



Engagement Agreement between the Open Contracting Partnership and the Open Government Partnership

This is an engagement agreement outlining collaboration between the Open Contracting Partnership and the Open Government Partnership. This is version **1.0**. It was agreed on by the two initiatives on February, 8th 2016. It is not intended to be a binding agreement, just an understanding between friends to collaborate to maximise our impacts and add the most sustained value to the field of transparency and accountability.

About the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP)

The OCP opens up public contracting through disclosure, data and engagement so that the huge sums of money involved are spent honestly, fairly, and effectively.

The OCP does this by:

- Creating a compelling learning and evidence base to show what open contracting can achieve.
- Supporting a network of partners to deliver results on the ground and, where necessary, leading specific demonstration projects.
- Smart, targeted advocacy to challenge vested interests and drive global change.

The OCP is designed to be:

- A lever. The OCP links up and leverages global transparency efforts such as the Open Government Partnership, and designs interventions to support existing processes rather than creating new ones.
- A silo-buster. The OCP brings unique expertise to other organisations to add value to their existing efforts to follow the money from governments to citizens.
- Data-focused. The OCP uses the power of data to expose, understand, and fix problems in contracting, with an open data standard at the heart of its work.
- Business-savvy. The OCP can do something *with* business, rather than *to* business. The OCP can help create a level playing.
- User-friendly. The OCP makes contracting accessible and interesting; the OCP is technically sound without sounding technical.
- Multi-stakeholder in spirit but not in structure. The OCP has a multi-stakeholder board, and is multi-stakeholder in approach, but doesn't have formalised constituencies.
- A learning organisation. Learning and evidence are at the heart of everything the OCP does and reinforces its other activities.

Working with and through partners is key to the OCP's theory of change. The challenge of transforming government contracting through data and engagement can not be solved by one organization alone. The OCP aims to collaborate with key partners to advance the open contracting agenda and wants to build a field of organisations trying to be the field itself. It wants to support its partners to deliver on the contracting dimensions of their programs and projects.

About the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

OGP's vision is that more governments become sustainably more transparent, more accountable and more responsive to their citizens with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of governance and services that citizens receive. The OGP works with government and civil society reformers and aims to create a community of like minded champions around the world.

Now that the OGP is established and has grown significantly - from 8 founding countries to 69 and hundreds of civil society organizations- the key objective is to make sure that real change happens on the ground that benefits citizens. The OGP helps participating countries to deliver on their ambitions through:

- 1) Maintaining high level political leadership within participating countries;
- 2) Supporting domestic reformers with technical assistance and inspiration;

- 3) Fostering engagement of citizens and civil society; and,
- 4) Ensuring accountability for open government reforms through the Independent Reporting Mechanism.

Areas of collaboration

OCP and OGP are key partners for each other with complementary objectives and missions. There can be no truly open government without open contracting and vice versa. Open contracting is thus one of the most important commitments in an OGP National Action Plan, and OCP is designed to be a plug-in effort that can help the OGP to deliver on its wider ambitions of open government.

Our missions and objectives complement each other with disclosure and use of information at their heart. We both seek to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and we support partners in many countries. For example, in Ukraine (Showcase and Learning Project for the OCP; strong anti-corruption commitments through OGP), the UK (advocacy support from OCP; a founding OGP country and on the Steering Committee), Mexico (in all of these countries the OCP supports other partners, such as the WBG or Hivos).

In a joint retreat between OCP staff and OGP Support Unit and IRM staff in December 2015, we agreed on the following areas of collaboration:

1. Coordinating Engagement and Advocacy efforts around National Action Plans

Priority: High

Investment: Medium

Timeframe: Ongoing but with most effort until June 2016

About 50 OGP participating countries will develop new National Actions Plans (NAPs) by June 2015. We jointly identified the following areas of opportunity:

- a. Countries that have developed and implemented open contracting commitments in previous OGP plans and are ready to be more ambitious.
- b. Countries that included open contracting commitments in previous OGP plans but faced problems in implementation.
- c. Countries that might be interested in including open contracting commitments in their new plans.

2. Joint Implementation and Capacity Building

Priority: Medium

Investment: High

Time frame: Long

We identified the following joint areas for collaboration:

2.1 Linking our CSO networks: We both have strong civil society partners in many OGP countries. The OGP team also has a civil society team.

a. Action: We will link our civil society partners and the OCP will have regular calls with the OGP civil society team.

2.2 Linking OCP to OGP government focal points: OGP government focal points are key champions and actors for including open contracting in National Action Plans. It is important that they know and understand open contracting.

a. Action: In joint priority countries we will link OCP to OGP focal points. See more under 1.

2.3 Regional meetings: We will continue to collaborate around regional meetings and where and when appropriate feature open contracting and organize peer-learning sessions. See more under 4, communications).

2.4 Mapping existing commitments: Several OGP participants have already made open contracting related commitments and could benefit from support for implementation.

a. Action: We will map these existing commitments and prioritize assistance in the next OCP-OGP meeting (planned for March)

2.5 Working group: Over the medium to long term, it might be helpful to have an open contracting working group, depending on how OGP working groups continue to develop and when there is a call for new ones.

2.6 Peer-learning: We will organize a webinar on open contracting in the Spring of 2016 and facilitate peer-learning sessions where we can.

3. Joint Research and Learning

Priority: High/Medium

Investment: High

Time frame: Medium (12+ months)

We jointly identified three areas of collaboration:

3.1 People: The IRM team is bringing all its researchers together in Istanbul in June. We agreed to have a session on open contracting for them so they are better able to analyse relevant commitments in OGP action plans

3.2 Data: The amount of IRM data is about to double with 39 new reports coming out in February-March 2016. The OCP team will analyze the data set with regards to open contracting and share its findings in reports, blogs, etc. IRM team will specifically tag both open contracting data and engagement commitment to make analysis easier.

3.3 Stories: Both teams will capture interesting stories and insights and share them at events and online. Open contracting is one of the most tangible ways through which to explain the relevance of open governments issues to citizens.

4. Joint Communications and Outreach

Priority: High

Investment: Low

Timeframe: Ongoing

We identified the following opportunities:

4.1 Message: We have a strong joint advocacy message: There can't be open government without open contracting and vice versa. Where we can, we will share this message.

4.2 Events: We can coordinate around the following events:

a. Africa regional meeting in South Africa in May 2016

b. Anti-corruption Summit in the UK in May 2016.

c. Other regional OGP meetings.

d. Open Contracting Summit (TBC) in Fall/Winter 2016.

4.3 Sustainable Development Goals: We will develop model commitments and identify good existing commitments that we can share that fit the framework of the new SDGs (which OGP is committed to help implement). We might be able to collaborate at the UNGA in September.

4.4 IRM launches: For the different report launches, we can pull out open contracting data points, make them interesting and share them through each other's communications channels. This can help ensure national media pick up.

4.5 NAP launches: We will support the launch of NAPs that include commitments of open contracting, cheerleading adopters and the growing momentum of open contracting.