

ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT PLEDGES AND OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLANS: HOW DO THEY STACK UP?

Jameela Raymond and José María Marín
TI UK and TI Secretariat
November 2016

INTRODUCTION

At the Anti-Corruption Summit held in London in May 2016, 42 governments made more than 600 commitments across a range of issues. From anti-money laundering regulation to open data to public sector integrity, ambitious ideas for tackling corruption were central to the Summit.¹ Transparency International evaluated the commitments made at the Summit and found many to be significantly new (generated by the summit), ambitious (strong steps in the context of the country they are coming from) and concrete (actionable and measurable). But without any formal mechanism in place for follow up, the commitments are at risk of being forgotten or left behind.

Open Government Partnership Action Plans have offered a key means of implementing and monitoring Anti-Corruption Summit pledges. In fact, the Anti-Corruption Summit communiqué² states:

“OGP participating governments among us will work with civil society to embed our Summit commitments into National Action Plans where appropriate and extend the invitation to others to join.”

By embedding the commitments from the Summit into National Action Plans the majority of the countries represented at the Summit would immediately have formal timelines and mechanisms in place to hold their government accountable. In addition, the implementation of these commitments can benefit from the peer learning and technical support that the Open Governance Partnership community provides, in particular through OGP’s Anti-corruption Working Group.

505 of the commitments, or 78%, were made by the 32 Open Government Partnership member governments who attended the Summit. Some OGP governments represented at the Summit have already worked with their OGP civil society partners to embed their existing anti-corruption commitments in their National Action Plans.

¹ ‘Was it worth it? Assessing Government Promises as the 2016 Anti-Corruption Summit’ (12 September 2016), http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/43_countries_600_commitments_was_the_london_anti_corruption_summit_a_success

² Anti-Corruption Summit Communiqué (12 May 2016), https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522791/FINAL_-_AC_Summit_Communique_-_May_2016.pdf

For example, [Kenya](#) and the [UK](#)³ have published their 2016 NAPs, with Summit commitments on beneficial ownership, public procurement and other new initiatives included. Having anti-corruption commitments embedded in OGP NAPs has allowed important civil society input and oversight on government efforts to tackle corruption domestically.

HOW MUCH DO THE ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT PLEDGES AND THE OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLANS MATCH?

For the purposes of this analysis, we consider commitments that match those that appear in the Anti-Corruption Summit Statements and in OGP national action plans concluded since the Summit that completely or partially achieve the same output. The commitments need not have the same wording, or have the same level of specificity; however, if both statements indicate the same activity, they are considered matching commitments.

For example, a broad statement which commits to beneficial ownership transparency in the Anti-corruption Summit Statement would be matched with the specific action of creating a public register on beneficial ownership on the OGP national action plan. We compared national action plans submitted between May and 1 November, 2016.

Of the 32 OGP member countries which took part of the Summit, 17 of them submitted plans between May and 1 November 2016⁴. From these, only 33 out of 253 commitments (13%) matched between the Summit pledges and national action plans. This indicates a relatively low figure of matching commitments, given the fact that many more could have been included. In fact, we can estimate that at least 170 pledges would be relevant to OGP national action plans given that they have an element that seek to increase transparency, civic participation or accountability.

Of these 17 OGP member countries that took part in the Anti-corruption Summit and submitted an action plan after the Summit, the top three countries with the most number of matching commitments are:

- **Kenya** had 7 matching commitments including EITI, UNCAC Implementation, beneficial ownership, and public procurement.
- **United Kingdom** had 6 matching commitments including open contracting, commodities trading transparency, beneficial strategy, anti-corruption strategy and innovations hub.
- **Norway** had 5 matching commitments which including beneficial ownership and anti-money laundering.

It is important to recognize that the Summit and the 2016 national action plan process overlapped in terms of timing. As co-creating processes were already ongoing in several countries, it was difficult in some cases to embed the Summit pledges. In other cases, such as Nigeria and Ukraine, the plans do contain Summit pledges but they were submitted just days ahead of the OGP Summit in December, not allowing us to review them for analysis in this paper.

WHAT KIND OF ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT PLEDGES CAN BE INCORPORATED TO OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLANS?

We found that around a third of the commitments made at the UK Anti-Corruption Summit could be included in National Action Plans. For the purposes of this analysis we consider commitments that are 'ready to include' to be those thematic commitments that some countries are already including in their NAPs (such as Kenya and the UK, as mentioned earlier), or commitments around other issues relevant to transparency, participation and accountability.

³ We have included the UK National Action Plan 2016 because it was released to coincide with the Anti-corruption Summit and capture its ambition.

⁴ Countries analysed: Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and UK.

Such commitments could be considered by OGP countries and feasibly incorporated into upcoming action plans with little amendment. There are also a large number of other anti-corruption issue areas that could potentially be relevant for OGP NAPs, but should be made OGP ready by adding components of transparency, participation or accountability.

The following list shows the range of issues committed to at the Summit which are ready to be included in national action plans, as well as listing some examples of other commitment themes which could be suitably included in NAPs.

Table - Issues committed at the Summit which are ready to be included in national action plans

ISSUE	SPECIFIC FOCUS THEME	
Anti-Corruption Environment	Anti-Corruption Strategy Public Engagement	Ready to include
	Anti-Corruption Bodies Leadership and Political Will Resources and Mandate	Potential to include
Beneficial Ownership	Access to Beneficial Ownership Information Central Register EITI Global Beneficial Ownership Register Information collecting, sharing, availability Property Public Contracting Public Register	Ready to include
	Access to International Law Enforcement Access to Domestic Law Enforcement Automatic Exchange of Information	Potential to include
Innovation	Innovation Hub People Powered Anti-Corruption Technology	Ready to include
	Behavioural Science	Potential to include
Natural Resources	Commodities Trading Transparency Company Disclosure of Payments to Governments EITI	Ready to include
Open Data	Data Literacy G20 Open Data Principles Open Data Charter Transparency and Integrity	Ready to include
Public Procurement	Open Contracting Open Contracting Data Standard Open Contracting in Health Open Data Transparency and Integrity	Ready to include
	Auditing Corrupt Bidders Debarment	Potential to include
Public Sector Integrity	Asset Declarations Transparency	Ready to include
	Audit Institutions Capacity Building Conflicts of Interest Leadership and Political Will	Potential to include
Whistle-blowers and Civil Society Space Protection	Protecting Whistle-blowers Reporting Corruption Supporting Investigative Journalists	Ready to include

Source: own elaboration

NEXT STEPS

Looking forward there are several opportunities for more Summit pledges to be incorporated into OGP national action plans. For starters, a number of countries will be submitting new national action plans in 2017. These include: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Ghana, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Liberia, Malta, Panamá, Peru, Slovak Republic, Philippines and the USA. As they begin to plan their co-creation process, these countries should look through the Summit pledges for some ideas.

Secondly, the Paris Declaration⁵ is another opportunity for countries to sign-up and propose relevant anti-corruption pledges to make significant steps towards accomplishing them. The Declaration provides an opportunity for countries to showcase and advance their work, and commit to support peers with practical tools and expertise to implement open government reforms. To date, there are at least 5⁶ collective actions in the Declaration that match commitments made at the Summit, which include open public procurement, ending abuse of anonymous companies, and innovation and data driven approaches to expose and fight corruption, just to name a few.

Lastly, the recently created Anti-corruption Working Group of the OGP is a resource for those countries looking to achieve better anti-corruption commitments and implementation. The working group will focus in 2017 on two key components: increasing the focus on anti-corruption issues across OGP stakeholders and improving the ambition and implementation of anti-corruption commitments included in OGP national action plans. OGP member countries that participated in the Summit should seek to join the Anti-corruption Working Group to share and learn on how to embed and implement Summit commitments.

Below are some suggested steps to take advantage of the Anti-corruption Summit to enhance your future OGP national action plan:

- If your government was at the Summit
 - Look through the individual country statement⁷ to identify which commitments you could easily include in your next National Action Plan.
 - Work with your national OGP partners to begin the process of including these existing commitments in your next National Action Plan.
- If your government was not at the Summit
 - Look through the commitments made by other governments at the Summit which we've said are 'ready to include'.
 - Consider which high ambition commitments could sensibly be included in your next NAP, according to your country context.
 - Work with the OGP staff to make sure that proposed commitments to include in your next NAP are suitable.

⁵ The OGP Paris Declaration can be accessed at: <https://paris-declaration.ogpsummit.org/> <https://paris-declaration.ogpsummit.org/>

⁶ The following are the collective actions that are considered to be strongly anti-corruption related: open public contracting, ending abuse of anonymous companies, Innovation and data driven approaches to expose and fight corruption, transparency on lobbying, and transparency on political party finance.

⁷ Anti-Corruption Summit: country statements (12 May), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-corruption-summit-country-statements>

ANNEX – OGP MEMBER COUNTRIES THAT ATTENDED THE ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT

OGP MEMBER COUNTRY THAT ATTENDED THE SUMMIT	TOTAL PLEDGES MADE AT THE ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT	NUMBER OF MATCHING COMMITMENTS	DATE OF OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION
Argentina	23	1	Jun-16
Australia	31	-	N/S
Brazil	8	-	N/S
Bulgaria	11	3	Jul-16
Canada	6	1	Jul-16
Colombia	32	-	2015
France	26	-	2015
Georgia	17	0	Oct-16
Ghana	12	-	2015
Indonesia	19	0	Oct-16
Ireland	10	-	N/S
Italy	23	1	Oct-16
Jordan	10	0	Oct-16
Kenya	18	7	Jun-16
Malta	9	-	2015
Mexico	30	1	Sep-16
Netherlands	14	-	Feb-16
New Zealand	8	0	Oct-16
Nigeria	25	-	N/S
Norway	21	5	Jun-16
Republic of Korea	12	0	Oct-16
Romania	15	4	Aug-16
South Africa	1	0	May-16
Spain	26	-	N/S
Sri Lanka	4	2	Oct-16
Tanzania	11	-	N/S
Trinidad and Tobago	11	-	N/S
Tunisia	14	2	Oct-16
Turkey	3	-	N/S
UK	21	6	May-16
Ukraine	13	-	N/S
USA	21	-	No NAP in 2016

Source: own elaboration

N/S: Action plan Not Submitted at the time of elaboration of this document.