

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Third Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia

(2016-2018)

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Armenia joined the movement of the Open Government Partnership (hereinafter referred to as “the OGP”) as heralded by the letter of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia¹ addressed to the co-chairs of the OGP Steering Committee. In his [letter dated 17 October 2011](#), the Minister noted that Armenia welcomes the idea of the Open Government Partnership, which must lead to the creation of a unified platform for countries, establishing governments that best address peoples' needs. In 2016, five years after the letter was addressed, we can firmly state that the Open Government Partnership is a success and that it has transformed from an idea to being one of the most effective instruments promoting democracy for over one third of states in the world. Our State also values and appreciates this success, and evidence of this is the development of the Third National Action Plan.

The OGP ideology and instrumentation are definitely in line with the goals of a country like Armenia, which is small, but is firmly and consistently implementing reforms and which has included in its agenda the objective to raise the level of effectiveness of the public administration system. Lacking the possibility to gear vast resources towards the solution to this problem, we have adopted another, yet more fundamental policy that is aimed at applying an open government doctrine for improvement of the administration system. The doctrine implies that access to information, increase in accountability and promotion of participatory behavior will lead to the shaping of societies that will be

¹ <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/country/armenia>

more mature, intelligent, developed and responsible. As a result, this will raise the level of effectiveness of the administration system and increase the level of intolerance towards defective phenomena such as corruption, injustice and ineffective use of public resources. These objectives derive from the 2015 constitutional amendments of the Republic of Armenia, the plan of the current Government, as well as from universal and sector-specific strategy papers, for the implementation of which target measures and projects are being undertaken.

Open government itself does not mean raising the level of effectiveness of governance, but it does provide the opportunity to introduce new instrumentation for oversight, raise accountability and make the activities of government agencies transparent. This will enhance the power of the people which, in its turn, will lead to effective governance. Based on the above, Armenia continues bringing the OGP principles to life with greater commitment, and this brings honor to each democratic state in the 21st century. What is also important is that a new culture of citizen-state partnership is being reinforced, ensuring citizens' active participation in decision-making and policy-making processes.

OPEN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA

Between 2011 and 2016, the Republic of Armenia has implemented tangible reforms through its two Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plans in major sectors such as the budget system (i.e. program budgeting), the mining industry (i.e. the process of accession to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)), healthcare, education, local self-governance, freedom of information, public procurement reforms, law-making activities, access to information, etc. Through more than 20 commitments, targeted actions have been undertaken to meet the main OGP challenges, improving the

provision of public services, the effective management of public resources, the promotion of public confidence, as well as the creation of safe communities.

Working even outside of the scope of the OGP Action Plan in a style that is in line with the OGP principles has become an approach that Armenia has already adopted. A brilliant example of this is the continuity of commitments that were assumed through previous Action Plans. The commitments assumed through previous Action Plans are continuously carried out, regardless of whether those commitments will be included in the next OGP Action Plans or not. Thus, for instance, the *Mail-Armenia* system has already been introduced and operates through the *e-Citizen* portal, and personal e-mail addresses are provided to citizens of the Republic of Armenia. Works are underway for sending official notifications through that system as well. The commitment of *Ensuring transparency of the activities of local self government bodies in communities* will be implemented for Armenian communities with a population less than 20 000. *Increasing the level of effectiveness of activities of community administrations, exercising of the powers vested in local self government bodies (hereinafter referred to as “the LSG bodies”) (heads of communities and members of the Council of Elders)* will also continue through the opening of new offices for provision of services to citizens, as well as through training courses for the heads of communities and members of councils of elders. Armenia will complete the ongoing process of accession to the *Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative*.

Moreover, commitments assumed through the Second Action Plan and not fulfilled within the prescribed time limit due to objective circumstances, will also continue and be fulfilled, regardless of whether they will be included in the Third Action Plan or not.

In addition to the above-mentioned, it should be stated that the Government has expressed willingness and is determined to work jointly and assist in the implementation of the proposals received during the development of the Action Plans and not included in the Action Plans due to their incompliance with the OGP format which, however, may help raise the level of effectiveness of governance.

The fact that the efforts of our country are being noticed and appreciated both by the civil society of Armenia and the international community is inspiring. In particular, in September 2015, the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia was granted the [Golden Key Award](#) at the 13th annual Golden Key and Rusty Lock Award ceremony initiated by Freedom of Information Center non-governmental organization for best implementation of the commitments of the National Action Plan of Armenia within the scope of the Open Government Partnership international initiative. The results of the annual international award ceremony for the initiative were summed up within the scope of the global forum of the OGP initiative held in Mexico City, United Mexican States in October 2015. During the global forum, Armenia, which had submitted an application for participation for the first time, was granted a high award, winning first place and receiving the so-called [Regional Champion](#) title in the region (Asia-Pacific). Armenia had introduced the *Creation and introduction of community governance information systems within community administrations of the Republic of Armenia* initiative during the award ceremony. The initiative was referred to as “Smart Municipality” during the competition. The project is aimed at raising the level of effectiveness of the activities of LSG bodies in Armenia and improving the provision of public services that they provide to the people of the community through open governance.

ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The unprecedented experience that was gained after developing and implementing the two previous Action Plans, the international network of the OGP and the [proposals for the Independent Reporting Mechanism](#) (hereinafter referred to as “the IRM”) became the cornerstones based on which the Government of the Republic of Armenia started the process of developing the Third Action Plan, in association with the civil society, international partnering organizations and, this time, with individual citizens and

representatives of the private sector as well. Currently, guided by the conviction that a plan developed through multilateral cooperation and comprehensive discussions will lead to the achievement of qualitatively greater and more tangible outcomes, the OGP Third Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as “the Plan”) was developed according to this very logic. This means that importance was primarily attached to the issue of conducting the stage of Plan development in line with the OGP fundamental principles and that there should be a chain of influence on the whole process of implementation in the course of the next two years.

Call for Ideas and Open Competition

The stage of Plan development was launched back in January 2016 when the sequence and the timeline of the steps for developing the Plan were defined in advance.² It was also submitted and discussed during the February 15 wide-format session of the working group coordinating the works of the initiative in Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the working group”). During the session, the Government of the Republic of Armenia announced the start of the Plan development process. As a result, the day after the session, the agreed [timeline](#) was sent to the parties engaged in this process and posted on www.ogp.am³. Then, the defined format for submitting commitments and the Armenian version of the guideline on the [main criteria](#) to be followed while developing the Action Plan commitments were published⁴. The guideline contained information on four OGP fundamental principles and SMART standards.⁵ It was also announced that, in addition to complying with the OGP principles while developing the Open Government Partnership — Armenia Third Action Plan, preference would be given to the proposals which, besides complying with the specified Open Government Partnership principles, would also be targeted at

² http://ogp.am/u_files/file/2016_2018APDev_Timeline.pdf

³ <http://ogp.am/hy/news/item/2016/02/16/AP3/>

⁴ http://ogp.am/hy/news/item/2016/03/15/manual_commitments/

⁵ http://ogp.am/u_files/file/Manual%20for%20AP%20commitments_Final.pdf

the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) approved by the United Nations Organization and would be in conformity with the [Anti-Corruption Strategy](#) of the Republic of Armenia. The guideline had initially stated that proposals implying a requirement for drafting and adopting a draft law, as well as making amendments to existing laws would not be included in the Action Plan (*the fulfilment of this requirement is beyond the scope of powers of the Government of the Republic of Armenia*). Moreover, for the purpose of preparing the Plan, calls for proposals were sent to the civil society representatives who are members of the working group via e-mails, and relevant assignments were given to the government agencies. The NGOs actively engaged in the process have actively circulated the draft and the announcement on submitting proposals among other partnering NGOs and citizens.

Civil Initiatives

The Government of the Republic of Armenia, with the support of [Kolba Innovations Lab](#) of the UN Development Programme, developed a new [crowdsourcing](#) online tool for the purpose of providing the opportunity of making proposals with regard to the OGP Plan to potentially wider circles such as citizens, businesspeople, companies, regardless of their legal and organizational form. As a result, an open call for ideas was announced, and 18 proposals were submitted through this tool.⁶

In April 2016, for the first time in the history of the OGP process in Armenia, the Government also organized [regional meetings](#) for the purpose of engaging regional and specialized non-governmental organizations, as well as raising awareness about the OGP initiative and development of the Third Action Plan outside of the capital as well. The awareness campaign was launched with a meeting at the UN office in Yerevan, and the other meetings were held in Gyumri, Vanadzor, Dilijan, Armavir and

⁶ http://ogp.am/hy/news/item/2016/04/13/3AP_contest/

Goris, according to the previously announced timeline.⁷ In addition to the members of the working group, representatives of civil society and international partnering organizations also participated in the meetings.

New ideas have been generated in the form of ambitious commitments during meetings and discussions organized with experts from different fields.

As a result, more than 70 proposals have been received and developed. The Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia has submitted the summarized package of proposals to the members of the working group for discussion. The received proposals have been discussed in several stages. First, the vast majority of those proposals has been circulated among government agencies for the purpose of obtaining expert opinions. Then, the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia has organized a number of meetings and discussions with the authors of the proposals and representatives of relevant government agencies. The government agencies' proposals have been discussed individually.

Multi-beneficiary discussion

On 11-12 June 2016, Aghveran hosted a wide-format outgoing session of the working group titled *Workshop on the OGP Action Plan for 2016-2018* with the support of the UNDP. For the purpose of discussing the proposals, the participants were divided into two sub-groups comprised of representatives of civil society and state bodies. Each group discussed the package of proposals individually. The sub-groups had to assess the proposals and decide to include (if they complied with the OGP criteria and principles) or not to include them (if they did not comply with the OGP criteria and principles) in the OGP NAP. Based on that, the sub-groups prepared shortlists that were acceptable for them. A general and consolidated shortlist was prepared through the combination of those two shortlists. The proposals that were included in the

⁷ <http://ogp.am/hy/news/item/2016/04/22/regions/>

shortlist of only one sub-group were also discussed, and some of them were also added to the consolidated shortlist. It should be mentioned that, in addition to the members of the working group, representatives of other NGOs, international organizations, representatives of government agencies not acting as members of the working group, as well as highly reputable experts of a number of sectors were also participating in the activities of the sub-groups and in the general meeting.

The final version of the draft Plan was discussed and approved during the wide-format session of the working group held on 20 June.

Overall, about 70 proposals were submitted, 8 of which were selected, complying with the OGP principles and format. Each commitment included in the Plan is goal-oriented and selected after comprehensive discussions.

When developing the OGP Third Action Plan, the Government of the Republic of Armenia was guided by the principle of incorporating relevant commitments aimed at meeting the OGP challenges, OGP principles and the Action Plan development format available at www.opengovpartnership.org, as well as by the Sustainable Development Goals approved by the United Nations Organization and in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

A summary on the proposals received and not included in the Plan was prepared, stating the reasons and clarifying why they were not included in the Plan. The summary has been submitted to the members of the working group and posted at www.ogp.am for public access.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia highly appreciates the efforts of all the parties, particularly representatives of government agencies, civil society, international organizations and the private sector, as well as experts and citizens engaged in the process of developing the OGP Third Action Plan. The organizations and individuals presented in List N1 have been engaged in the mentioned process.

Based on the proposals made in the report of the researcher of the Independent Reporting Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as “the IRM”) for the Second OGP-Armenia Action Plan, the Government of the Republic of Armenia made significant adjustments in the process of developing the Plan. Thus, for instance, the timeline for developing the Plan and the guideline in regard to the criteria for commitments in the Plan were drafted and published; more NGOs and, for the first time, citizens, were engaged; several regional awareness campaigns and meetings were held; several interesting discussions were organized, and experts of various sectors and representatives of the private sector were engaged. For the purpose of raising the level of public awareness about the process of developing the Plan, a [TV program](#) was taped and broadcast. The listed materials have been posted on and are available at www.ogp.am.

OGP COMMITMENTS

I. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Responsible official travel. Ensuring transparency and accountability in business trips of officials of state executive bodies and territorial administration bodies		
Commitment Start and End Date	New commitment	
October 2016 - June 2017		
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	
Person responsible from implementing agency	Diana Ghazaryan	
Title, Department	Deputy Head of the Department for the Development of Anti-corruption and Penitentiary Policies of the Staff of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	
Email:	diana.ghazaryan@moj.am	
Phone	(+37410) 594157	
Other actors involved	Other state actors	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Finance of the Republic

	involved	of Armenia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
	Civil society, private sector	Helix Consulting LLC (upon consent), Armenian Young Lawyers Association NGO (upon consent)
Issue subject to regulation	<p>Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1087-N of 26 November 2013 "On official business trips of representatives of republican executive bodies and territorial administration bodies" defines the procedures for receiving the permission of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia for business trips of heads of state executive bodies or territorial administration bodies, their deputies or other officials, and for submitting to the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia reports on the results of the official business trip after its completion. Reports must contain information on the purpose of the official business trip, the inviting party, the topics discussed, speeches, meetings, decisions made, documents signed, expected outcomes, etc.</p> <p>Individual decisions of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on official business trips of the above-mentioned persons are posted on the website of the Government of the Republic of Armenia at www.e-gov.am. Nonetheless, reports on the results of official business trips are not posted.</p>	
Main objective	Raise the level of efficiency and accountability of funding allocated from the State Budget	

	of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of sending on official business trip heads and deputy heads and other officials of state executive bodies or territorial administration bodies; improve the transparency of activities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	
Brief description of commitment	A unified platform with a search engine will be created under the "open data" principle for posting decisions on official business trips of officials and reports thereon.	
OGP challenge addressed by the commitment	More efficient management of public resources Enhancement of public integrity	
Relevance to OGP values	Making the reports on the results of official business trips public will help to provide citizens with access to information not previously posted and raise the level of public accountability.	
Ambition	Accessibility of reports on official business trips will ensure more goal-oriented use of public resources and raise the level of accountability and increase public confidence.	
Verifiable and measurable criteria for performance of commitment	Start Date:	End Date:

1. Drafting of amendments and supplements to legal acts defining the procedure for permissions to business trips of officials, and discussion thereon with stakeholders and interested representatives of civil society.	September 2016	January 2017
2. Coordination of draft legal acts with interested government agencies and adoption thereof.	January 2017	April 2017
3. Creating a unified information platform accessible to users for posting decisions and reports on official business trips of heads, deputies or other officials of state executive bodies or territorial administration bodies.	May 2017	October 2017

2. Accountability for grants of the government: Ensuring transparency and accountability of allocation of grants from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia

Commitment Start and End Date	New commitment
September 2016 - June 2017	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
Person responsible from implementing agency	Diana Ghazaryan

Title, Department		Deputy Head of the Department for the Development of Anti-corruption and Penitentiary Policies of the Staff of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
Email:		diana.ghazaryan@moj.am
Phone		(+37410)594157
Other actors involved	Other state actors involved	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
	Civil society, private sector	Armavir Development Center NGO (upon consent)
Issue subject to regulation		<p>The processes for allocating grants from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia are regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the State Budget”, Law of the Republic of Armenia “On procurement”, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1937-N of 24 December 2003 “On approving the procedure for allocating subsidies and grants from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia to legal persons” and Decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia NH-118-N of 19 May 2008 “On approving the procedure for allocating as grants the funds allocated to the Staff of the President of the Republic of Armenia from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>The procedures for releasing information with regard to organizations having participated</p>

	and recognized as winners in competitions organized for the provision of grants by the implementing agency, for submitting reports by organizations implementing grant projects and publication of these reports by the implementing agency are not defined.
Main objective	Raise the level of effectiveness of using grants allocated from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, enhance access to information on procedures for allocating grants and projects implemented under the grants, the goal of a grant, accountability and transparency of the field.
Brief description of commitment	Posting on the official website of the respective government agency the list of organizations having participated and recognized as winners in the competition for obtaining grants from the State Budget, as well as the reports on projects implemented under the grants.
OGP challenge addressed by the commitment	<p>More efficient management of public resources</p> <p>Enhancement of public confidence</p> <p>Enhancement of public integrity</p>
Relevance to OGP values	Publication of reports on projects implemented under grants being provided from the State Budget will promote public accountability, which will help raise the level of

	effectiveness of spending and targeted use of funds of the State Budget. Publication of the list of organizations having participated and recognized as winners in the competition for obtaining grants from the State Budget will lead to increase in the level of access to information.		
Ambition	Efficient management of funds of the State Budget, qualitative change in grant projects being implemented, increase in accountability, transparency and confidence.		
Verifiable and measurable criteria for performance of commitment		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Drafting amendments and supplements to legal acts defining the procedures for provision of grants, and discussion thereon with interested representatives of civil society.		September 2016	December 2016
2. Coordination of draft legal acts with interested agencies and adoption thereof.		January 2017	May 2017
3. Posting reports of organizations having obtained grants on official websites of implementing agencies providing grants.		June 2017	Ongoing
4. Placing the list of organizations having participated and recognized as winners in competitions for provision of grants from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia on official websites of the implementing agencies providing grants.		June 2017	Ongoing

3. “More interactive budget”. Ensuring transparency of the State Budget applying the “open data” principle

Commitment Start and End Date		New commitment
December 2016 - June 2018		
Lead implementing agency		Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
Person responsible from implementing agency		Zhirayr Titizyan
Title, Department		Head of Operations Department of the Staff of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
Email:		zhirayr.titizyan@minfin.am
Phone		(+37411)910406
Other actors involved	Other state actors involved	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia
	Civil society, private sector	Helix Consulting LLC (upon consent), Compass Center for Science, Research, Education and Consulting NGO (upon consent)
Issue subject to regulation		Currently, citizens of the Republic of Armenia have the opportunity to become familiar with the structure of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and the estimated and

	<p>actual expenditures in accordance with functional classification via the online electronic interactive budget posted on the websites of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The disadvantage of the system is that even though it provides users with the above-mentioned information on the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, it is not built upon the "open data" principles. The system does not provide users with an opportunity to download the information and process it for own purposes.</p>
Main objective	<p>Besides the expenditure part, improvement of the system of interactive electronic budget will provide an opportunity to interactively show not only the estimated revenues, but also the actual revenues through sources of generation, to make the search for particular data possible by applying relevant advanced instruments (for example, the distribution of expenditures of the State Budget among state bodies of the Republic of Armenia, etc.), as well as to make the information machine-readable for further processing by users. It will ensure that the information on the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia is user-friendly and will improve transparency of information on actual expenditures and collected revenues of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

Brief description of commitment	Improvement of transparency of the State Budget based on the "open data" principle.		
OGP challenge addressed by the commitment	Improvement of public services Enhancement of public integrity		
Relevance to OGP values	Interactive online presentation of the revenue and expenditure items of the State Budget through the application of the "open data" principle contributes to increase in accessibility and transparency, through the use of innovation and technologies.		
Ambition	Application of the “open data” principle will allow making the State Budget of Armenia more accessible and understandable for analysts, journalists and citizens. The system will allow writing a comparative analysis of the budget expenditure, finding consistent patterns and identifying the problems. In the long run, the instrument will allow planning more effectively on the basis of fact-based analysis.		
Verifiable and measurable criteria for performance of commitment		Start Date:	End Date:
1.	Discussions with private companies and civil society aimed at clarifying the scope of activities	October 2016	January 2017
2.	Drafting of terms of reference and implementing procurement	February 2017	June 2017
3.	Improvement of the “interactive budget” system based on the “open data” principle also with the option of presenting actual revenues according to sources of generation thereof	July 2017	June 2018

4. “Open data” in official declarations: Improving the electronic system of declarations on property, income and affiliated persons of high-ranking officials

Commitment Start and End Date		New commitment
September 2016 - June 2018		
Lead implementing agency		Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials (upon consent)
Person responsible from implementing agency		Armen Khudaverdyan
Title, Department		Deputy Chairperson of the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials of the Republic of Armenia
Email:		armen.khudaverdyan@ethics.am
Phone		(+37410)5880795
Other actors involved	Other state actors involved	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia
	Civil society, private sector	Hetq (upon consent), Transparency International NGO (upon consent)

Issue subject to regulation

Since 2012, the declarations on property, income and affiliated persons of high-ranking officials have been published in PDF format in accordance with the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1835-N of 15 December 2011. In 2015, the Commission set up a system of reports in the electronic system of declarations, which enables to receive information on persons having failed to submit declarations within the specified time limit, as well as persons having submitted declarations late. It is not connected to the website of the Commission at www.ethics.am yet, and users have no access to it. As a result, the operating system enables users to retrieve data, though in an incomplete form (the operating system does not enable to retrieve the lists), on declarants having failed to submit declarations within the time limits specified by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service", or declarants having submitted declarations late.

Moreover, in the "Registry of Declarations" section of the website of the Commission at www.ethics.am, the search for declarations is carried out based on the following search characteristics of the official — "Name, Surname", "Position" and "Year". There are problems with not only ensuring the availability and accessibility of data on declarations, but also with further processing of such data. In terms of selecting declaration data required by specific characteristics, as well as receiving and analyzing the stream of data

	(dynamics) in separate years, the "Registry of Declarations" section is not available to users yet, particularly to investigative journalists and persons examining declaration data.
Main objective	The objective of the civil initiative is to make the data on declarants having failed to submit declarations within the time limits specified by law available and accessible for the civil society, as well as to enable to receive the data subject to publication from the system interactively and in an open electronic format.
Brief description of commitment	Compliance of the format of declarations of high-ranking officials with the "open data" principle, improvement of the processing, analysis and search system thereof.
OGP challenge addressed by the commitment	Enhancement of public integrity
Relevance to OGP values	Publication of declarations of high-ranking officials based on the "open data" principle will contribute to the availability and accessibility of information, as well as will ensure a higher level of public accountability.
Ambition	It is expected to have, with the help of civil society, an impact on declarants to perform their duty of submitting declarations. This will improve the statistics on declarations that have not been submitted within the time limit specified by law and those submitted late. Moreover, by introducing the declarations registry interactive instrument, the Commission expects to receive from the interested groups of civil society more

	<p>substantiated recommendations and applications in relation to cases of restrictions on the activities defined by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service" or conflict of interests, or prima facie violations of rules of ethics on the part of any high-ranking official, or risks recorded in this regard.</p>	
Verifiable and measurable criteria for performance of commitment	Start Date:	End Date:
<p>1. Presenting the proposal regarding the commitment to the interested civic groups, receiving their viewpoints, organizing discussions, summarizing results with regard to publication of lists of persons having failed to submit declarations within the time limit specified by law and developing software for making the "Registry of Declarations" section of the Commission's website interactive for users.</p>	September 2016	December 2016
<p>2. Posting on the Commission's website the lists of persons having failed to submit declarations and persons having submitted declarations late, in 2016.</p>	December 2016	March 2017
<p>3. Upgrading the search engine of the "Registry of Declarations" section of the Commission's website at www.ethics.am, ensuring its interactive accessibility for users, developing and installing the software.</p>	March 2017	June 2018

II. PROMOTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

5. Portal for community decisions. Creation of a unified legal information system for decisions of council of elders and heads of communities		
Commitment Start and End Date		New commitment
September 2016 - ongoing		
Lead implementing agency		Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia
Person responsible from implementing agency		Ashot Giloyan
Title, Department		Head of Department of Local Self-Governance of the Staff of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia
Email:		a.giloyan@mta.gov.am
Phone		(+37410)511342
Other actors involved	Other state actors involved	Marzpetarans (regional governors' offices) of the Republic of Armenia
	Civil society, private sector	Information System Development and Training Center NGO (upon consent), Armavir Development Center NGO

Issue subject to regulation	<p>Currently, the decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities in the Republic of Armenia are electronically posted in PDF format on various official websites, particularly on the websites of relevant marzpetarans (<i>Regional Administrations</i>) of the Republic of Armenia. The name of the link of a legal act mainly indicates the number and date of adoption of the legal act, which makes it impossible to use the search engine with other parameters. There is no single unified platform for publishing the decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities in the Republic of Armenia electronically, as is the case with other legal acts (www.arlis.am). This makes it difficult for users to find the legal acts they need.</p>
Main objective	<p>Ensuring accessibility of decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities, providing a search function (simple and advanced search), ensuring usability, increasing transparency of activities of communities.</p>
Brief description of commitment	<p>Creation of a unified legal information system for publication of decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities based on the "open data" principle.</p>
OGP challenge addressed by the commitment	<p>Improvement of public services Enhancement of public integrity</p>
Relevance to OGP values	<p>Publication of the decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities based on the</p>

	“open data” principle conveys new quality to the introduction and persistent development of the value of public accountability in terms of access to information.		
Ambition	Ensuring accessibility of decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities, increasing the transparency of activities of communities, increasing accountability and public confidence.		
Verifiable and measurable criteria for performance of commitment		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Discussion with representatives of civil society and private organizations on possible technical solutions for the creation of a single unified electronic platform for publishing the decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities.		September 2016	November 2016
2. Creation of a single unified electronic platform with search function for publishing the decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities.		December 2016	June 2018
3. Organizing and conduct of training courses for community servants.		July 2017	December 2017
4. Creation of a repository for previously adopted decisions of councils of elders and heads of communities.		January 2018	Ongoing

6. Accountable licensing. Creation of a state unified electronic register of persons carrying out activities subject to licensing by state bodies and subject to notification

Commitment Start and End Date		New commitment
August 2016 - April 2017		
Lead implementing agency		Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
Person responsible from implementing agency		Diana Ghazaryan
Title, Department		Deputy Head of the Department for the Development of Anti-corruption and Penitentiary Policies of the Staff of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
Email:		diana.ghazaryan@moj.am
Phone		(+37410)594157
Other actors involved	Other state actors involved	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
	Civil society, private sector	Harmonious Development NGO (upon consent)
Issue subject to regulation		Currently, the Republic of Armenia has no unified register of persons carrying out activities subject to licensing by state bodies and subject to notification, and information on

	<p>the existence, absence of a license or its authenticity with the original is verifiable only through the use of hard copy information. Licenses are posted on the respective official websites of issuing authorised bodies under the principle of random selection. At the same time, during competitions or other events held by state bodies, the process of verifying mandatory availability of a license or its validity may be carried out more easily and effectively if there is a unified electronic system, since the verifying party may — by using the state unified electronic register of licenses — verify the information on the availability of a license and its validity by simply entering the number and the date of the license.</p>
Main objective	<p>Creation of a state unified electronic register of persons carrying out activities subject to licensing by state bodies and subject to notification will help further simplify the process of issuing a license and the administration related to types of activities subject to notification, as well as reduce potential corruption risks.</p>
Brief description of commitment	<p>Creation of a state unified electronic register of persons carrying out activities subject to licensing by state bodies and subject to notification, and digitalization of licenses issued.</p>
OGP challenge addressed by the commitment	<p>Improvement of public services</p> <p>Enhancement of public integrity</p>
Relevance to OGP values	<p>Availability of a unified electronic register of persons carrying out activities subject to</p>

	licensing and notification will, in terms of access to information, serve as a major impetus for the increase in transparency of the field, public accountability and provision of public services.		
Ambition	Availability of a unified electronic register of persons carrying out activities subject to licensing by state bodies and subject to notification, which will contribute to public accessibility of information pertaining to persons carrying out activities subject to licensing, licenses, and to exclusion of the risks related to falsification of licenses.		
Verifiable and measurable criteria for performance of commitment		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Studying the international practice.		August 2016	October 2016
2. Drafting amendments to relevant secondary regulatory legal acts.		September 2016	November 2016
3. Developing a state unified electronic register of persons carrying out activities subject to licensing by state bodies and subject to notification, developing software and creating an electronic website.		September 2016	March 2017
4. Digitalizing all the licences previously issued by state bodies and including them in the unified electronic register.		December 2016	March 2017
5. Connecting the electronic register to other state electronic registers, for example, to the		March 2017	April 2017

database of the state register of legal persons (e-register).		
6. Organizing relevant training courses on the peculiarities of maintaining a unified electronic register for representatives of state bodies issuing licenses.	December 2016	March 2017

7. Open&Social: Accessibility of integrated social services and awareness raising		
Commitment Start and End Date	New commitment	
November 2016 - June 2018		
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia	
Person responsible from implementing agency	Arman Sargsyan	
Title, Department	Director of the National Institute of Labor and Social Research	
Email:	ceo.arman.sargsyan@nilsr.am	
Phone	(+374 10)208344	
Other actors involved	Other state actors involved	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Defense

		<p>of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p>Civil society, private sector</p>	<p>World Vision Armenia NGO (upon consent), Harmonic Society Armenian Association of Social Workers (upon consent), Apaven NGO (upon consent), Mission Armenia NGO (upon consent), Full Life NGO (upon consent), Armenian Union of Deaf People NGO (upon consent), Armenian Association of the Blind NGO (upon consent), Bridge of Hope NGO (upon consent), Pyunik NGO (upon consent), Armenian Caritas NGO (upon consent), Armenian Association for the Disabled NGO (upon consent), SOS Children's Villages Armenian Charity Foundation (upon consent), Children's Support Center Fund (upon consent), Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) (upon consent), Armavir Development Center NGO (upon consent).</p>
<p>Issue subject to regulation</p>		<p>Nearly 80 state social protection programs are being carried out within the scope of integrated social services in the Republic of Armenia, and the procedures for protection vary. In this regard, there is a need to raise public awareness about business procedures of social services in a more accessible manner and with suitable instruments, as well as make social services more accessible. This will also ensure increase of transparency and</p>

	confidence in state-citizen relations.
Main objective	The innovation instruments developed within the framework of the “Open&Social” commitment will ensure access to information on social services that is classified in detail and presented in an automated manner; participation of the public in the assessment of social services online; as well as rating of organizations providing these services, ensuring increase in accessibility and transparency of social services for the public.
Brief description of commitment	Introduction of "Open&Social" instrument based on collection, coordination, analysis and accessibility of data, and transformation of "114 Hot Line" Service into a Call Center.
OGP challenge addressed by the commitment	Improvement of public services Enhancement of public integrity
Relevance to OGP values	Under this commitment, the quality of services provided by the State will be improved with the help of the processes ensuring public participation, and there will be more access to information and a higher level of public accountability.
Ambition	Through the feedback on the quality of social services, increase in the level of their effectiveness, access to information, ensuring of public participation.

Verifiable and measurable criteria for performance of commitment	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Introducing the "Open&Social" instrument at http://www.esocial.am on-line information system of integrated services for the purpose of ensuring access of the beneficiary to information on the social services that are available, ensuring automated provision of information on social services chosen by the beneficiary.	November 2016	June 2018
2. Posting reports on the results subject to publication with regard to the monitoring and assessment of services provided in the social protection sector that are regularly carried out by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, at www.elibsocial.am under the "Knowledge Management System" of the social protection sector.	January 2017	June 2018
3. Creating a platform where the public will be provided with an opportunity to give scores to the specific service and the organization providing this service, and as a result of analyzing these scores, such services and organizations functioning in the social protection sector will get a certain rating. Revision of services being provided based on opinions of beneficiaries, simplification of working procedures, reduction of time.	December 2017	June 2018
4. Extending the scope of services provided by Nork Technological and Awareness Center for Social Services Foundation by way of transforming the Hot Line Service into a Call Center.	July 2017	June 2018

III. STRENGTHENING OF PUBLIC INTEGRITY

8. "One-stop-shop" in the Army. Introduction of "One-stop-shop" pilot project within military registration offices of the Republic of Armenia	
Commitment Start and End Date September 2016 - June 2018	New commitment
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia
Person responsible from implementing agency	Alexander Avetisyan
Title, Department	Chief Assistant to the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia, Head of the Center for Human Rights and Building Integrity at the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia
Email:	alik.avetisyan@pims.org
Phone	(+37410)294519
Other actors involved	Other state actors involved
	Civil society, private sector

Issue subject to regulation	<p>The scope of activities of military registration offices is rather diverse, and there is a need to specify legislative regulation for some issues. The given fact adversely affects the clarity of functions of military registration offices, the quality of public services provided, the time limits thereof, having an impact on the level of public confidence. This results in unnecessary administrative and corruption risks.</p> <p>The introduction of "One-stop-shop" pilot project within 2-3 military registration offices will provide an opportunity to test its effectiveness in terms of eliminating the above-mentioned issues and artificial obstacles.</p>
Main objective	Improvement of administration in the activities of military registration offices through testing and further introduction of the "One-stop-shop" pilot project and reduction of risks therein, restriction on contacts of citizens with the military registration office personnel, reduction of the time limits for providing requested information/documents.
Brief description of commitment	Implementation of the "One-stop-shop" pilot project within 2-3 military registration offices.
OGP challenge addressed by the commitment	<p>Improvement of public services</p> <p>Enhancement of public integrity</p>

Relevance to OGP values	Introduction of the "One-stop-shop" within military registration offices will increase the availability and reliability of information, reduce expenses related to the provision of services and improve the quality of public services.		
Ambition	Reduction of administrative and corruption risks, simplification and clarification of processes, increase in public confidence.		
Verifiable and measurable criteria for performance of commitment		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Clarifying the scope of functions relating to the "One-stop-shop".		September 2016	November 2017
2. Assessing capacities of military registration offices and selecting military registration offices.		December 2016	February 2017
3. Introducing the "One-stop-shop".		March 2017	June 2018
4. Survey regarding change in public confidence (if necessary).		January 2018	June 2018
5. Submitting recommendations on making amendments to secondary regulatory legal acts (if necessary).		March 2018	June 2018

*PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN THE DEVELOPING OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIP/ARMENIA THIRD ACTION PLAN*

Participant	Organization
1. Armen Khudaverdyan	Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials of the Republic of Armenia
2. Nare Danielyan	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia
3. Hayk Malkhasyan	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia
4. Lilya Afrikyan	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia
5. Lilya Shushanyan	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia
6. Aram Asatryan	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia <i>(Enhanced Transparency in Mining Sector Project)</i>
7. Lusine Tovmasyan	Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia <i>(Enhanced Transparency in Mining Sector Project)</i>
8. Arman Sargsyan	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (National Institute of Labor and Social Research SNCO)
9. Rima Petrosyan	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
10. Saro Tsatutyan	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia (SHA)
11. Diana Ghazaryan	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
12. Ani Galstyan	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia
13. Karen Hovhannisyan	Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia
14. Mikayel Sereda	Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia
15. Edgar Mughnetsyan	Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia (NSSD SNCO)
16. Karen Khzmalyan	Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia
17. Hovhannes Urfalyan	Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia

18. Hayk Ayvazyan Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
19. Ruben Gevorgyan Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
20. Anahit Khechoyan Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
21. Taron Hakobyan Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
22. Lusine Vahramyan Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
23. Maria Saponjyan Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
24. Lilit Vardanyan Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
25. Vardan Vardanyan Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia
26. Syuzan Makyan Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia
27. Alik Avetisyan Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia
(Center for Human Rights and Building Integrity)
28. Ashot Giloyan Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia
29. Garegin Manukyan Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia
30. Artashes Avagyan Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
31. Vahe Mahtesyan Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
32. Gor Vardanyan Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
33. Artur Aleksanyan Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
34. Makich Khcheyan Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
35. Albert Aleksanyan Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia
(Procurement Support Center SNCO)
36. Anyuta Ohanyan State Property Management Department adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia
37. Lyudvig Grigoryan State Property Management Department adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia

38. Hovhannes Minasyan	EKENG CJSC
39. Tamara Gevorgyan	Public Opinion Research Center CJSC of the Council of Public Television and Radio Company
40. Liana Doydoyan	Freedom of Information Center
41. Varuzhan Hochtanyan	Transparency International Anti-corruption Center NGO
42. Heriknaz Tigranyan	Transparency International Anti-corruption Center NGO
43. Sona Ayvazyan	Transparency International Anti-corruption Center NGO
44. Tamara Abrahamyan	Araza NGO
45. Narine Malyan	Araza NGO
46. Varazdat Sargsyan	World Vision Armenia international benevolent organization
47. Hayk Tadevosyan	Protection of Rights without Borders NGO
48. Hasmik Harutyunyan	Protection of Rights without Borders NGO
49. Karen Zadoyan	Armenian Young Lawyers Association NGO
50. Aram Mkhitarian	Helix LLC
51. Arsen Stepanyan	Save the Children Foundation
52. Marina Mkhitarian	UNDP Kolba Innovations Lab
53. Alla Bakunts	UNDP
54. Hasmik Soghomonyan	Kolba Innovations Lab
55. Heghine Minasyan	Caucasus Research Resource Center
56. Naira Arakelyan	Armavir Development Center
57. Nina Avetisyan	Asian Development Bank
58. Naira Sultanyan	British Embassy
59. Parandzem Khangeldyan	Kindergarten N 2 of Noyemberyan

60. Ashot Mirzoyan	Consumer Support Center NGO
61. Marine Movsesyan	Business and investment projects consultant
62. Emma Baghdasaryan	Gyumri Civic Youth Center NGO
63. Lusine Karapetyan	Vayk Community Center
64. Tatev Avagyan	Benevolent Women NGO
65. Areg Karapetyan	Change, Grow, Become NGO
66. Hasmik Mkhitaryan	Progress of Gyumri Civil Society Development Center NGO
67. Karen Yerzknkanyan	Innovative Center for Community Development NGO
68. Grisha Hovsepyan	Compass Center for Science, Research, Education and Consulting NGO
69. Liana Manusajyan	Let's Give Smiles youth NGO
70. Hovhannes Kuroghlyan	Katil NGO
71. Marine Kharatyan	Tert.am news website
72. Samvel Martirosyan	Information security expert
73. Tigran Matevosyan	Individual initiator
74. Karl Ulrbricht	Expert