

Review of Nigeria's Open Government Partnership Commitment

Stanley Achonu

Operations Manager at BudgIT/Coordinator of Open Alliance Nigeria



OGP is an international multi-stakeholder initiative focused on the improving transparency, accountability, citizen participation and responsiveness to citizens through technology and innovation.

Member countries must meet a minimum eligibility criteria that covers the following areas:

1. Fiscal Transparency

The timely publication of essential budget documents forms the basic building blocks of budget accountability and an open budget system.

2. Access to Information

An access to information law that guarantees the public's right to information and access to government data is essential to the spirit and practice of open government.

3. Public Officials Asset Disclosure

Rules that require public disclosure of income and assets for elected and senior public officials are essential to anti-corruption and open, accountable government. It is also important to make the data publicly available.

4. Citizen Engagement

Open Government requires openness to citizen participation and engagement in policymaking and governance, including basic protections for civil liberties.

75%

Countries that earn 75% of the applicable points or more are eligible to join

In July 2016,
Nigeria became OGP

70th

Member Country

OGP is Unique

Aside OGP principles which is global, the challenges to be tackled is be identified locally, solution proffered and implemented locally, with independent reporting mechanism to monitor progress.

...the Unique OGP Principles

Civil society participation is enshrined in OGP's foundational principles and management structures.

Civil society plays an important role in managing the OGP through equal participation with governments on the Steering Committee, OGP's executive management body.

Governments are expected to actively collaborate with civil society on drafting and implementing country commitments as well as on reporting and monitoring efforts.

National Action Plans should cover a two-year period and consist of a set of commitments that advance transparency, accountability, participation and/or technological innovation.

In December 2016, Nigeria presented her first National Action Plan at the OGP Global Summit in Paris, France

Nigeria's OGP National Action Plan covers the following thematic areas

1. Promoting fiscal transparency
2. Access to information
3. Anti-corruption and asset disclosure
4. Citizen engagement and empowerment

The National Action Plan contain 14
ambitious commitments to be
implemented in 2 years.

Nigeria began implementation in January
2017

Fiscal Transparency Commitments

Commitment 1

Ensure more effective citizens' participation across the entire budget cycle.

Commitment 2

Full implementation of Open Contracting and adoption of Open Contracting Data Standards in the public sector.

Commitment 3

Work together with all stakeholders to enhance transparency in the extractive sector through a concrete set of disclosures related to payments by companies and receipts by governments on all transactions across the sector's value chain.

Commitment 4

Adopt common reporting standards and the Addis Tax initiative aimed at improving the fairness, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the tax system.

Commitment 5

Improve the ease of doing business and Nigeria's ranking on the World Bank Doing Business Index.

Anti-Corruption Commitments

Commitment 6

Establish a Public register of Beneficial Owners of Companies

Commitment 7

Establish a platform for sharing information among Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs), National Security Adviser (NSA) and financial sector regulators to detect, prevent and disrupt corrupt practices.

Commitment 8

Strengthen Nigeria's asset recovery legislation including non-conviction based confiscation powers and the introduction of unexplained wealth orders.

Commitment 9

Take appropriate actions to co-ordinate anti-corruption activities; improve integrity and transparency and accountability.

Access to Information Commitments

Commitment 10

Improved compliance of public institutions with the Freedom of Information Act in respect of the annual reporting obligations by public institutions and level of responses to requests.

Commitment 11

Improved compliance of public institutions with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) with respect to the Proactive disclosure provisions and stipulating mandatory publication requirements.

Commitment 12

Develop a Permanent Dialogue Mechanism on transparency, accountability and good governance between citizens and government to facilitate a culture of openness.

Citizen Engagement and Empowerment Commitments

Commitment 13

Government-civil society to jointly review existing legislations on transparency and accountability issues and make recommendations to the National Assembly.

Commitment 14

Adopt a technology-based citizens' feedback on projects and programs across transparency and accountability.

“The commitments are concrete, ambitious but implementable.”

President Muhammadu Buhari

Thank you.