitution requires the declaration of assets to be made before taking office but Act 550 requires the declaration to be made within six months of assuming office. There is a conflict between the statute and the constitution. This however should not be a problem as the Constitution takes precedence over the statute.

A new Conduct of Public Officers' Bill had been initiated at the time of crafting NAP 4, to address the above weaknesses in the pre-existing regime, and was expected to pass during the period of NAP 4. Regrettably, this did not happen.

The Conduct of Public Officers Bill has in fact been pending since 2013. From a political economy perspective, and as pointed out earlier, it is safe to assume that the lack of progress in passing the new law is because of vested interest. The persons clothed with the power to pass the law are the target of the same law, hence the seeming lack of prioritization of its passage.

2.1.3 Witness Protection Act

Implementation of the Witness Protection Act is another commitment that did not see much progress during the implementation of NAP 4. In 2018, as part efforts at combatting corruption, the Government of Ghana enacted a law to protect citizens who testify in criminal trials, especially in corruption cases involving public office holders and Politically Exposed

⁵ <https://www.theafricareport.com/295129/ghana-special-prosecutor-unpaid-for-17-months-as-anti-graft-advocates-fume/>

Persons. NAP 4 took notice of this landmark development and committed the Government to provide effective protection for persons who are exposed to danger for testifying in criminal prosecutions.

Though the Self-Assessment report indicates that data was unavailable to assess progress, the fact that, by the end of NAP 4, Regulations to the Act had not been passed, and the Witness Protection Agency, established under Section one of the Act, to institutionalize the witness protection provisions in the law is yet to be set up, demonstrates little or no progress.

2.1.4 Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Audit Report Implementation

The lack of action on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee on the Auditor General's reports prompted Government and CSO stakeholders to agree to commit to ensure effective implementation of recommendations of the Committee by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), as well as Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

As a major step towards the achievement of this commitment, Audit Implementation Committees have been established in almost all MDAs and MMDAs. Implementation of recommendations, according to the self-assessment report on NAP 4, remains low, at 54 percent. Weak technical capacity is cited as the reason for the unimpressive rate of implementation of the recommendations.

2.1.5 Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)

In May 2020, the EU Commission blacklisted Ghana and 11 other countries on account of serious lapses they found in the country's AML/CTF regimes. Following the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044), and efforts at implementing a Beneficial Ownership Disclosure regime, Ghana was taken the EU's blacklist. The NAP 4 commitment was therefore to effectively implement the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044) to ensure that Ghana does not get blacklisted again for lapses in the country's AML/CTF regime. The Ghana OGP Self-Assessment however, concluded that, at the end of NAP 4, Limited (minimal) progress had been made towards the effective implementation of the provisions of the Act. For instance, though a Board and committees have been established to oversee the activities of FIC Regulations to operationalise Act 1044 have not been passed by Parliament, indicating a lack of progress on this important front. Another reason cited for the

scoring of minimal progress has to do with the fact that, FIC has not published any annual reports on the implementation of Act 1044. Only draft reports have been produced for 2020-2022 and are currently under review.

2.1.6 Strengthen CHRAJ to discharge its Administrative Justice delivery mandate

The 4th National Action Plan committed the Government of Ghana to strengthening the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to discharge its administrative justice and ombudsman functions. However only minimal progress can be reported at the end of the period. Apart from a gap analysis of the existing complaint and redress mechanisms, and a study tour to Kenya, not much was achieved.

2.2 Transparency Commitments

2.2.1 Beneficial Ownership Transparency

Beneficial Ownership (BO) transparency is a major tool in the arsenals of the Financial Action Taskforce for combating corruption, Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), and terrorism financing. It became a mandatory requirement of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in 2016, with a January 2020 deadline for all EITI implementing countries to fully operationalize the B.O. disclosure regime. To help Government meet the deadline, OGP stakeholders resolved to make it a NAP 3 commitment, which contributed to the speedy enactment of a new Companies Act in 2019 (Act 992), with elaborate B.O. disclosure requirements as part of companies' records held by the Office of the Registrar of Companies.

For NAP 4, stakeholders committed the Government to implement the B.O. provisions in the new Companies' Act. At the time, the RGD (now Office of the Registrar of Companies) had created an electronic B.O. register and was in the process of collecting data. Details of the commitment were:

1. Improve the comprehensiveness, quality and accuracy of B.O. data being collected by ORC;
2. Make the data publicly available;
3. Encourage greater data use, and build the capacity of data users in government, civil society, and among investigative journalists.

As at the end of NAP 4, substantial progress had been made on this commitment. The Self-Assessment report indicate that Company inspectors have been trained on verification processes, several training sessions have been conducted for various stakeholders, including lawyers, business chambers, the media, and CSOs. Even though the Self-Assessment did not acknowledge it, the Ghana OGP in collaboration with GHEITI, the Ghana Integrity Initiative, and with the support of the OGP support unit, organised a national conference on B.O. with a view to identifying nagging challenges to implementation and working with Development Partners and stakeholders to resolve them.

2.2.2 Citizens' Complaints Centre: (CCC)

Recognizing the role of citizens' feedback in improving access to and quality of public service delivery, and the importance of Citizens Complaint Centre in achieving this objective, stakeholders under NAP 4 committed Government to ensure that the Citizens Complaint Centres are effectively rehabilitated to improve feedback on the quality and efficiency of service delivery. This was because, an earlier Citizens Complaint Centre established under the previous government had become moribund.

The commitment failed to rightly identify the implementing agency for this commitment. Efforts to track the responsible agency after the action plan had been finalised for implementation, led the OGP Secretariat to the Ministry of Information as the Ministry has set up a portal and a hotline via which citizens could verify information doing the rounds within the public. It was later discovered that the Ministry of Information's facility was different from what was contemplated in NAP 4. After weeks of tracking, the Secretariat ended up at the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) whose commissioner explained that the Commission was implementing a project of the sort to enhance its ombudsman mandate. This was towards the end of NAP 4 and so not much progress can be reported.

2.2.3 Open and Transparent Tracking of Public Investment

Building on the achievement of a NAP 3 commitment to enhance transparency and accountability of all commercial enterprises in which the State has interest, which achievement manifested in the passage of the State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA) act 2019 (Act 990), NAP 4 committed SIGA to:

1. Publish a register of specified entities i.e. State-owned enterprises, joint venture companies and other entities in which the State has interest, beginning December 2022.
2. Publish evaluation reports of all covered entities by December 2022.
3. Develop a Code of Corporate Governance by December 2022.

By the close of NAP 4, the commitment has substantially been met. According to the Ghana OGP Self-Assessment report, a list of entities in which the state has interest, and performance evaluation reports have been published. The only outstanding commitment in the name of SIGA is the development of a Code of Corporate Governance.

2.2.4 Restoration of the Fiscal Responsibility Act

In 2018, a major NAP 3 commitment to pass the Fiscal Responsibility Act (Act 982) to help instil fiscal discipline and put an end to the cyclical high budget deficits, especially during election years. The Act capped annual budget deficits of Government at 5 percent. Unfortunately, implementation of the Act had to be suspended in July 2020, by Parliament, at the request of the finance minister, following the onset of COVID 19 and its attendant disruption of Government's revenue projections and expenditure plans.

As the country began to show signs of recovery from the most devastating effects of the pandemic in 2021, NAP 4 committed Government to ensure that the Fiscal Responsibility Act was restored by June 2023. However, as at the close of NAP 4 the implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act has not been restored. The Self-Assessment report provides information to suggest that Government has deferred the restoration of the fiscal rules to 2027.

2.2.5 Commodity Trading Transparency

Under the Transparency cluster, NAP 4 committed Government to making oil sales contracts publicly available, as a step to mitigating corruption risks in crude oil trading. Though the Self-Assessment report indicates that, no progress has been made, there is evidence to suggest that some progress was made towards the end of NAP 4. Firstly, one of the two long term sales contracts in contention, the Unipet contract, has been disclosed on both GNPC and GHEITI websites. With respect to the Litasco contract, the Minister of State at the Ministry

of Finance, who is also Ghana's EITI Champion, at the instance of the Ghana EITI, convened a meeting with GNPC's management, at which meeting the national oil company agreed, after expressing some reservations, to make the contract available to GHEITI, explaining that it couldn't publish it, on its own website, as it has been dysfunctional for some time and undergoing rehabilitation.

2.2.6 Right to Information

On the Right to Information commitment, substantial progress was made in 2019, when the Right to Information law was passed. This was under NAP 3. The pre-NAP 4 performance assessment revealed that the personnel and administrative structures required to implement the law were not fully in place. NAP 4 therefore committed the Government to complete the roll-out of the administrative structure in all regions of Ghana.

At the end of the implementation period for NAP 4, further progress had been recorded on the full operationalisation of the Right to Information Law. The Self-Assessment report established that 16 Regional Coordinating Councils now have administrative infrastructure to support RTI implementation. Furthermore, 260 MMDAs have administrative infrastructure to support RTI implementation, while 229 MDAs have administrative infrastructure to support RTI implementation. In all, 505 Information Units have been set up in various public institutions, and 350 Information Officers have been assigned from Ministry of Information. Indeed, citizens have begun seeking information under the law, and the Right to Information Commission has begun sanctioning organisations for refusal or delay in honouring requests.

2.3 Commitments under Citizens Participation

2.3.1 Ensure Passage of Affirmative Action Bill to Enhance Women's Participation in Politics

The issue of marginalisation of women in politics and decision making in Ghana has been a long running subject of public discourse in Ghana. It gained much impetus, following the launch of the Women's Manifesto by a coalition of gender and human rights advocacy organisations and progressive individuals. The Women's Manifesto lays out specific

demands on gender equality, women's rights protection, including the right to political participation.

After strings of broken promises and lip service by various governments to address the problem, the President, his excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in his maiden State of the Nation Address (SONA) in 2021, after his re-election in 2020, pledged to ensure the passage of the Affirmation Action Bill within the first year of his second term. Stakeholders in the NAP 4 co-creation process took notice and captured it as an OGP commitment under the Citizens' Participation cluster. Indeed, this was not the first time it had appeared as an OGP commitment. NAP 3 had made a similar commitment and had gone unfulfilled.

2.3.2 Enhance Citizens' Participation in Local Gov't through Election of MMDCEs

NAP 4 also committed to enhancing citizens participation in local government by passing legislation to allow citizens at the local level to elect their own Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives, as against the current constitutional provision which vests the president with power to appoint Chief Executives under article 243 (1).

Though both the Government (NPP) and major opposition party (NDC) seem to agree on the need to allow local communities to elect their leaders, they appear to disagree on whether or not it should be partisan.

2.3.3 Enhance Opportunities for Political Participation of Persons with Disability

A third commitment under this cluster was to provide opportunities for the political participation of Persons with Disabilities.

As at the end of NAP 4, none of the three commitments clustered around Citizens' Participation had been met.

2.4 Commitments under Technology and Innovation

2.4.1 Ensuring the Delivery of Public Services is Improved through the Sustained Implementation of the Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI).

Having made moderate progress in implementing the Ghana Open Data Initiative, which pulls together data across the entire socio-economic sphere of the country into a store house for ease of access and usage, *NAP 4 committed to ensuring that, the delivery of public*

services is improved through the sustained implementation of the Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI). This commitment builds on a NAP 3 achievement which was to ensure the development of an Open data Policy for Ghana. At the time of co-creating NAP 4 the policy had been developed, and the major challenge confronting the implementation of GODI was the lack of co-operation from several data generators, repositories, and users, for which reason several of the open data portals created under GODI were not populated with data.

As at the end of NAP 4 substantial gaps remained in the implementation of the Ghana Open Data Initiative, with non-cooperation of data compilers and data holders, as well as data synchronisation being the major hinderance to achieving the commitment. The Ghana OGP NAP 4 Self-Assessment describes the progress made as missed, implying less than satisfactory. In terms of the number of public institutions that have supplied data for the project, the self-assessment found that, 20 MDAs out of a target of 50 have uploaded data onto the GODI portal. With respect to public awareness and data accessibility, meetings have been held with stakeholders, but there are no reported activities or progress in making the portal accessible to persons with disabilities, especially the visually challenged. This does not make for inclusivity in data access.

2.5 Open Parliament Commitments in Ghana's OGP NAP-4

2.5.1 Background

Though Parliament is represented by two members of Parliament from both sides of the political divide, there has never been specific OGP commitments around the work of the legislature until 2021, during the co-creation of NAP 4 when it became an issue.

Taking guidance from the [Parliamentary Engagement Policy Guideline](#) developed by the Global OGP Steering Committee and the options to either have a Parliament-standalone set of OGP commitments that is created with due regard to OGP principles and participation requirements (e.g., IRM, self-assessment and co-creation) or integrate commitments on Parliamentary work into the National Action Plan.

Following consultations with the Clerk of Parliament, and with support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the Parliament of Ghana in early 2020 announced an Open Parliament Task Team, made up of staff of Parliament from its various Departments, to coordinate internal efforts at developing an Open Parliament Action Plan. These processes,

although started, was not concluded before WFD's Ghana Office was closed in the last quarter of 2020, and the process stalled.

As time was of essence, primarily because NAP 4 was due for submission in in 2021, Parliament decided that the easier and most realistic route to get Parliamentary Commitments in NAP-4, in fulfilment of the new global trend in OGP commitments, cannot be to have a standalone set of parliamentary OGP commitments, but to integrate specific Open Parliament commitments in the NAP-4, and commit the institution of Parliament to same, as Parliament's representatives are already part of the co-creation and consultation processes ongoing.

2.5.2 Open Parliament Commitments in NAP 4

The Parliamentary representatives on the OGP Steering, together with other stakeholders at the National Stakeholders Consultative Meeting held on 19th May 2021, subsequently crafted Parliaments OGP commitment as follows:

- *The Ghana Parliament commits to effectively participate in the OGP Ghana activities by December 2022*

This was affirmed during a validation meeting held on 23rd June, 2021.

At the end of the implementation period for NAP 4, the commitment could be said to have been met or even exceeded. The self-assessment report points to the following indicators in support of this conclusion:

1. Parliament has established a Citizens' Bureau, which is an office in Parliament to facilitate engagement and exchanges between Parliament and Civil Society Organizations. The office is expected to serve as the Open Parliament Secretariat.
2. Parliament has held a number of meetings with civil society organisations to discuss ways to promote open government in Ghana.
3. Parliament of Ghana participates in OGP activities. There are two Members of Parliament who represent Parliament on the National OGP Steering Committee.
4. Parliament continues to undertake activities that promote the Open Government values of transparency, accountability and citizen's participation.

5. In June 2022, Ghana's Parliament was adjudged the most open Parliament in Africa on the Africa Open Parliament Index conducted by Africa Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations and Parliamentary Network Africa.

3.0 UNMET OGP COMMITMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION/ RE-PRIORITISATION

As evident from the performance review of NAP 4, out of 14 commitments assessed, 11 recorded a mix of minimal progress or no progress at all. It is important that these were considered as part of the co-creation process, and a decision taken to either abandon or re-prioritise them in NAP 5. To help with this process, a set of objective criteria was developed and presented to the co-creation stakeholders to serve as a guide. Firstly, for an unmet commitment to find its way back into NAP 5, it must be deemed to still have relevance within the country's governance reform architecture, and there must be evidence to suggest that Government is still keen on the commitment. Secondly, there must be a strong demand-side accountability actors mobilised and campaigning on the issue to be addressed by the commitment; and thirdly, it must be demonstrated that, the implementation of the commitment will have a profound impact on a substantial section of the country's population, especially the under-privileged.

Table 2. Key Considerations for Re-prioritisation of Unmet Commitments

Accountability	Asset Declaration			
	Witness Protection Act			

	Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Audit Report Implementation			
	Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)			
	Strengthen CHRAJ to discharge its administrative justice delivery mandate			
Transparency	Citizens' Complaints Centre (CCC)			
	Restoration of the Fiscal Responsibility Act			
Participation	Ensure Passage of Affirmative Action Bill to Enhance Women's Participation in Politics			
	Enhance Citizens' Participation in Local Gov't through Election of MMDCEs			
	Enhance Opportunities for Political Participation of Persons with Disability			
Technological Innovation	Sustained Implementation of the Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI).			
Open Parliament	None			

4.0 NEW ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND INCLUSION IN NAP 5

The setting of priorities for NAP 5 benefitted substantially from the technical support extended by the OGP support unit and the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM). The co-creation brief has been useful in providing guidance for the process. The co-creation workshop organised in October 2023, with the support of the IRM team, afforded the MSF, Secretariat, and key stakeholders from both Government and Civil Society constituencies, the opportunity to Action Plan co-creation process, and about the Action Plan Design. With guidance from the IRM team, stakeholders used the opportunity to kick start the framing of commitments already received by the Ghana OGP Secretariat.

Incidentally, some of the new issues tabled were contained in NAP 4, and to the extent that they were not fully achieved, or there are still nagging issues around them, or they are new issues emerging in the change dynamics, they are deemed admissible. Indeed, their admissibility was subjected to the guiding criteria for determining their re-prioritisation under NAP 5.

5.0 GHANA'S FINAL NAP 5 COMMITMENTS

5.1 ACCOUNTABILITY

5.1.1 Asset Declaration

The Asset Declaration commitment was carried over from NAP 3 into NAP 4, and now into NAP 5. The commitment seeks to reform the existing law and practice with respect to Asset Declaration, to give better effect to checks against public sector corruption. Under the current dispensation, disclosed assets are kept in sealed envelopes, and are not opened unless there's cause to do so. They are not verified, and the requirement is often not complied with. The current government in its 2016 electoral manifesto, pledged to pass a new Conduct of Public Officers' Bill, with provisions on assets declaration, mandating public disclosure and verification.

The Commitment

1. The commitment is to pass the Conduct of Public Officers bill into law, ensuring that provisions on assets declaration require verification and come with severe sanctions for non-compliance.
2. Develop regulations to fully operationalise the Conduct of Public Officers' bill when passed into law.

3. Publish a Public Financial Management Compliance League Table for Public Institutions and apply the necessary sanctions as stated in the PFM Act for non-compliance.

Responsible Institutions:

The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance

Collaborating Institutions:

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Controller and Accountant General's Department, Public Procurement Authority, Internal Audit Agency, Ghana Revenue Authority, Bank of Ghana, Ghana Audit Service, and Parliamentary Service.

CSO Collaborators:

Public Financial Management (PFM) Coalition, Economic Governance Platform (EGP), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG).

5.1.2 Accountability: Witness Protection

In NAP-3, a commitment was made to pass the Witness Protection Bill into law. The commitment was fulfilled on 30th August 2018, with the passage of Act 975. The full operationalization of the Act has however delayed. Three years into the passage of the Act the institutional outlay for implementation i.e. the Witness Protection Agency, is yet to be put in place.

The Commitment

- The commitment is to provide effective protection for persons who are exposed to danger for witnessing in criminal prosecutions, by passing regulations to the Witness Protection Act and setting up the Witness Protection Agency.

Responsible Institutions:

Lead Agency: Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice

Collaborating Institutions: Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service, Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), National Investigation Bureau (NIB), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

Collaborating CSOs:

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC).

5.1.3 Accountability: Public Accounts Committee and Audit Report Implementation

This commitment was carried over from NAP 4. It seeks to address the persistent non-compliance with audit report recommendations by MDAs and MMDAs. The problem is accentuated more at the District Assembly level, where lack of basic bookkeeping, financial literacy, and record keeping have been identified as major inhibitors to the implementation of audit report findings and recommendations.

The Commitment

- Ensure effective implementation of Audit recommendations from Internal Auditors, External Auditors, Audit Committees and of Public Accounts Committee on the reports of the Auditor-General and Management Letters by Public Institutions by building the capacity of Internal Audit Units (IAUs) Audit Committees, Heads and Boards Public Institutions to implement the new Audit Report Recommendations and Implementation Instructions (ARR&I).

Responsible Institutions

Lead: Internal Audit Agency

Collaborating Institutions: Public Accounts Committee, CHRAJ.

Collaborating CSOs

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)

5.1.4 Accountability: Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)

This commitment builds on an earlier (NAP 4) commitment which saw the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044), and whose fulfillment got Ghana off the EU AML/CTF blacklist.

Ghana's OGP stakeholders agree that passing the law is not an end in itself, and that there will be the need to implement the law in order to ensure that Ghana stays off the blacklist.

The Commitment

- The commitment is to effectively implement the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044) to ensure that Ghana does not get blacklisted again for lapses in the country's AML/CTF regime.

Responsible Institutions:

Lead Institution: Financial Intelligence Center.

Collaborating Institutions:

EOCO, Ghana Audit Service.

Collaborating CSOs:

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI).

5.1.5 Accountability: Enabling CHRAJ's administrative justice delivery mandate

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice's statute of establishment assigns it an ombudsman role, to protect the citizens from abuse by public office holders and denial of services due them (citizens) by right. It is however generally believed that the Commission has not paid good enough attention to its ombudsman functions, partly due to logistical and budgetary constraints. This commitment is therefore intended to ensure that, the required infrastructure and investments are made during the course of NAP 5's implementation to enable CHRAJ rise up to the challenge of extending ombudsman services to the citizenry.

The Commitment

- The commitment is to develop a comprehensive online/web-based complaint and redress system on all mandate areas of the Commission to enable it to perform its administrative justice delivery mandate better.

Responsible Institutions:

Lead Institution:

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice

Collaborating Institution: Public Sector Reform Secretariat

Collaborating CSOs:

CDD, CHRI, IDEG

5.1.6 Accountability: Health Service Delivery

Health is a universal human right grounded in the UN Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The covenant grants everyone the right of access to health services they need, when, and where they need them, at costs that are affordable. However, the quality of healthcare services provided by some service providers in Ghana, leaves a lot to be desired. This commitment is new, and intended to help hold healthcare service providers accountable for the quality of service they deliver, while ensuring that financial resources needed to enhance their operations are made available timeously.

The Commitment

The commitment is two-fold. The first commitment is to:

- Ensure greater accountability in the health sector by establishing digital platforms to facilitate complaints and feedback on quality-of-service delivery.

The second is to:

- Uncap the NHIA funds to ensure prompt disbursement and release of NHIA allocations to primary health centres.

Responsible Institutions

Lead Institution: Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance

Collaborating Institutions: Ghana Health Service, Parliament of Ghana

Collaborating CSOs: Budgit Ghana, SEND Ghana, National NGO Coalition on Health

5.2 TRANSPARENCY

5.2.1 Power Purchasing Agreements

This is a new commitment that seeks to open power sector contracting to public scrutiny. Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs) are believed to be a major source of corruption in Ghana's power sector. This is because they are often negotiated in secrecy, and the final agreements are also not publicly disclosed. These contracts are known to have imposed inefficiency costs on consumers. Upon assuming office in 2017 the New Patriotic Party (NPP) government took a decision to review all PPAs entered by the previous government, alleging inefficiency and overly high tariffs. In that same year, as part of the review process, the government cancelled the country's PPA with the Ghana Power Generating Company (GPGC) leading to litigation with Trafigura, a majority shareholder in GPGC. The company subsequently secured a \$140 million judgement against Ghana at UK's International Court of Arbitration, putting at risk of seizure, Ghana's assets in the UK. It is believed that transparency in the negotiation of PPAs and their public disclosure would have ensured the negotiation of satisfactory contracts and would have steered the country away from this needless litigation.

The Commitment

The commitments are in two folds:

1. Amend the PURC Act to expand its mandate to include public disclosure of PPAs.
2. The proposed amendment will also make power sector contracting process open and transparent.

Responsible Institutions

Lead Institution: Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC)

Collaborating Institutions:

Ministry of Energy

Collaborating CSOs:

Coalition of Stakeholders on Electricity Concession Arrangements (COSECA), Africa Centre for Energy Policy, Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas, Economic Governance Platform, GACC, Energy for Growth Hub, Renewable Energy Association of Ghana, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI).

5.2.2 Transparency: Right to Information

The commitment builds on a NAP 4 commitment that sought to complete the rollout of the administrative and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Right to Information Act, following its passage in 2019.

The Commitment

- The commitment is in three-fold:
 1. Create public awareness on the RTI Act, how it operates and obligations of public institutions
 2. Pass Regulations to fully operationalise the RTI Act
 3. Provide adequate funding for the implementation of the RTI Act.

Responsible Institutions:

Lead Institution - Ministry of Information

Collaborating Institutions:

Right to Information Commission

Collaborating CSOs:

Right to Information Coalition, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Media Foundation for West Africa.

5.2.3 Transparency: Fisheries

This is a new commitment expected to pry open the fisheries sector, as a deliberate strategy to improve fisheries governance in Ghana. It is widely believed that the fisheries sector is bedeviled with corruption, and that, this is facilitated by the opacity around decision making in the sector, lack of consultation around policy formulation, and non-disclosure of revenues and their utilisation. Stakeholders believe that transparency in the fisheries sector will empower citizens to ask critical questions on how the sector is being governed, and that will serve as incentive for improved governance.

The Commitment

The commitment is to pass a new Fisheries Act or amend the existing one to provide for greater transparency in the fisheries sector.

Responsible Institutions:

Lead Institution - Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

Collaborating Institutions:

Fisheries Commission

Collaborating CSOs:

Fisheries Alliance, Centre for Maritime Law and Security, Hen Mpoano, Fisheries Transparency, Environmental Justice Foundation, Ghana Tuna Association (GTA), Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA), Ghana Inshore Fishermen Association (GIFA), National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA)

5.3 PARTICIPATION

5.3.1 Citizens Complaint Centre

The establishment of a Citizens' Complaint Centre was conceived as a mechanism to facilitate citizens' participation in ensuring quality public service delivery, by providing feedback to enable continuous improvement and access to these services. This policy area was carried over from NAP 4. It was not implemented largely due to lack of ownership, as it was not clear which institution was to take the lead on it. Following consultations with some key stakeholders, a consensus has emerged on who is taking responsibility for its implementation, hence the decision to include it in NAP 5.

The Commitment

The commitment is to establish a coordinated and syndicated citizen feedback mechanism on public policy and public service delivery.

Responsible Institutions:

Lead Institution – Public Sector Reform Secretariat, Ministry of Information, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (Commitment to be worked on jointly)

Collaborating Institutions:

Lands Commission, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, Office of the Head of the Civil Service, Passport Office, Births and Deaths Registry, Office of the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of the Interior.

Collaborating CSOs:

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI).

5.3.2 Participation: Gender Equality

Women constitute 50.7 percent of Ghana's population but only 15 percent of them are in national parliament⁶. Again, less than six percent of them get elected in District-level elections⁷. The enhancement of women's direct participation in political processes in Ghana

⁶ <https://www.blogs.worldbank.org>

⁷⁷ <https://www.mfwa.org/barely-6-of-women-get-elected-in-district-level-elections-in-ghana-media-must-help-change-the-narrative>

has been a topical issue in the country for more than two decades. This was recognised by NAP 5 and a commitment made to address it by fashioning out legislation to this effect. The commitment was, however, not met. Some progress was however made by drafting an Affirmative Action Bill. Though the government says it is committed to passing the bill, most stakeholders believe without a strong push, the bill may not be passed.

The Commitment

The commitment is to ensure the progressive increase in women's political participation at all levels of government, by passing the Affirmative Action Bill into law.

Responsible Institutions:

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

Collaborating Institutions:

Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice.

Collaborating CSOs:

The Coalition on Affirmative Action, The Women's Manifesto, NORSAAC, Gender Centre, Abantu for Development, WiLDAF, Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFDO), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Center for Democratic Development (CDD) Centre for Local Government Advocacy, Voice Ghana.

5.3.3 Participation: Citizen Participation in Local Government

This commitment was carried over from NAP 4 and anchored on the widespread concern about the lack of accountability of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) to their respective constituents. It is believed that MMDCEs are non-responsive to citizens at the sub-national level because they are appointed by the President. Many hold the view that, if the positions were made elective, it will enable citizens to participate more meaningfully in local governance and will make MMDCEs more responsive to the demands and aspirations of their constituents. During implementation of NAP 4, the NPP government, initiated discussions on the subject, but soon hit a snag, as there was no by-partisan

agreement on whether to make the elections partisan. Public interest in the subject remains high, hence the decision to re-introduce it in NAP 5.

The Commitment

The commitment is two-fold. First, the government and stakeholders commit to Enhance Citizens' Participation in Local Government, through the Election of MMDCEs.

The second commitment is to Enhance Opportunities for Political Participation of Persons with Disability, by passing the Persons with Disability Re-enactment Bill, and the accompanying legislative instruments.

Responsible Institutions:

Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation, and Rural Development.

Collaborating Institutions:

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice.

Collaborating CSOs:

Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations, Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Center for Democratic Development (CDD) Centre for Local Government Advocacy, VOICE Ghana.

5.4 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

5.4.1 Misinformation and Disinformation

There is a thin line between Misinformation and Disinformation. The American Psychological Association defines Misinformation as false or inaccurate information; and Disinformation as false information deliberately intended to mislead audiences⁸. It appears the difference between the two is that misinformation may not be deliberate, but disinformation is deliberate. Be that as it may, both can be injurious to the social construct and can be destabilizing if not checked.

⁸ <https://www.apa.org/topics/journalism-facts/misinformation-disinformation>

In recent times some political activists have used online news portals to spread falsehood to create public disquiet, or to cast slur on their political opponents. These acts tend to sow social discord and inhibit the construct of social cohesion.

Stakeholders in the NAP 5 co-creation process strongly felt there was a need for a commitment to address the menace, hence its inclusion in NAP 5.

The Commitment

The commitment is in two-fold. The first commitment under this policy area is to implement structures to combat Misinformation / Disinformation on digital platforms.

The second commitment is to strengthen the provisions in the Electronic Communications Act, 2008 and the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 to deter misinformation and disinformation on digital platforms.

Responsible Institutions:

Ministry of Information

Collaborating Institutions:

Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation; and National Media Commission, CHRAJ

Collaborating CSOs:

Media Foundation for West Africa, Odikro, NCCE, CHRAJ, Information Services Department, Ministry of Education.

5.4.2 Technology and Innovation: Data sharing and intermediation of public service delivery platforms

To maintain sanity, prevent abuse, and advance the integrity of online transactions and news portals, the government has set out to develop the Ghana Government Enterprise Architecture and eGovernment Interoperability Framework (GGEA & eGIF). This is an ambitious agenda to transform government operations and service delivery. The government is investing heavily in data centre infrastructure, systems, and networking capabilities to create an enabling environment for ICT-based business transformation.

To ensure that government's transformational efforts yield maximum impact, standard framework for business processes, information, technologies, and organizational structure in a coordinated fashion, with best practices, guidelines, and recommendations for all aspects of government organization's digitalisation adaption, the Ghana Government Enterprise Architecture and eGovernment Interoperability Framework (GGEA & eGIF) were developed.

These two documents ideally should provide the mechanism to reinforce order and provide the citizens security and confidence to use any digital solution as mentioned above in the case of the virtual/digital environment.

Government institutions often undertake ICT projects without ensuring that Interoperability and EA standards are adhered to and weeks/months down the line we experience challenges which usually call for redesign, reconfiguration, redevelopment or deployment with huge financial implications.

The GGEA & eGIF are intended to bring sanity in the use of ICT to engender transformation and growth of the economy.

If MDAs are to meet the challenges of a modern digital economy, defining and effectively implementing an Enterprise Architecture framework is even more important now than it was in 2008 when it was first developed, and grows more urgent year by year.

The data sharing and intermediation of public service delivery platforms policy area adopted for the Ghana OGP NAP 5 will ride on the back of the GGEA and eGIF standard documents to enhance digital civic space to address issues among others related to the following:

- Systems/platform comply with the documents and are mindful of privacy of citizens
- Have measures and strategy to address cybersecurity.
- Open Data and Access to Information etc.

The Commitment

- The commitment is to strengthen data sharing and intermediation among public service delivery platforms to enhance digital civic space through the OGP process.

Responsible Institutions:

Lead Institution: Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation (MoCD) / National Information Technology Agency (NITA)

Collaborating Institutions:

MDAs, MMDAs, Cyber Security Authorities, Data Protection Agency,

Collaborating CSOs:

Open Data Alliance, Universities (KNUST, UG, UCC, Ghana Telecom, Ashesi)

5.5 OPEN PARLIAMENT

Parliament is supposed to, and indeed, seen as acting for, and on behalf of citizens. However, a huge gap exists between citizens and their elected representatives. Ghanaians have often complained about not being consulted on major decisions that their parliament makes, and again, do not have regular access to parliamentary proceedings.

The Ghana OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) has always had representation from Parliament, but the role of Parliamentarians in the Ghana OGP process is only now being fashioned out, with some commitments on Open Parliament in NAP 4 seeing some commendable traction as evident in the findings of the NAP 4 performance assessment in section 2.5.2.

The Open Parliament commitments in NAP 5 seeks to build on the achievements of NAP 4, by recognising the need for institutionalisation of OGP in Parliament and for mainstreaming OGP principles of transparency, accountability, participation, and the deployment of technology to enhance the first three principles in the workings of Parliament.

The Parliament of Ghana has made three substantive commitments under NAP 5. The commitments reflect the new role that Ghana's Parliament has carved for itself in Ghana's OGP process. They are:

1. Establish oversight mechanism in parliament to ensure achievement of the national OGP commitments.
2. Enhance access to information on parliament's work in an easily accessible, user friendly, and timely manner.
3. Increase engagement between Parliament and citizens.

Responsible Institutions:

Lead Institution: Parliament of Ghana

Collaborating Institution: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Collaborating CSOs:

Ghana Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations Network (GPMON), Parliamentary Network Africa (PN Africa), Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), PenPlusBytes, Odikro.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF), chaired by the Senior Presidential Advisor, shall oversee the implementation of the agreed commitments. The MSF will be supported by the national OGP Secretariat, hosted by the Public Sector Reform Secretariat (PSRS). Following the adoption and publication of the 5th National Action Plan by the MSF, a 5-member team, made up of Secretariat staff and MSF members would be constituted to hold bilateral meetings with all implementing agencies to remind them of their commitments, discuss their proposed approaches to implementation, and to clarify funding sources for implementation.

As the coordinating body, the MSF, through the Ghana OGP Secretariat, will review and finalise reporting templates to be completed by implementing agencies, and shall convene quarterly review meetings to deliberate on progress of implementation. At the end or beginning of each year, the MSF shall cause to be organised, an annual assessment of

progress, the report of which shall be submitted for stakeholder discussion and suggestions on how to make faster and sustained progress.

6.1 Role of Collaborators

Two categories of collaborators have been identified for the purpose of implementation of this national action plan. The first category of collaborators, described as Institutional Collaborators, are state institutions that have an interest in a particular commitment but do not have direct mandate to lead on its implementation. Such institutions can offer technical advice or provide logistical and other forms of support for achieving the commitment.

The second category of collaborators, described as CSO collaborators, are non-state actors with interest and technical knowledge of the issues that lie at the heart of the commitment. As accountability actors, their role is to prompt and demand action on the commitments. They also are to make input into policy formulation, and to shape discussions around planned reforms based on their experiences.

During quarterly and annual review meetings, lead agencies and their collaborators will work closely to assess progress and identify challenges to implementation of their commitments. Annual performance assessments shall be made against the set milestones for the commitments.

6.2 Conclusion

There is no doubt that, the preparation of NAP 5 has been the most rigorous in Ghana's history of action plan development. From bilateral engagements with commitment proponents, to multi-stakeholder training on co-creation, actual commitment formulation, two national consultative workshops, validation, and adoption by MSF, we have ensured that NAP 5 will escape the fate of previous action plans, which were either unrealistic in terms of ambition, or lacked clarity in terms of ownership.

The Ghana OGP stakeholder front has also broadened way beyond the usual, bringing into its realm, stakeholders from the power, fisheries, and digitalisation sectors, and creating opportunities for reforms across a much broader sphere of the country's political, social and economic life.

With clear roles defined for stakeholders in NAP 5, and with a framework for progress monitoring fashioned out, it is expected that implementation will be much better than previously.

APPENDIX I

Commitment Template	
5.1.1 Accountability: Asset Declaration	
Commitment 1 starts January 2024 and Ends December 2027 Commitment 2 starts January 2026 and Ends December 2027 Commitment 3 starts January 2024 and Ends December 2027	
Old Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	The commitment seeks to reform the existing law and practice with respect to Asset Declaration, to give better effect to checks against public sector corruption.
The commitment	1. Pass the Conduct of Public Officers bill into law, ensuring that provisions on assets declaration require verification and come with severe sanctions for non-compliance. 2. Develop regulations to fully operationalise the Conduct of Public Officers' bill when passed into law. 3. Publish a Public Financial Management Compliance League Table for Public Institutions and apply the necessary sanctions as stated in the PFM Act for non-compliance.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	- Commitment 1 &2, if implemented, will help address public sector corruption. - Commitment 3 will ensure compliance with the provisions of the Public Financial Management Act.
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	- Commitments 1&2 are critical to the realization of OGP values of accountability and anti-corruption - Commitment 3 is relevant in advancing accountability in the management of public financial resources.

Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Draft Bill approved by Cabinet.		January, 2024	December, 2024
Final Bill drafted by AG Department.		January, 2025	December, 2025
Public consultations held by parliament on the Bill		January, 2026	December, 2026
Bill is passed by parliament and assented to by the President.		January, 2027	December, 2027
Regulations to the new Act drafted.		January, 2026	December, 2026
Regulations to the new Act passed.		January, 2027	December, 2027
Framework for the league table developed.		January, 2024	December, 2024
Public consultations on the draft framework held		January, 2025	December, 2025
Draft framework finalised.		January, 2026	December, 2026
First league table published		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Godfred Yeboah Dame - for Commitment 1&2 Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta – for Commitment 3 (PFM Compliance League Table)	
Title, Department		Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice (Commitment 1&2) Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance (Commitment 3)	
Email and Phone		info@mojagd.gov.gh +233-030-266-7609 (Attorney General) Info @mofep.gov.gh- +233-302-747-197 (Minister of Finance)	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Controller and Accountant General's Department (CAGD), Public Procurement Authority (PPA),	

		Internal Audit Agency (IAA), Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), Bank of Ghana (BoG, Ghana Audit Service, and Parliamentary Service.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Public Financial Management (PFM) Coalition, Economic Governance Platform (EGP), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG).

5.1.2 Accountability: Witness Protection Act	
Commitment Starts January 2024 and Ends December 2027	
Old Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	Lack of protection and assistance to persons exposed to severe danger from witnessing in court proceeding for criminal offences.
The commitment	Provide effective protection for persons who are exposed to danger for witnessing in criminal prosecutions, by passing regulations to the Witness Protection Act and setting up the Witness Protection Agency.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	Commitment will ensure that witnesses in criminal trials especially corruption trials feel safe to testify.
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	Commitment is relevant to the OGP value of accountability in public service, rule of law, and the fight against corruption.

Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Regulations to fully operationalize the Witness Protection Act developed		January, 2024	December, 2024
Regulations to the Witness Protection Act passed		January, 2025	December, 2025
Institutional framework for implementation of the Act established		January, 2026	December, 2026
Public sensitised on witness protection arrangements		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Godfred Yeboah Dame	
Title, Department		Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice	
Email and Phone		info@mojagd.gov.gh +233-030-266-7609	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service, Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), National Investigation Bureau (NIB), Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII),	

Commitment Template

5.1.3 Accountability: Public Accounts Committee and Audit Report Implementation

Commitment Starts November 2024 and Ends June 2027			
Old Commitment			
Lead implementing agency/actor	Internal Audit Agency		
Commitment description			
Problem to be addressed	The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has observed that some Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) fail to implement recommendations contained in its report. This is due to the weak implementation capacity of MDAs		
The commitment	Ensure effective implementation of Audit recommendations from Internal Auditors, External Auditors, Audit Committees and of Public Accounts Committee on the reports of the Auditor-General and Management Letters by Public Institutions by building the capacity of Internal Audit Units (IAUs) Audit Committees, Heads and Boards Public Institutions to implement the new Audit Report Recommendations and Implementation Instructions (ARR&I).		
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	The commitment, if implemented, will help curb corruption and abuses in the management and utilization of public financial resources.		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	The commitment is relevant to the OGP values of accountability and an enabler of the fight against corruption.		
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Training manual on basic accounting and records keeping developed for training audit committees.		January, 2024	December, 2024
- Training for MDAs in the various zones organized. - Training for Audit Committees, Internal Audit Units and Heads of Public Institutions conducted		January, 2025	December, 2025
Training for the MMDAs in the various zones organised.		January, 2026	December, 2026
Guidance notes and Standard Operating Procedures developed to guide audit committees.		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			

Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Dr. Eric Oduro Osae
Title, Department		Director General, Internal Audit Agency
Email and Phone		iaamails@iaa.gov.gh +233-362-196941
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Public Accounts Committee, (PAC) Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)

Commitment Template	
5.1.4 Accountability: Anti-money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF)	
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2027	
Old Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC)
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	Ghana was blacklisted by the EU in May 2020 for lapses in the

	country's AML /CTF regimes. Ghana responded to the blacklisting by enacting the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044). Ghana was subsequently removed from the blacklist. The problem the commitment seeks to address is to avoid being blacklisted again.		
What is the commitment?	The commitment is to effectively implement the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044) to ensure that Ghana does not get blacklisted again for lapses in the country's AML/CTF regime.		
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	The commitment is expected to mitigate any money laundering and terrorism financing risks in Ghana's economic sphere, and to avoid future blacklisting.		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	Commitment will ensure implementation of Ghana's international obligations relating to Anti-Money Laundering and terrorism financing. It will also hold all economic actors accountable for their actions in stemming / preventing money laundering and terrorism financing in Ghana.		
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
- Stakeholder consultations for the development of regulations held. - Regulations to the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) particularly provisions on BO passed.		January, 2024	December, 2024
- Awareness creation events among relevant stakeholders organised. - Competent authorities trained in detecting AML/CTF risks. - ICT infrastructure for hosting BO central register upgraded and all licenses renewed.		January, 2025	December 2025
Information sharing protocol / platform created for competent authorities		January, 2026	December, 2026
Implementation of Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044) sustained		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Mr. Kwaku Dua – Financial Intelligence Center Mrs. Jemima Oware – Office of the Registrar of Companies		

Title, Department		Chief Executive Officer, FIC Registrar of Companies, ORC
Email and Phone		Info@fic.gov.gh +233-302-665-252 (FIC) Info@rgd.gov.gh +233-30-266-4691 (ORC)
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO) Ghana Audit Service
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Center for Democratic Development (CDD). Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI).

Commitment Template	
5.1.5 Accountability: Enabling CHRAJ's Administrative Justice Delivery Mandate	
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2027	
New Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	CHRAJ
Commitment description	

Problem to be addressed	The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice's statute of establishment assigns it an ombudsman role, to protect the citizens from abuse by public office holders and denial of services due them (citizens) by right. It is however generally believed that the Commission has not paid good enough attention to its ombudsman functions, partly due to logistical and budgetary constraints. This commitment is therefore intended to ensure that, the required infrastructure and investments are made during NAP 5's implementation to enable CHRAJ rise up to the challenge of extending ombudsman services to the citizenry.		
What is the commitment?	The commitment is to develop a comprehensive online/web-based complaint and redress system on all mandate areas of the Commission to enable it perform its administrative justice delivery mandate better.		
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	The commitment, if implemented, will enable CHRAJ better perform its administrative justice, and ombudsman functions.		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	The commitment will help to hold state institutions accountable for their service delivery mandate.		
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Web-based system developed		January, 2024	December, 2024
CHRAJ offices nationwide networked		January, 2025	December 2025
Web- based system piloted.		January, 2026	December, 2026
Web-based system fully activated for citizens' access.		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr. Joseph Whittal	
Title, Department		Commissioner, CHRAJ	
Email and Phone		info@chraj.gov.gh ,+233-302662150	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Public Sector Reform Secretariat	

	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	CDD-Ghana, CHRI, IDEG

Commitment Template	
5.1.6 Accountability: Health Service Delivery	
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2027	
New Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Health Ministry of Finance
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	Health is a universal human rights grounded in the UN Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The covenant grants everyone the right of access to health services they need, when, and where they need them, at costs that are affordable. However, the quality of healthcare services provided by some service providers in Ghana, leaves a lot to be desired.
What is the commitment?	The commitment is in two-fold. The first commitment is to: Ensure greater accountability in the health sector by establishing digital platforms to facilitate complaints and feedback on quality-of-service delivery. The second is to:

	Uncap the NHIA funds to ensure prompt disbursement and release of NHIA allocations to primary healthcare centres.		
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	The first commitment will help hold healthcare service providers accountable for the quality of service they deliver, while the second will ensure that financial resources needed to enhance their operations are made available timeously.		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	The commitment will help to hold state institutions accountable for their service delivery mandate.		
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
- Establishment of digital platforms commissioned and operationalised by Government. - Notice of government intent to uncap the NHIA fund served.		January, 2024	December, 2024
- Digital platforms piloted. - Draft amendment bill to uncap NHIA developed.		January, 2025	December 2025
- Digital platform fully operationalized - Draft amendment bill to uncap NHIA funds laid before parliament.		January, 2026	December, 2026
- Citizens sensitised on the existence of the digital platforms. - Draft amendment bill to uncap NHIA passed.		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Hon. Kwaku Agyemang Manu Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta		
Title, Department	Minister of Health, Ministry of Health Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance		
Email and Phone	info@moh.gov.gh , +233-302665651 (Ministry of Health) Info@mofep.gov.gh , +233-302-747-197 (Ministry of Finance)		
Other	State actors	Ghana Health Service	

Actors Involved	involved	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Budget Ghana, SEND Ghana, National NGO Coalition on Health, SEND Ghana, National NGO Coalition on Health.

Commitment Template	
5.2. TRANSPARENCY	
5.2.1 Power Purchasing Agreements	
Commitment Starts January 2024 and Ends December 2027	
New Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURC)
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs) are believed to be a major source of corruption in Ghana's power sector. This is because they are often negotiated in secrecy, and the final agreements are also not publicly disclosed. Apart from being a source of corruption, these contracts are known to have imposed inefficiency costs on consumers.
The commitment	The commitment is in two folds: 1. Amend the PURC Act to expand its mandate to include public disclosure of PPAs.

		2. The proposed amendment will also make power sector contracting process open and transparent.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem		The commitment will make it difficult for public officers to engage in rent seeking practices and other forms of corruption in PPA negotiations, by subjecting them to public scrutiny and accountability.
Relevance of commitment to OGP values		The required disclosures will advance the OGP principles of transparency and democratic accountability.
Additional information		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date: End Date:
Modalities for the disclosure of PPAs established		January, 2024 December, 2024
Registry to hold and publish relevant data on PPAs developed.		January 2025 December, 2025
Regulations to fully operationalise the amended act mandating PPAs transparency passed.		January, 2026 December, 2026
PPAs published by PURC		January, 2027 December, 2027
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Dr Ismael Ackah
Title, Department		Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Regulatory Commission
Email and Phone		info@purc.com.gh , +233-302244181 – 4
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Energy
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Coalition of Stakeholders on Electricity Concession Arrangements (COSECA), Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas (CSPOG), Economic Governance Platform (EGP),

		Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Energy for Growth Hub, Renewable Energy Association of Ghana, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI).
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Commitment Template	
5.2.2 Transparency: Right to Information	
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2027	
On-going commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Information
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	The Right to Information Law which was a major commitment under NAP-3 was eventually passed by the Parliament of Ghana in March 2019. The Right to Information Commission has since been established to oversee its implementation. The main challenge now is how to roll-out the administrative machinery for its implementation throughout the country.
The commitment	The commitment is in three-fold: 1. Create public awareness on the RTI Act, how it operates and obligations of public institutions. 2. Pass Regulations to fully operationalise the RTI Act. 3. Provide adequate funding for the implementation of the RTI Act.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	Effective implementation will guarantee citizen's right to information regardless of their location, as provided for in the constitution of Ghana (Article 21(1))
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	The commitment is crucial to the realization of the OGP value of well-informed citizenry.

Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
• IEC materials developed. • Regulations to fully operationalize RTI Act drafted.		January, 2024	December, 2024
• Public awareness and public education initiated. • Regulations laid before parliament.		January, 2025	December, 2025
• Additional 250 officers recruited, trained, and deployed to all public institutions. • Public awareness and public education sustained. • RTI Regulations passed.		January, 2026	December, 2026
• Citizens sensitised on RTI Act and making use of it • Citizens sensitised on RTI regulations.		January, 2027	December 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah	
Title, Department		Minister, Ministry of Information	
Email and Phone		info@moi.gov.gh +233-302-666-465	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Right to Information Commission	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Right to Information Coalition, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), CDD-Ghana, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA).	

Commitment Template		
5.2.3 Transparency: Fisheries		
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2027		
New commitment		
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development	
Commitment description		
Problem to be addressed	It is widely believed that the fisheries sector is bedeviled with corruption, and that, this is facilitated by the opacity around decision making in the sector, lack of consultation around policy formulation, and non-disclosure of revenues and their utilization.	
What is the commitment?	The commitment is to pass a new Fisheries Act or amend the existing one to provide for greater transparency in the fisheries sector.	
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	Stakeholders believe that transparency in the fisheries sector will empower citizens to asked critical questions on how the sector is being governed, and that will serve as incentive for improved governance.	
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	The commitment advances the OGP values of open and transparent management of natural resources.	
Additional information		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
• Draft Fisheries/ amended Act developed	January, 2024	December, 2024
• Stakeholder engagement held on draft Bill or amended Bill	January, 2025	December, 2025
• Draft Bill / amended Bill laid before Parliament	January, 2026	December, 2026
• Draft Bill or amended Bill passed	January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson	

Title, Department		Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
Email and Phone		info@mofad.gov.gh ,
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Fisheries Commission
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Fisheries Alliance, Centre for Maritime Law and Security, Hen Mpoano, Fisheries Transparency, Environmental Justice Foundation, Ghana Tuna Association (GTA), Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA), Ghana Inshore Fishermen Association (GIFA), National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA).

Commitment Template	
5.3 PARTICIPATION	
5.3.1 Citizens' Complaints Centre: (CCC)	
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2024	
Old Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Public Sector Reform Secretariat, Ministry of Information, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) (Commitment to be worked on jointly)
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	The establishment of a Citizens' Complaint Centre was conceived as a mechanism to facilitate citizens' participation in ensuring quality public service delivery, by providing feedback to enable continuous improvement and access to these services. This policy area was

	carried over from NAP 4. It was not implemented largely due to lack of ownership, as it was not clear which institution was to take the lead on it.		
What is the commitment?	The commitment is to establish a coordinated and syndicated citizen feedback mechanism on public policy and public service delivery.		
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	It is expected that, the establishment of the Citizens' Complaint Centre will create opportunity for citizens' participation in improving public service delivery, through the feedback mechanism so instituted.		
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	Commitment is relevant to OGP value of enabling citizens' participation in public service delivery to enhance their efficiency.		
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Institutional arrangements and preparatory activities completed.		January, 2024	December, 2024
Implementation of pilot phase of the citizen complaint mechanism completed.		January, 2025	December, 2025
Evaluation of pilot phase and planning for national rollout completed		January 2026	December, 2026
National Roll out		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah Mr. Joseph Whittal		
Title, Department	Senior Presidential Advisor Minister, Ministry of Information Commissioner, CHRAJ		
Email and Phone	info@osm.gov.gh , +233-302749018 info@moi.gov.gh , +233-303-971-125 info@chraj.gov.gh , +233-302662150		
Other	State actors	Lands Commission, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Immigration Service,	

Actors Involved	involved	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, National Identification Authority, Office of the Head of Civil Service, Passport Office, Births and Deaths Registry, Office of the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of the Interior.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Media Foundation for West Africa, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, Ghana Integrity Initiative, Center for Democratic Development -Ghana, Institute for Democratic Governance

Commitment Template	
5.3.2 Participation: Gender Equality	
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2027	
Old Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	The main problems to be solved are the continuing underrepresentation of women in political decision making, weak political participation of persons with disability and non-involvement of citizens and political parties in the selection of District chief executives who head local government in Ghana.
The commitment	Ensure the progressive increase in women's political participation at all levels of government, by passing the Affirmative Action Bill into law.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	The commitment is expected to help resolve the problem of underrepresentation of women at all levels of government, as well as the non-involvement of political parties and citizens in the selection of district political heads which have been the target of civil society advocacy for years.

Relevance of commitment to OGP values		The commitment will deepen political participation for segments of society that have been marginalised and excluded from decision making for years.	
Additional information			
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
Stakeholder consultation on the Bill organised across the country.		January, 2024	December, 2024
Bill reviewed and approved by Cabinet.		January, 2025	December, 2025
Bill laid before Parliament		January, 2026	December, 2026
Bill passed and assented by President		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Lariba Zuweira Abudu	
Title, Department		Minister, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection,	
Email and Phone		info@mogcsp.gov.gh +233-302-688-181 info@molgrd.gov.gh +233-302-908-224	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Office of the Attorney General, and Ministry of Justice	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	The Coalition on Affirmative Action, The Women's Manifesto, NORSAAC, Gender Centre, Abantu for Development, WiLDAF, Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFDO), Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Center for Democratic Development (CDD) Centre for Local Government Advocacy, Voice Ghana.	

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Commitment Template	
5.3.3 Participation: Citizen Participation in Local Government	
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2027	
Old Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation, and Rural Development
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	There is widespread concern about the lack of accountability of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) to their respective constituents. It is believed that, MMDCEs are non-responsive to citizens at the sub-national level because they are appointed by the President.
The commitment	The commitment is in two-fold: - Enhance Citizens' Participation in Local Gov't through election of MMDCEs. - Enhance Opportunities for Political Participation of Persons with Disability by passing the Persons with Disability Re-enactment Bill, and the accompanying legislative instruments.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	The commitment is expected to make local governance more participatory and to make MMDCEs more responsive to the demands and aspirations of their constituents.
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	The commitment advances the OGP value of participatory governance.
Additional information	

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
- Consensus on amendment of article 55 (3) to allow political parties to sponsor candidates to local level election reached - Persons with Disability Re-enactment Bill and the accompanying legislative instruments passed.		January, 2024	December, 2024
- Referendum on proposed amendments held. - National Accessibility Strategy to guide the implementation of accessibility standards for PWDs and the aged adopted.		January, 2025	December, 2025
- Referendum and Bills to amend relevant laws to allow MMDCs elected passed. - Operations of the National Council for Persons with Disability decentralised to at least 8 regions of Ghana.		January, 2026	December, 2026
- MMDCs elected in accordance with amended law - The data base platform of the NCPWD Linked with that of the National Identification Authority and the Ghana Open Data Initiative.		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Daniel Botwe Hon. Lariba Zuweira Abudu	
Title, Department		Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation, and Rural Development Minister, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection,	
Email and Phone		info@mogcsp.gov.gh +233-302-688-181 info@molgrd.gov.gh +233-302-908-224	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Finance, National Information Technology Agency, Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, National Identification Authority	

	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFD) Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Centre for Local Government Advocacy, VOICE Ghana.

Commitment Template	
5.4 Technology and Innovation	
5.4.1 Misinformation and Disinformation	
Commitment Starts January 2024 and Ends December, 2027	
New Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Information
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	To combat the abuse of electronic platforms to misinform and disinform the public.
The commitment	- The commitment is in two-fold: 1. Implement structures to combat Misinformation / Disinformation on digital platforms. 2. Strengthen the provisions in the Electronic Communications Act, 2008 and the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 to deter misinformation and disinformation on digital platforms.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	Commitment will make accessible to citizens only credible and verified information on public electronic portals.
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	The commitment, if achieved, will advance the OGP values of integrity and accountability in digital services.
Additional information	

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
- Framework on Media literacy /Public Education, Fact Checking activities developed - Terms of Reference for Human Rights Assessment Developed.		January, 2024	December, 2024
- Framework on Media Literacy/Public Education, Fact Checking piloted. - Human Rights assessment of existing legislation on disinformation to ensure they are not used to stifle free speech initiated.		January, 2025	December, 2025
- Framework on Media Literacy/Public Education, Fact Checking fully operationalized. - Human Rights assessment of existing legislation on disinformation to ensure they are not used to stifle free speech completed		January, 2026	December, 2026
- Framework on Media Literacy/Public Education, Fact Checking sustained. - List of required changes/amendments identified		January 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah	
Title, Department		Minister, Ministry of Information	
Email and Phone		info@moi.gov.gh , +233-303-971-125	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, National Media Commission, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).	
	CSOs, private sector,	Media Foundation for West Africa, Odikro, National Commission on Civic Education, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative	

	multilaterals, working groups	Justice, Information Services Department, Ministry of Education.
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Commitment Template	
5.4.2 Technology and Innovation: Data Sharing and Intermediation of Public Service Delivery Platforms	
Commitment Starts January 2024 and Ends December, 2027	
New Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	Enhancing the efficiency and integrity of online transactions and service delivery.
The commitment	Strengthen Data sharing and intermediation among public service delivery platforms.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	Limit the incidence of fraud and abuse of online service delivery platforms.
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	The commitment advances the OGP values of integrity, efficiency in public service delivery, and accountability.
Additional information	

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Integration and data sharing framework developed. 2. Stakeholders trained on the government enterprise architecture and interoperability framework document.		January, 2024	December, 2024
Integration and data sharing framework operationalized		January, 2025	December, 2025
Infrastructure enhanced for licensing/ Certificate Authorities to be able to roll out digital IDs and also do verifications.		January, 2026	December, 2026
Feedback mechanism established to Monitor and evaluate Data sharing and intermediation of public service delivery platforms		January 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Hon. Ursula Owusu	
Title, Department		Minister, Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation	
Email and Phone		info@moc.gov.gh , +233-302666465	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	National Information Technology Agency (NITA)	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Open Data Alliance, Universities (KNUST, UG, UCC, Ashesi)	

Commitment Template	
5.5 Open Parliament	
Commitment Starts January, 2024 and Ends December, 2024	
On-going Commitment	
Lead implementing agency/actor	The Parliament of Ghana
Commitment description	
Problem to be addressed	The Parliament of Ghana has made some strides in bringing its work to the doorstep of the citizens, but there are still gaps to be filled and arrangements that ought to be institutionalized for sustainability's sake.
The commitment	- The commitment is in three-fold: 1. Establish oversight mechanism in parliament to ensure the achievement of the national OGP commitments. 2. Enhance access to information on parliament's work in an easily accessible, user friendly, and timely manner. 3. Increase engagement between Parliament and citizens.
Contribution of commitment to solving problem	The commitment will make parliament's work more accessible to the public and bolster the social contract between the elected and the electorates.
Relevance of commitment to OGP values	Commitment advances the OGP values of transparency in the work of parliament, accountability for decisions being made for and on behalf of the citizens, and citizens right to engage in the decision-making processes.
Additional information	

Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
- Capacity of OGP Caucus Members built on OGP and Open Parliament - Establish an Open Parliament Steering Committee which follows OGP standards		January, 2024	December, 2024
- Awareness on OGP and Open Parliament among members of parliament created. - Operationalise the Open Parliament Steering Committee which follows OGP standards. - Engagements between OGP Caucus members and OGP stakeholders undertaken. - All requirements of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) within the Parliamentary Service operationalised and complied with. - Baseline survey on citizens access to Parliamentary Information conducted.		January, 2025	December, 2025
- Framework for monitoring OGP commitments developed and implemented. - Engagements between OGP Caucus members and OGP stakeholders undertaken for the second time. - An office for Open Parliament designated and operationalised.		January, 2026	December, 2026
- Capacity of OGP Caucus Members built on OGP and Open Parliament. 2. Activities evaluated and reported. - Engagements between OGP Caucus members and OGP stakeholders undertaken for the third year running. - The operation of the designated office for Open Parliament sustained.		January, 2027	December, 2027
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		The Right Honorable Alban Kingsford Sumana Bagbin	
Title, Department		The Speaker, The Parliament of Ghana	
Email and Phone		Info@parliament.gh +233-302-633-030, +233-302-664-530	
Other	State actors	Ministry of Parliament Affairs	

Actors Involved	involved	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ghana Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations Network, Parliamentary Network Africa, Center for Democratic Development -Ghana, Ghana Integrity Initiative, PenPlusBytes, Odikro.