

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP



**REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

**SIERRA LEONE MID TERM SELF ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION  
PLAN (NAP 2)**

The Government of Sierra Leone believes in the ideal and values of the OGP and had already established an outfit (OGI) to ensure this practice. It therefore submitted its Letter of Intent to join the Open Government Partnership in October 2013, following the passing of the Right to Access Information Act. Sierra Leone was able to qualify based on the following scores:



To continue its commitments to the OGP, the 2<sup>nd</sup> NAP speaks to ten “bold” commitments that revolve around four (4) main principles of the Open Government Partnership namely:

Transparency, Civic Participation, Public Accountability, Technology and Innovation for Openness and Accountability. The commitments are also further categorized with due consideration of the five grand challenges the country is focusing on to address. Commitments 2, 7 and 8 speaks to Improving Public Integrity; Commitments 4 and 10 speaks to Improving Corporate Accountability, Commitments 4 and 5 to Managing Public Resources, Commitments 9 to Improving Public Services and commitment 1, 3, and 6 to creating safer communities.

**The Country’s Second National Action Plan attempts to address the Grand Challenges as Follows:**

**INCREASING PUBLIC INTEGRITY:**

**Commitment 2: Increase foreign aid transparency on the donor funds for post Ebola recovery**

Sierra Leone is implementing foreign aid transparency, wherein data has been published on DACO website. This has increased transparency in government activities to its people. This further shows how government is accountable to its citizens.

**Commitment 7: promote transparency and accountability in the management of elections**

Promoting transparency and accountability in the management of elections will ensure credible, free and fair elections.

**Commitment 8: Pass a robust and proactive Archives and Records Management Bill to support the implementation of the Right to Access Information Act in a bid to improve public transparency**

Passing Archives and Records Management as a bill will harmonize policies and procedures for managing digital records with the Access to Information Law and the Open Data Portal. This will help MDAs to determine what data exists in their respective institutions and to develop structures for coordinating, capturing, preserving and sharing these records.

**IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES:**

**Commitment 9: Increase transparency in case management and establish structures at the local level to improve access to justice**

The implementation of this commitment will increase access to justice and the rule of law and will establish structures at the local levels to enhance justice. This will improve transparency across Government by making information readily available and accessible to the public.

**Improving Corporate Accountability**

**Commitment 4: To make budget data (MTEF and Midyear Report), Parliament Audit Committee Reports and tax exemptions publicly available and increase citizens' participation in the budget process.**

This will increase transparency and accountability in all MDAs as well as enabling citizens to participate in order to give their views on government revenue and expenditures.

This commitment will require government to publish a statement of its expected revenue, expected expenditures, detailing all tax exemptions, the beneficiaries and revenue forgone in a bid to promote transparency. It shall require producing and publishing annually a cost-benefit analysis on the need to grant tax incentive and hence the public be well-informed on the rationale for granting tax incentives.

OGP's Networking Mechanism is helping government and civil society connect with the expertise they need to support these efforts.

### **Commitment 10: Improve accountability of procurement management in Sierra Leone**

This will employ institutions to become more transparent and accountable. It will further improve accountability of procurement management both national and international in MDAs. As a result of that it will bring value for money in Sierra Leone.

### **Effective Management of Public Resources:**

#### **Commitment 4: To make budget data (MTEF and Midyear Report), Parliament Audit Committee Reports and tax exemptions publicly available and increase citizens' participation in the budget process.**

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This commitment will require government to publish a statement of its expected revenue, expected expenditures, detailing all tax exemptions, the beneficiaries and revenue forgone in a bid to promote transparency. It shall require producing and publishing annually a cost-benefit analysis on the need to grant tax incentive and hence the public be well-informed on the rationale for granting tax incentives.

OGP's Networking Mechanism is helping government and civil society connect with the expertise they need to support these efforts.

#### **Commitment 5: Implement the Procurement-related recommendations from the Auditor General reports for 2014 and 2015**

Implementing the procurement-related recommendations from Audit Service will increase compliance with Audit measures to improve transparency and accountability in public resource spending. This will further help to minimize wastage of resources and provide value for money.

### **Creating safer communities**

#### **Commitment 1: Publish national data on sexual violence, ensure service provision and provide an enabling environment to bring perpetrators to book**

This will minimize or eliminate sexual violence to women in Sierra Leone. This will further help to made known sexual violence convict to the nation and will further improve dignity on women and create a safer community for them.

### **Commitment 3: Improve quality of life through effective service delivery for cleaner and healthier communities**

This commitment will improve well being of people and as well increase healthiness within societies. As the adage goes Cleanliness is Godliness. With cleaner and healthier communities; people will be able to live better life and improve on their living standards, thus increasing life expectancy

### **Commitment 6: Providing user friendly data and information regarding climate related action**

**This will help prevent destruction caused by natural disasters through government putting modalities in place ahead of such events happening. This will create safer communities and improve the welfare of the citizens.**

## **CONSULTATIONS DURING THE NAPII DEVELOPMENT**

The development of Sierra Leone's National Action Plan 2016-2018 has been more proactive and inclusive. Learning from best practice amongst other OGP member countries, the OGP Steering Committee which is composed of representatives from national government and civil society, was more proactive in leading the development of a co-created NAP 2. There was marked improvement in the appreciation for and ownership of OGP among both non-government and Government Steering Committee members due to their participation in various multi-stakeholder meetings and events.

After the end of implementation of the first National Action Plan, the development of the second National Action Plan started. In developing the National Action Plan 2; Sierra Leone utilized a number of complimentary methods for collecting inputs from citizens. These included requesting inputs from the public through Phone calls, Whatsapp, radio and TV programmes; expert surveys; and multi-stakeholder meetings and regional consultations.

### **Initial Call for input into NAP 2**

During the Datafest organized by Right to Access to Information Commission on the 20th and 21st April 2016, the OGP manned a booth where information about OGP was displayed. Key among this information were briefs about the OGP and its importance for open governance and contact information (Toll free numbers, email, whatsapp number and address) if someone wanted

to make input into the NAP. In addition, flyers and car stickers which contained information about how to make input into the NAP 2 were distributed to the public. Initial comments proposed by the public during this period were collated for incorporation into the NAP 2.

### **Steering Committee Meeting to review the NAP 1 and develop Timelines**

Two meetings of the OGP Steering Committee were held to review progress on implementation of the commitments in NAP 1 and to develop timelines for awareness-raising and consultations for the development of NAP 2. These timelines were shared with the public through the media.

### **Presidential Announcement for the start of the development of NAP 2**

The Office of the President on the 20th May 2016 officially announced the commencement of NAP 2 via Press Release which was disseminated through print and electronic media.



SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT

## *Office of the President*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT AS PART OF THE GLOBAL OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP), HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMS HIS COMMITMENT TO RUN AN OPEN, TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT THAT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING THE MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

HIS EXCELLENCY IS PROUD TO NOTE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE OGP IS AMONG THE FIRST TO ESTABLISH AN OPEN DATA PORTAL IN AFRICA AS WELL AS A SINGLE TREASURY ACCOUNT FOR FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

GOVERNMENT IS NOW PUBLISHING 70% OF ALL MINING AND AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTS, JUST AS IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF PASSING INTO LAW A RECORDS MANAGEMENT BILL WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION PURSUANT TO OUR FIRST NATIONAL ACTION PLAN.

HIS EXCELLENCY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECOND OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF SIERRA LEONE WILL COMMENCE BY THE END OF JUNE 2016. HE IS THEREFORE URGING ALL MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AND EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS.

THE PROCESS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY AFFORD GOVERNMENT ANOTHER WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT MAY BE WORTHY OF INCLUSION WITHIN THE SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN. TO THAT END, ALL CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO ENGAGE THE OGI/OGP SECRETARIAT TO HAVE THEIR SAY IN THE PROCESS.

**END**

STATE HOUSE  
FREETOWN



20<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2016

**Regional sensitization on the OGP and NAP 2**

Float parades were organized in the regional cities of Freetown, Bo and Makeni during which flyers which contained information about the OGP, timelines for the development of the NAP 2 and how to make input into it were distributed. Renowned comedians used skits to educate the people about the OGP and how to make meaningful inputs to the NAP 2 in their various locations. The float parade could not be held in Kenema City due to politically motivated skirmishes that occurred on the day the event was to be held. So, instead of the float parade, a radio call-in program was held to educate residents in that region about the OGP and the timelines for the development of the NAP 2.

### **Multi-stakeholder meeting to review NAP 1 and discuss initial comments from the public**

A meeting was held between CSOs, Media and Government to assess progress on NAP 1 and to determine those commitments that could be carried on to NAP 2. The meeting also discussed the initial commitments proposed by the public. The meeting recommended a few critical commitments to carry on for NAP 2, as well as proposed new commitments on Elections, Gender, Access to Justice and Local Council on service delivery.

### **Expert Group Meetings**

Three experts' group meetings were held to discuss specific commitments.

1. CSOs-The Budget Advocacy Network facilitated a meeting of CSOs to propose a commitment on fiscal transparency and open budget. The outcome of this meeting was an agreement on description of the commitment and identification of milestones, which were submitted to the OGP Secretariat.

2. Women Groups- Campaign for Good Governance with support from the OGP Secretariat facilitated a meeting of Women's groups and relevant stakeholders to discuss a commitment on gender. It was agreed in that meeting that the commitment should be focused on sexual violence against women and girls and also milestones were developed.

3. Private Sector- A meeting was held with relevant institutions in the Private Sector (Sierra Leone Investment Export Promotion Agency, Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce) to discuss inputs to NAP 2 and other issues related to the objectives of the OGP.



### **CSOs Consultative Meeting**

Budget Advocacy Network and Campaign for Good Governance with support from the OGP Secretariat organized a CSOs' meeting to discuss the CSO proposals for NAP 2. During this meeting the initial commitments proposed by the public were reviewed and approved for inclusion into the NAP 2.

### **Multi-stakeholder Meeting**

A meeting between CSOs and government was held wherein the proposed NAP 2 commitments were discussed and milestones defined.

### **Regional Consultations**

Regional consultations were held on NAP 2 in Waterloo in the Western Rural District, Makeni the headquarter town for the Northern Province, Bo the headquarter town for the Southern Province and Kenema the headquarter town for the Eastern Province. These consultative meetings were well-attended by citizens, traditional/ local leaders and activists, national and local government officials, and civil society organizations including members of the OGP Steering Committee. Presentations were made on the OGP Guidelines and Process, NAP 1, and the proposed commitments for NAP 2. A survey on the Grand Challenges as well as commitments for the NAP 2 was administered at each location. Participants were requested to suggest critical areas for the NAP 2 commitments, and there were lively discussions on local and national level service delivery in all the meetings. Members of the OGP Steering Committee participated in radio discussions with local/ community radio stations after the consultative meetings, wherein people called in and gave their comments on the OGP process and made suggestions for NAP 2 commitments and milestone activities.

### **Consultation with Parliament**

A dialogue was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 with selected Members of Parliament to discuss the OGP NAP 1 implementation progress report and proposed NAP 2 commitments. A presentation on the background of OGP, its mandate, vision and mission was made. The Country Director for OSIWA also presented on his organization's commitment towards the promotion of

collaboration between Government, CSOs and Parliament, and for supporting good governance in general. A progress report on the status of the implementation of NAP 1 was presented and it was followed by discussions that reaffirmed Parliament's commitment towards OGP. The members of Parliament endorsed the proposed commitments under NAP 2 and vowed to support effective implementation and achievement of targets, especially for those commitments related to law making.

### **Radio and TV programs**

Several radio and TV discussion programs were held on the national as well as local/ community radio stations to update the general public about the status of the NAP 1 and to encourage people to propose commitments for the NAP 2. The radio discussion programs were held in all four regions of the country, specifically in Freetown, Waterloo, Bo, Makeni and Kenema. In addition, a radio jingle on the OGP principles and the action plan was developed and broadcasted as a way of encouraging the general public to support the OGP process and to make inputs into the NAP 2.

### **Documentation and feedback**

The reports of the consultations and meetings, including feedback from participants, are posted online.

### **Outcomes of Consultative Meetings and meeting of steering committee on the Self-assessment**

Two Consultative Meetings were held in the last two weeks prior to the finalization of the report and the objective was to validate the status of the commitments as reported by the CSOs during their monitoring activities and confirmed by the implementing agencies. The outcomes of those meetings were included under lessons learnt on the availability and accessibility of the report by the Public.

The approach from the Steering Committee took the form of training CSOs on qualitative evidence based monitoring to track progress on the implementation of NAP 11. The collected information was then put in the form of score cards and the draft monitoring report presented to the Steering committee wherein the respective MDAs validated before the final score was produced.

<b>Commitment 1</b>		
1 Publish national data on sexual violence, ensure service provision and provide an enabling environment to bring perpetrators to book		
Lead implementing agency	Sierra Leone Police	
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	Mrs. Elizabeth Augusta Turay	
Title, Department	Director of Gender Sierra Leone Police	
Email	<a href="mailto:lizmedturay@yahoo.com">lizmedturay@yahoo.com</a>	
Phone	+23276786727	
Others Actors Involved	Government	The Judiciary Ministry of Internal Affairs Ministry of Social Welfare and Children’s Department
	CSOs, Private, Sector,multi lateral working groups	Campaign for Good Governance United for Humanity AdvocAid Rainbow Centre National Committee on Gender-Based Violence (NacGBV)
Main objective	Eliminate sexual violence against women and girls in Sierra Leone	
Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)	The SLP will publish data on sexual violence against women and girls, establish a forensic lab with trained and qualified personnel, develop a directory for all sexual violence convicts, and provide free health services for women affected by sexual violence in collaboration with the Ministry of Health	
Relevance	<p>This commitment is relevant to:</p> <p><b>Access to information:</b> Citizens will have access to information on the prevalence rates and conviction rates of sexual violence cases across the country</p> <p><b>Innovation/ Technology:</b> The directory on predators and perpetrators of sexual violence against women and girls will be an innovative tool that will be available online as well as hard copy. Considering that trust is a very big issue, a directory would be a possible deterrent to violators of sexual violence. The forensic lab will address the proper identification of criminals in a timely manner.</p> <p><b>Accountability:</b> The evidence from the forensic lab will enhance justice for victims.</p>	

Ambition	The ambition is to create a safer community for women and children against sexual violence and to provide the environment for quick and speedy prosecution of perpetrators of sexual offense. Also, this commitment is geared towards reducing the barriers of access to medical reports on sexual violence cases.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			Yes	
Description of the results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Data has been published on crime statistics which has sexual data in order to track sexual violence offenders to brought to book</li> <li>2. Scoping assessment report produced and project initiation document approved by the management board in order to establish forensic lab on crime scene including gender based violence</li> <li>3. Special unit created and personnel trained in order to develop online directory of all sexual violence</li> </ol>			
End Date	June 2018			
Next steps	To set up a forensic lab to fast track sexual violence cases			
	Lack of funding is a key challenge			

<b>Commitment 2</b>	
2 Increase foreign aid transparency on the donor funds for post Ebola recovery	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	Kawusu Kebbay
Title, Department	Development Aid Coordination Office
Email	<a href="mailto:kawusukay@yahoo.co.uk">kawusukay@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Phone	+232-76610968
	Government DACO

	CSOs, private sector, multilateral working groups	Society for Democratic Initiative Budget Advocacy Network SLANGO INGO forum		
Main objective	To increase transparency of aid for efficient and effective use of resources			
Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Donor, INGO, NGOs and CSOs will publish funds meant for the post Ebola recovery online and in an open data format. Also annual district meeting will be held for Donors, INGO, NGOs and CSOs to disclose funds meant for that particular meeting and detail activity level budget shared			
Relevance	<p><b>Access to information:</b> Citizen will have detail access to foreign aid resources meant for the post Ebola recovery</p> <p><b>Public accountability:</b> Citizen will use the information on funds meant for post recovery to demand accountability for public service delivery in their respective district.</p> <p><b>Technology and innovation:</b> the funds meant for the post Ebola recovery will be publish on the open data portal</p>			
Ambition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This is to promote transparency and accountability on the utilization of public resources</li> <li>2. If well implemented, citizens will have a clear knowledge on funds meant for them and for what purpose and detailed activity level budget.</li> </ol>			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			Yes	
Description of the results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DACO has published aid data on their website</li> <li>2. The World Bank, DFID, EU etc. have disclosed on a press conference fund meant for the public.</li> <li>3. Development partners providing direct budget support published it on in their website</li> </ol>			
End Date	July 2018.			
Next steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify some INGOs and NGOs to provide data on donor funds received</li> <li>2. Easy access of data published on institutions website</li> </ol>			
1. Very few INGOs and NGOs do publish donor funds meant for post Ebola Recovery				

<b>Commitment 3</b>		
3 Improve quality of life through effective service delivery for cleaner and healthier communities		
Lead implementing agency	Freetown City Council	
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	Mayor Franklyn B Gibson and Zainu Kpaka	
Title, Department	Environment Department of the Council	
Email	<a href="mailto:madiesil8121@gmail.com">madiesil8121@gmail.com</a>	
Phone	+232-77256168	
Others Actors Involved	Government	Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Youth ,Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Road Maintenance Fund
	CSOs, private sector multilateral working groups	Masada Waste Management Company Health Committee in Freetown City Council
Main objective	Establish structures to address waste Management issues in Freetown	

<p>Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)</p>	<p>The governance around waste management in the city is uncoordinated with lack of information on the roles of duty bearers. The resultant effect is continued filth posing a serious challenge for diseases such as malaria and cholera and the circumstances even worrying in the aftermath of Ebola. This situation has been persistent even when a private company Masada has been contracted and operating for two years to clear the waste in the city and transform it to fertilizer and gas. Government of Sierra Leone is paying huge sums of money without citizens receiving the required services. As Sierra Leone moves to the Ebola recovery phase of its development planning process it becomes necessary that <b>a clear policy</b> around waste management is formulated in the city; detailing specific roles of key institutions, companies and players in order to ensure clear lines of accountability on the delivery of services.</p> <p>The commitment will ensure the development of <b>an implementation strategy</b> which will serve as a roll out plan with clear deliverable and time lines that will be made available to the public through education so that both citizens and Agencies will be clear on their duties and responsibilities</p>			
<p>Relevance</p>	<p><b>Access to information:</b> This commitment will increase access to information on the roles and responsibilities of relevant players including citizens on the management of Waste as laid out in the designed policy and popularize in the implementation strategy</p>			
	<p><b>Technology and innovation:</b> The Company in Charge i.e Masada be able to create the enabling environment to transform waste into fertilizers and gas</p> <p><b>Citizens Engagement:</b> Regular Information and education to citizens on Waste disposal and education on “Keep the City Clean”</p>			
<p>Ambition</p>	<p>The vision of the Freetown City Council is to ensure that Citizens welfare is paramount in all its actions. It is important that there is value for money spent by the government and council to ensure effective waste collection disposal and a clean and healthy city</p>			
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started</p>	<p>Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
			<p>Yes</p>	

Description of the results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Existing Waste Management contract and the effectiveness of the Waste Management process in Freetown has been done</li> <li>2. A draft policy for Waste management has been prepared and validation has also been conducted</li> <li>3. Employment of 77 Sanitary Officers has been done as well as deployment into twenty groups within Freetown to conduct community and house hold sensitization and enforcement</li> <li>4. Mass media engagement is ongoing such as jingles, Radio &amp; TV discussions, Newspapers, posters</li> <li>5. A workshop has been organized to develop Standard Operating Procedures for Sanitary Officers</li> </ol>
End Date	July 2018
Next steps	1. Popularization of the new Waste management Policy
Lack of funding to implement the SOPs and also to undertake the popularization of the policy	

<b>Commitment 4</b>	
1. To make budget data (MTEF and Mid-year report) Parliament Audit Committee report and tax exemptions publicly available and increase citizens' participation in the budget process.	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED)
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	Idrissa Kanu and Mathew Dingie
Title, Department	Budget Bureau, Revenue and Tax Policy Department
Email	dingiemc@yahoo.co.uk, <a href="mailto:idrisskanu@gmail.com">idrisskanu@gmail.com</a>
Phone	+232-78342843 and +232-76-788413
Others Actors Involved	Government Ministry of Finance and Economic Development National Revenue Authority



	<p>CSOs, private sector, multilateral working groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transparency International</li> <li>• Citizen Budget Watch</li> <li>• Budget Advocacy Network</li> </ul>
<p>Main objective</p>	<p>To make budget data(pre budget statement and mid-year report) Parliament Audit committee reports and tax exemptions publicly available and increase citizen participation in the budget process</p>	
<p>Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)</p>	<p>This commitment is geared towards the government publishing the pre-budget and mid review budget and also publish all tax exemption in an open data format. In addition it will provide feedback mechanism to citizen on their input into the budget.</p>	
<p>Relevance</p>	<p>This commitment is relevant to:</p> <p><b>Access to information:</b> Citizens will have access to budget and tax exemption information in an open data format</p> <p><b>Public accountability:</b> Government will account for all tax exemption granted .Citizen will also use the published information to hold government accountable.</p> <p><b>Civic Participation:</b> The feedback mechanism will engender public participation in the budget discussion process</p>	

Ambition	<p>This commitment will allow the electorate and financial markets accurately assess the government's financial position and the true costs and benefits of government activities, including their present and future economic and social implications. Disclosure of fiscal information reduces market risk and asymmetries of information allowing markets to function more efficiently. By enabling accountability for public spending, fiscal transparency can also reduce fiduciary risks and improve efficiency and effectiveness of public spending. Analyses have shown that countries whose public finances are more transparent have better fiscal discipline, a lower perceived level of corruption, better credit ratings and lower public sector borrowing costs.</p> <p>It will also increase the Sierra Leone Open Budget Index score hence increasing the credibility and openness of the government at international level.</p> <p>In addition, CSOs can also use the published information in an open data format to do further analysis and hence provide policy alternatives and also hold government accountable.</p>			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			Yes	
Description of the results	<p>1. More needs to be done by the ministry of Finance and Economic Development to officially publish budget reports and tax exemption as stipulated in the financial Management Act of 2016</p>			
End Date	December 2018			
Next steps	<p>There are outstanding recommendations on the 2012 and 2013 Audit reports to be assessed for their implementations by the relevant MDAs and reports made public</p>			

<b>Commitment 5</b>	
5 Implement the Procurement Related Recommendations from the Auditor's General reports for 2014 and 2015	
Lead implementing agency	Audit Service Sierra Leone
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	Abdul Aziz
Title, Department	Audit Service Sierra Leone

Email		<a href="mailto:Abdul.aziz@audit-service.gov.sl">Abdul.aziz@audit-service.gov.sl</a>			
Phone		+232-76611813			
Others Actors Involved	Government	MOFED, MOHS, MEST, MHWI, MAFFS and PMSD			
	CSOs, private sector, multilateral working groups	Budget Advocacy Network Transparency International			
Main objective		Increase compliance with Audit measures to improve transparency and accountability in public resource spending			
Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)		This commitment seeks to improve compliance with procurement-related recommendations from the Audit Service and the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee report published online.			
Relevance		<p><b>Access to information:</b> Citizen will have access to PAC report on the auditor general's report online and also the status of implementation of the procurement related recommendations</p> <p><b>Accountability:</b> MDAs will account for their stewardship for the use of public resources in public procurement.</p>			
Ambition		MDAs implement procurement related recommendation since around 75% of government budget goes into procurement.			
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			Yes		
Description of the results		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Service has published the recommendations implemented in the 2015 Auditor general's report</li> <li>Parliamentary Audit Committee on the Auditor General's report has been published</li> </ol>			
End Date		June 2018			
Next steps		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure MDAs comply fully with the Auditor General's report</li> <li>To develop action plan for MDAs for the implementation of the audit general reports</li> </ol>			

Delay in the full implementation of the Auditor General's recommendations by MDAs

<b>Commitment 6</b>		
6. Providing user friendly data and information regarding climate related action		
Lead implementing agency	Environment Protection Agency ( EPA)	
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	<i>Abdul Bakarr Salim</i>	
Title, Department	<i>Climate Change Secretariat,</i>	
Email	<a href="mailto:abdul_salim007@yahoo.co.uk">abdul_salim007@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Phone	+232- 78-363989	
Others Actors Involved	Government	Meteorological Department Ministry of Transport and Aviation, Water resources, Marine, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Mines, Tourism, Energy
	CSOs, private sector, multilateral working	Civil Society Advocacy Network on Climate Change and Environment - Sierra Leone
Main objective	Providing user friendly data and information regarding climate related action	
Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)	This commitment is geared towards empowering the citizen with climate change information in an open data format and also track the policy implementation on gas targets, renewable energy, and forest restoration, clean mobility, green buildings, and other policy goals and targets	
Relevance	<b>Access to information:</b> Citizen will have access to climate change information including early warning in an open data format <b>Civic participation:</b> the early warning information in open data formats and Web based would help educate, empower and engage all stakeholders about climate change issues <b>Technology and innovation:</b> The user friendly public tool to track policy implementation will be tracked through a central database that showcases progress on commitments. Furthermore a web base will be used to publish climate change information in an open data format	

Ambition	This commitment will track climate change policy implementation and will empower the citizens with climate change information which they can use for early warning purpose and for further analysis			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				Yes
Description of the results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training workshop and consultation meeting on the monitoring reporting and verification systems has been conducted for relevant MDAs, CSOs and Local Councils</li> <li>2. MOU has been drafted between EPA and the Ministry of Energy on Energy data</li> <li>3. Training workshop conducted which looked at the different measurable indicators and information flow from key expected sectors</li> <li>4. IPCC brochure and brochure on the mandate on climate change Secretariat have been developed and circulated</li> <li>5. The climate change policy has been simplified. The strategy and action plan have been developed and submitted to board members. Newsletters have been developed but not on quarterly basis</li> <li>6. Monthly radio and quarterly TV programmes on climate change related issues have been conducted</li> </ol>			
End Date	June 2018			
Next steps	Continue the MRV systems to all concerned MDAs and providing web- based information on meteorological and weather data			
Lack of funding to provide newsletter on a quarterly basis.				

<b>Commitment 7</b>	
7. Promote transparency and accountability in the management of elections	
Lead implementing agency	National Electoral Commission (NEC)

Names of responsible person From implementing agency		Albert Massaquoi
Title, Department		Education and Outreach
Email		necexternalrelations@gmail.com
Phone		+232-76647569
Other Actors Involved	Government	National Registration Secretariat
	CSOs, Private sector, multilateral working	National Election Watch NEW Campaign for Good Governance (CGG) Ministry of Internal Affairs
Main objective		Promote transparency and accountability in management of elections
Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)		This commitment will promote transparency and accountability in the management of elections by making available, voter register, constituency and boundary information in electronic format online. It will also improve the transmission of election results through technology
Relevance		<p><b>Access to information:</b> This commitment will increase access to information on voter register and boundary limitation and hence increase transparency in the management of public elections in Sierra Leone</p> <p><b>Technology and innovation:</b> The voters register and the transmission of elections result will be posted online on NEC website and in an open data format</p>

Ambition	<p>The vision is for NEC to make available voter register online and the transmission of the election result online in an open data format.</p> <p>Publishing election results in a consistent way will assist those who need to quickly understand the political landscape after an election and encourages other third parties to do analysis services to help to inform the public faster about the overarching outcome from elections. It will also promote wider engagement and outreach with innovative application development and scrutiny by the electorate.</p> <p>It is our aim that by 2018, all election results will be reported digitally using a standard, machine-readable and open standard.</p>			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			YES	
Description of the results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the constituency and boundary delimitation have been uploaded in electronic format online on NEC website</li> <li>NEC has developed an application to share and check for information which will also serve as a basis to transmit election results.</li> </ol>			
End Date	June 2018			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the transmission of election results through technology and making them available on line in open data format.</li> </ol>			
Next Steps				

<b>Commitment 8</b>	
8 Pass a robust and Proactive Archive and Records Management bill to support the implementation of the Right to Access Information Act in a bid to improve public transparency	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC)
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	Muniru Kawa

Title, Department		Consultant, MIC			
Email		munirukawa@yahoo.com			
Phone		+232 76 539718			
Others Actors Involved	Government	Public Sector Reform Unit			
	CSOs, Private Sector, Multi lateral working groups	Society for Knowledge Management Society for Democratic Initiative			
Main objective		To complete the passage of the National Records and Archives Bill in 2016, and to harmonize policies and procedures for managing digital records with the Right to Access Information law and the open data portal.			
Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)		This commitment is geared towards ensuring that Sierra Leone has a law on Archives and record management which will support the implementation of the Right to Access to Information.			
Relevance		<p><b>Access to information:</b> The passing of the Archive and Record Management Law will support the implementation of the right to access to information law.</p> <p><b>Public Accountability:</b> When there is a law that make it mandatory for public official to keep public documents, citizen will use it to hold public officials accountable especially when the records relate to service delivery.</p> <p><b>Technology and innovation:</b> The assessment of digital records in the government agencies to determine what exists and to develop structures for coordinating, capturing, preserving and sharing these records will set the pace for accessing digital records.</p>			
Ambition		This commitment will support the implementation of the Right to Access Information Act in a bid to improve public transparency. It will also support the fight against corruption			
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed



		YES		
Description of the results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Bill has been drafted and gazette</li> <li>2. Ministry of Energy and Local government have established a library to harmonized their document both hard and soft copies</li> </ol>			
End Date	December 2017			
Next steps	Tabling of the Bill to Parliament and passing it to an Act Harmonizing laws, policies and procedures for manage digital records with the Right to Access Information			
Lack of funding to conduct the assessment				

<b>Commitment 9</b>	
9 . Increase transparency in case management and establish structures at the local level to improve access to Justice	
Lead implementing agency	Sierra Leone Police
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	AIG Dr.Al Shek Kamara
Title, Department	Director of Operations, Sierra Leone Police
Email	alshekay@yahoo.co.uk
Phone	+23276613893
Other Actors Involved	Government Office of the Master and Registrar

	CSOs, private sector, multilateral	Campaign for Good Governance Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law		
Main objective	Increase transparency in case management and establish structures at the local level to improve access to justice			
Brief description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Local structures will be established to address justice issues and government will published on a quarterly basis update on all the cases starting July 2016			
Relevance	<b>Transparency:</b> Citizen will have access to an update of court cases.			
Ambition	Empower citizen with court information to build their trust and confidence and reduce the number of cases that goes to court.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		YES		
Description of the results	1. Systems were set up and 10 staff were trained on how to take pictures and finger print			
End Date	June 2018			
Next steps	To work with the Legal Aid Board to activate child mediation panels and publication of all cases that go through the justice system on quarterly basis			
Lack of Funding to implement key milestones				

<b>Commitment 10</b>	
10. Improve accountability of procurement management in Sierra Leone.	
Lead implementing agency	National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA)
Names of responsible person From implementing agency	Mohamed J Musa

Title, Department		Monitoring and Evaluation Department			
Email		kinniemusa@yahoo.com			
Phone		+23276665929			
Other Actors Involved	Government	Office of the President Line Ministries Anti-Corruption Commission			
	CSOs, private sector, multilateral working groups	Transparency International · Open Contracting Partnership · Society for Democratic Initiative · Budget Advocacy Network · Network Movement for Justice and Development · Education for All			
Main objective		To improve accountability of procurement management in Sierra Leone.			
Brief description of Commitment.		The government will improve citizen and business access to open, timely, and credible information about public procurement and promote their engagement in monitoring public procurement processes.			
Relevance		This commitment is relevant to: Access to information: Accessing public information about how contracts are negotiated, what has been contracted for, how they are being performed, and who is responsible in a single portal and in standardized and machine readable format, will enable citizens to monitor public contracts. Public accountability: It is increasingly recognized that CSOs will use the published information to hold MDAs accountable.			
Ambition		The concept of open contracting is emerging as a strategy to increase contract transparency and monitoring, with major expected benefits in terms of quality of governance, better value for money, reduced corruption, increased service delivery and better development outcomes. When procurement information is made public, citizens will use it to ask questions and hence demand accountability and transparency on how public resources are used to provide services through procurement processes			
Completion level		Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				YES	

Description of the results	NPPA has Collated all annual assessment of procurement activities in MDAs and report has been prepared The annual assessment survey has been conducted, data analyzed and report produced
End Date	July 2018
Next steps	To publish annual assessment survey report online in their website

### **Progress on Eligibility criteria**

#### **Fiscal Transparency**

Evidence abound that Sierra Leone has made some progress in improving fiscal transparency example MoFED has collated data on all tax exemptions but remains to be published online which means the Government of Sierra Leone has increased the amount of budget information made available to the public.

#### **Disclosure of Asset**

A 70 percent increase has been recorded in the disclosure of Asset of Public officials, a progression from about 15,000 in 2010 to about 35,235 currently. This attribute helps to minimize corruption, increase transparency and improve judicious use of public resources.

#### **Citizens Participation**

Increased stakeholders participation in the budget discussions has been recorded. There has been increased engagement and participation at all levels. This could be indicated by the extent and level of attendance, meaningful or significant contributions in the budget process and consultative meetings. On the OGP process in particular, irrespective of our democratic and partisan governance, there is coherence on the way forward for open governance, participation and partnership.

#### **Right to Access Information**

There is clear evidence that there are still challenges to access information based on the fact that some citizens are not interested and some do not find use for certain information. In addition, adequate information forums have not been sustained and in some instances the structure has been lacking. However, we have been encouraged by a change of this attitude through the consultation on the commitment, by a supportive legislation.

Through modern technology, especially in the form of community radio stations and the increase in the number of television, access to information is bound to be increase. The OGP process will continue in its second NAP to consolidate the “Right” element to information.

#### 1. Peer Exchange and Learning

Few years ago Sierra Leone became a full member of the International Aid transparency Initiative (IATI) with the goal to ascertain our commitment in promoting transparency in our foreign coordination process accordance with international best practices. With that OGP Sierra Leone made a peer learning visit to Tanzania to get a wealth of information on development cooperation that is available through International Aid Transparency Initiative, and what it can offer Sierra Leone in support of its national development agenda. Today we are now a notable member of International Aid Transparency Initiative.

### **Conclusions, Other Initiatives and Next Steps**

#### **Lessons Learnt**

- OGP has helped in enhancing effective collaboration between state and non-state actors
- The OGP process has brought government closer to the people through public consultations.
- Building trust between CSO and Government in terms of partnership is a gradual and painstaking process which requires consistency and courage.
- The timing of the Sierra Leone NAP does not tie in to the Sierra Leone National Budgetary process thereby starving commitments that require financial allocations.
- The inclusion of the public at the initial national consultations enhanced the validation of the NAP as country document hence citizens’ ownership enforced.

#### **Challenges**

- Grasping the OGP concept was quite challenging especially with an existing OGI concept in Sierra Leone. Learning was mostly by doing.
- The process itself met some initial resistance as there were skepticisms and misgivings by MDAs in terms of a group monitoring their activities.
- Resource allocation for OGP coordination and implementation are extremely limited.
- Getting the buy-in and cooperation of some Public officials at the initial level.

- The Government did not allocate special funds for the OGP process activities but rather the process financing was subsumed into the allocation of the OGI Secretariat.
- Resistance by MDAs to provide information in order to benchmark progress on the implementation of the NAP.

**Other initiatives taken by Government to advance OGP values/ principles that were not included in the NAP**

- Establishment of the Open Data Council to provide technical and strategic policy guidelines on the Operation of the Open Data Portal
- Sectoral arrangement for performance and public service delivery which is a mechanism for enforcing coordination, collaboration synergy and information sharing among MDAs sector members for transparency, collective wisdom, accountability and consultation in service provision.
- Public signing of the Integrity Pledge by 8 MDAs
- The service delivery charter as per the NAP was limited to certain MDAs but Government has now made it mandatory to all MDAs.
- Government has moved forward to ensure that Single Treasury Account is part of our legal framework
- As per NAP, government was scaling-up and deepening performance management but now as long as any agency access government funding it is mandatory to sign-up to performance management.
- The Government is now publishing the citizens' budget.

**Next steps with respect to OGP generally and unfulfilled commitments**

- Outreach to neighboring countries to embrace the tenets of OGP
- Follow-up on some of the outstanding commitments through rigorous monitoring
- Influence the Sierra Leone Government for Budget allocation for OGP activities
- On-line training on the Independent Review Mechanism for the national steering Committee
- Development of a more rigid monitoring and evaluation framework to enforce the implementation of the NAP
- Align unfulfilled commitments into the government-wide performance contract of implementing MDAs.

**Conclusion: Positive impact of activities and related outcomes to each commitment.**

The Government of Sierra Leone has always made effort to remain open in governance but the OGP process brought a new face to this and now there is a strong partnership (CSO and

Government) which would ensure government remains open and transparent. A culture has been imbibed for more transparency and citizens' engagement through the equal partnership principles devoid of power dynamics. The OGP process has given Sierra Leone legitimacy both at the national and international level as a country striving towards openness and accountability and the national consultations created an outreach opportunity to feedback to citizens.

As a result Sierra Leone today has inculcated the OGP principles as projected in the 10 commitments with conscious effort to imbibe the tendency of integrity in doing government business, the tenets of fiscal transparency, public accountability and citizen's participation. There is now an increased sense of probity and patriotism.