

Memorandum of Understanding between Transparency International Secretariat and the Open Government Partnership

June 2020

This is an engagement agreement outlining collaboration between the Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S) and the Open Government Partnership (OGP). It is not intended to be a binding agreement, just an understanding between organizations to collaborate to maximize our impacts and add the most sustained value to the fields of transparency and accountability.

About Transparency International (TI)

Transparency International is a global movement with one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, TI is leading the fight against corruption to turn this vision into reality. For more information, please visit www.transparency.org.

About the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

The OGP has a simple but powerful goal: that governments should truly serve and empower their citizens. It brings together reformers from government, civil society and other sectors to create a coalition to advance that more governments become more transparent, more accountable, and more responsive to their own citizens, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of governance, as well as the quality of services that citizens receive. Together, they have made over 3,000 commitments across policy areas - ranging from access to information, anti-corruption, climate change, among several others. Anti-corruption remains a priority theme for OGP. For more information, please visit www.opengovpartnership.org.

Areas of Collaboration

For the past few years, TI-S has provided coordination and advocacy support to the numerous TI chapters engaged in their domestic OGP processes, to governments developing anti-corruption related commitments, and thought leadership related to anti-corruption in the OGP (see below the section on Previous Collaboration: 2018). This experience provides a unique opportunity to continue to bridge OGP and TI's shared priorities to advance ambitious anti-corruption reforms.

TI-S intends to work with its network of country chapters, in close collaboration with the OGP Support Unit (OGP SU) and other strategic partners, to lead the anti-corruption theme within the OGP and achieve increased adoption and implementation of anti-corruption related commitments in participating countries. To achieve this, TI-S will focus its engagement on the following key areas:

To support ambitious reforms at the country level

Increasing CSO anti-corruption champions in OGP

TI-S will continue to support the inclusion and implementation of ambitious anti-corruption commitments in OGP action plans. This can be achieved by supporting TI National Chapters to convene, outreach and monitor commitments to maintain momentum and ambitious implementation of anti-corruption reforms. In addition, TI-S can provide knowledge-brokering and coordination support to identify opportunities to link to the relevant thematic areas in global standards and frameworks. It will seed cross-country collaboration, and provide communications and advocacy support for country partners as well.

Increasing technical assistance for the inclusion of ambitious anti-corruption commitments

TI-S will continue to provide technical assistance on creating well-crafted, ambitious anti-corruption commitments which are based on relevant policy recommendations. This can be achieved by responding to requests by governments and civil society for technical input to national action plans. TI-S will continue to share policy recommendations on anti-corruption issues to be used in the co-creation of commitments. These resources will seek to provide policy coherence and alignment between the global and the national anti-corruption policy arenas.

To enable better cross-country learning on key thematic areas

Increasing peer learning for implementation of anti-corruption commitments

TI-S will continue to support cross-country knowledge exchanges on key anti-corruption implementation issues. This will draw on regional thematic spaces for knowledge sharing such as international gatherings (IACC, OGP Summits) and thematic networks (Beneficial Ownership Leadership Group). TI-S will continue to nurture a global support network of OGP anti-corruption implementers that can enhance peer learning over time.

To coordinate on action from global forums to the national level

Increasing advocacy for anti-corruption in OGP and other fora

TI-S will continue to support in identifying and profiling of cases and stories of anti-corruption commitments in national action plans, with a focus on developing and disseminating them further to promote their implementation. TI-S will also continue to support, in coordination with the OGP SU, webinars to promote national-level conversations on anti-corruption commitments in the OGP. In addition, TI-S will leverage key global events, in order to make the most of the action-forcing moments for anti-corruption commitments in the OGP.

To identify and collaborate promoting new and innovative anti-corruption themes

Increasing adoption of innovative anti-corruption approaches

TI-S will continue to coordinate with the OGP SU to identify and advance innovative anti-corruption commitments and approaches, identify champions and promote the adoption of such approaches as has been done, for example, in advancing gender approaches to anti-corruption in OGP action plans. In addition, TI-S will coordinate with the OGP SU to make use of global policy spaces to advance our shared objectives.

Previous Collaboration

TI-S has carried out a series of actions in close collaboration with the OGP SU to promote the commitment and timely implementation of ambitious and relevant anti-corruption policies. These actions revolved around three key strategies: i) supporting national level CSO participation for increased commitment to and implementation of anti-corruption commitments within the OGP; ii) providing technical assistance and facilitating peer learning to craft and implement relevant and ambitious anti-corruption commitments in priority sub-themes; and iii) maintaining momentum for anti-corruption commitments within OGP through awareness raising and coordination between national and international policy agendas. Activities carried out to date included:

Support to CSO Anti-Corruption Champions

TI-S supported CSO Anti-Corruption Champions through the award of small grants to carry out activities in countries identified in consultation with the OGP Support Unit. The countries supported are:

1. Chile to advance a beneficial ownership transparency commitment. (2018)
2. Côte d'Ivoire to collaboratively craft ambitious anti-corruption commitments in collaboration with youth groups. (2018)
3. Panama to support the implementation of the commitment to open the judiciary. (2018)
4. Sierra Leone to advocate for the inclusion of a beneficial ownership registry commitment. (2018)
5. South Korea to promote the inclusion of beneficial ownership and whistle-blower protection commitments. (2019)
6. Sri Lanka to support the implementation of the commitment to open asset declarations. (2019)
7. Nigeria to support the implementation of the commitment to establish a beneficial ownership register. (2019)
8. Greece to include and support implementation of a commitment to implement the EU's whistle-blower directive. (2019)
9. Costa Rica to include and support implementation of an ambitious anti-corruption commitment. (2019)
10. Germany to support implementation of a commitment to make lobbying more transparent. (2020)
11. Argentina to support the inclusion of gender perspective in the anti-corruption commitments. (2020)
12. Czech Republic to support the implementation of a commitment to increase awareness of whistle-blower protections. (2020)
13. Estonia to include a commitment on lobbying transparency. (2020)
14. Lithuania to include a commitment to make beneficial ownership information open and accessible. (2020)
15. Portugal to include a commitment to make beneficial ownership information open and accessible. (2020)
16. Latvia to support the implementation of a commitment to develop lobby transparency regulations. (2020)
17. Mexico to support the implementation of commitments on beneficial ownership transparency and citizen oversight of social programmes. (2020)

Technical Assistance for Inclusion of Ambitious Anti-Corruption Commitments

In addition to supporting advocacy for national level anti-corruption champions, technical assistance on crafting anti-corruption commitments was provided through feedback to anti-corruption commitments based on a request for technical input to national action plans. For example, feedback has been provided at least 20 countries since 2017.

In addition, TI-S developed policy briefs with recommendations to support the crafting of ambitious anti-corruption commitments on the following topics:

- Open Contracting in Public Procurement
- Transparency in Political Financing
- Beneficial Ownership Transparency
- Transparency in Lobbying
- Asset and interest declarations
- Women Against Corruption
- Compendium of Good Practices on Anti-corruption

Peer Learning Exchanges

TI-S promoted cross-country peer knowledge exchange on key anti-corruption issues by holding a workshop on beneficial ownership transparency in Europe in 2019, political party financing in Latin America in 2018 and a workshop on beneficial ownership in Europe in 2017. The workshops aimed to support the implementation of ambitious OGP anti-corruption commitments through cross-country collaboration and exchange on commitments and approaches to political party financing.

Anti-Corruption Webinars

Online workshops have been carried out to spur national level conversations on anti-corruption commitments in the OGP on the following topics:

1. Opportunities in OGP to Implement AMLD5
2. Anti-corruption Commitments in Asia Pacific
3. Anti-corruption commitments: Beneficial ownership transparency, lobbying transparency, open contracting and political financing
4. Afghanistan: Opportunities for Anti-corruption commitments in the OGP 2017 Action Plan
5. Embedding Anti-Corruption Summit Commitments in OGP Action Plans

Coordination and Support for Global Events

TI-S worked in close collaboration with organizers of the OGP Global Summits in Paris, Tbilisi and Ottawa providing technical and convening support, reaching out to its network of anti-corruption champions and activists. TI presented on multiple session during the summits to promote and share ambitious commitments on themes such as beneficial ownership transparency, women against corruption, SDGs and public procurement. Similarly, TI-S carried out with the OGP Support Unit a session at the 2018 IACC to collectively brainstorm on next steps in anti-corruption commitments within the OGP, focusing specifically on gender and anti-corruption, beneficial ownership transparency, open contracting and political financing.

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